

Sports

UNL-Syracuse highlights football weekend

By George Davis
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Nebraska will play its last non-conference football game Saturday when it meets the Syracuse Orangemen in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y.

Syracuse got off to a fast start by defeating Maryland 32-7 and Northwestern 13-12 before losing its home opener to Rutgers 19-0 last Saturday.

"We were really disappointed with last week's performance," said Syracuse sports information director Larry Kimball. "You can't win when you turn the ball over eight times."

The Orangemen lost six fumbles and quarterback Todd Norley threw two interceptions in the loss last weekend. The turnovers led to 16 of Rutgers' 19 points and stopped two Syracuse scoring drives inside the 5-yard line.

"We had our opportunities to remain undefeated," said Kimball. "They just didn't work out."

Syracuse's offense has been disappointing. After returning 10 starters from last year, the offense only has scored three touchdowns and is averaging less than 13 points a game. Kimball said the offense hasn't played well since the Maryland game.

"If we are going to beat Nebraska, we have to score some points," Kimball said. "It just comes down to us doing better at what we haven't done right in the last two games."

Kimball said Syracuse will have to play a near perfect game to beat Nebraska, which has been rated No. 1 by the Associated Press 17 of the last 20 weeks. Three players that will have key roles Saturday are quarterback Todd Norley and receivers Scott Schwedes and Mike Siano.

"They've played together for a long time and are capable of doing some damage if

they get rolling," Kimball said.

Norley, a junior, has started since he was a freshman. This year he has passed for 442 yards, with his prime targets being Siano and Schwedes.

Running back Jamie Covington, who led the team in rushing the past two seasons, has 245 yards this season on 61 carries.

On defense, the Orangemen are led by linebackers Bernard King and Rudy Reed and tackle Tim Green.

Green already has seven sacks this season. King and Reed lead the team in tackles with 48 and 45, respectively.

In last year's game, Nebraska outgained Syracuse by only 159 yards but won by 56 points. The Orangemen watched Nebraska score four times on fourth down plays. This year, Kimball said he hopes the breaks will go in favor of Syracuse.

"It's only a matter of time before things begin going our way," Kimball said. "One of these days we are going to get the breaks."

The Orangemen already may have received a break from the injury report. The Syracuse team has everyone healthy for Saturday's game while minor injuries continue to plague Nebraska.

I-Back Jeff Smith and tackle Mark Behning are both hampered with ankle injuries. Quarterback Craig Sundberg is nursing a sore shoulder and offensive tackle Tim Roth has a hip injury.

Even with the Nebraska injuries, Kimball still says the Huskers will be a formidable opponent.

"We are excited to play the No. 1 team in the country," Kimball said. "We know they are going to be good and we hope we can stay with them."

The game will start at 11:20 a.m. CDT and will be telecast by the Katz television network, which includes KOLN-TV, Channel 10, and KMTV, Channel 3.

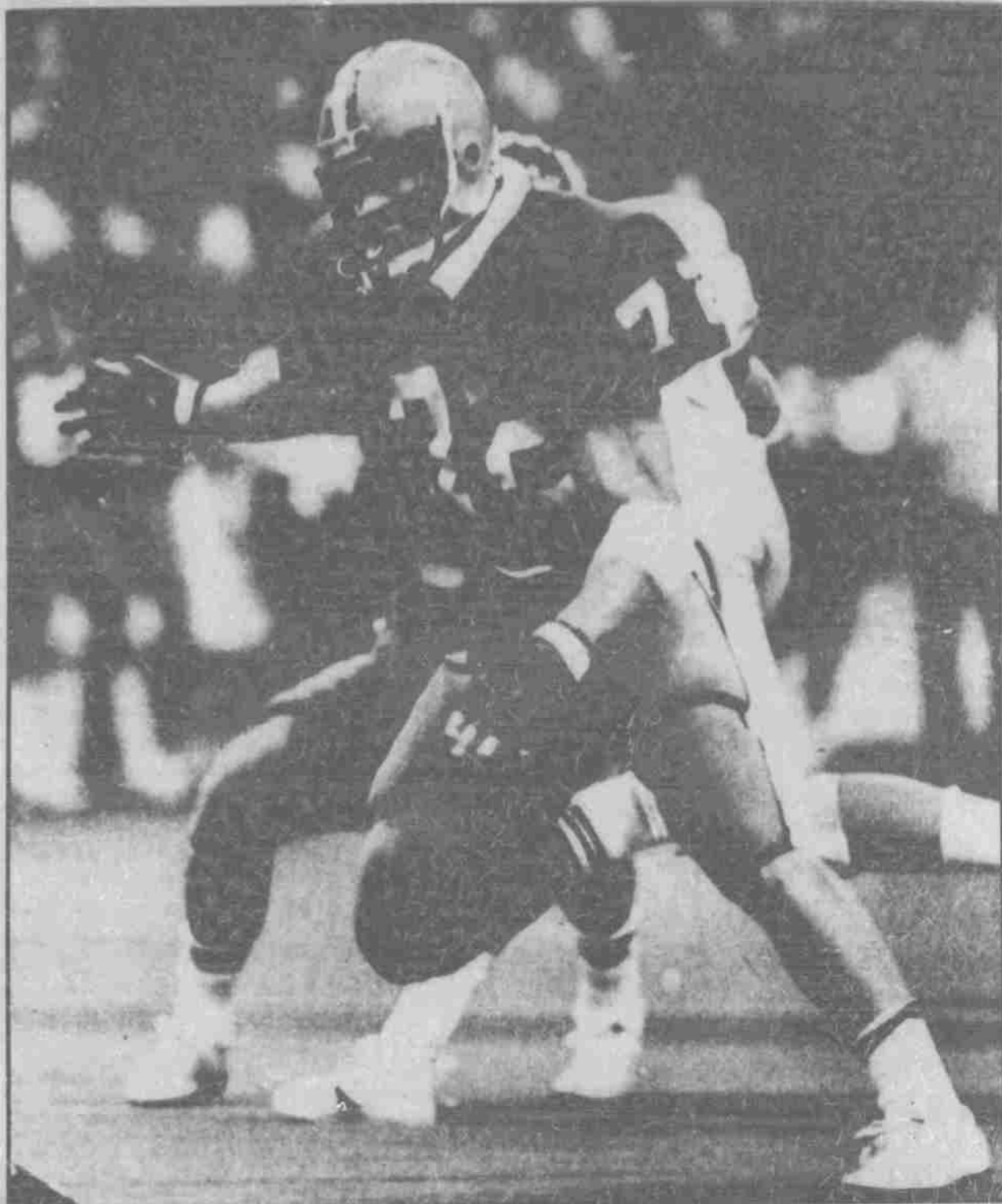


Photo Courtesy of Syracuse Sports Information
Defensive tackle Tim Green and the Syracuse defensive line will try to stop Nebraska's offense in Saturday's game in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

Pittsburgh tops ratings; 'Bungles' hold strong

By Steve Harvey

THE COLLEGES

Bottom Ten co-anchors Alabumble (1-2) and Auburn (1-2) fell prey to the No. 1 jinx with rare wins, but at least the Crimson Tide didn't go easily. They were outgained 298 yards to 269 yards by Southwestern (Don't Call Me Lou) Louisiana, though sadly unable to avoid victory, 37-14.



Bottom Ten

And so for the fifth straight week, the Bottom Ten has a new leader, Pitt (0-3), which is rebounding nicely from an 8-2-1 finish last year. Can Pitt stay in this hole? Well, as Nebraska coach Tom Osborne pointed out the other day, it's a constant battle to rule the Bottom Ten.

"There's a little more distraction that goes along with it," Osborne said. "A lot of people want an interview because of the No. 1 rating. . . Other people point at you when you're No. 1."

Alabumble's only hope for a comeback this week would be clutch crushing by Vanderbilt (3-0), which is off to its best start in 28 years. After beating up Kansas

41-6 on Saturday, Vanderbilt's players were asked to show their IUDs by game officials, who couldn't believe they were really students there.

THE RANKINGS

SCHOOL	LAST LOSS	NEXT LOSS
1) Pitt (0-3)	12-13, Temple	W. Virginia
2) Indiana (0-3)	37-40, Northwestern	Michigan
3) Florida (1-1-1)	reconnaissance	Ole Miss St.
4) Utah State (0-2)	idle	C.S. Dianey
5) Tulane (0-3)	26-30, Kentucky	Ole Miss
6) Baylor (0-2)	15-34, Oklahoma	Texas Tech
7) California (1-2)	14-21, Oregon	San Jose St.
8) Dartmouth (0-1)	24-55, Penn	New Hampshire
9) UCLA (2-1)	3-42, Nebraska	Colorado
10) Alabumble (1-2)	outgained, 269-298	Vanderbilt
11) Hawaii (0-3); 12) Colorado (0-3); 13) San Jose State (1-3); 14) tie between Auburn (1-2) and Yale (0-1); 16) North Carolina (0-2); 17) Cal State-Long Beach (Queen Mary) (0-3); 18) Bill & Mary (2-1); 19) tie between Arizona State (1-2) and Columbia (0-1).		

ROUT OF THE WEEK: Vanderbilt (3-0) over Alabama (1-2).

CRUMMY GAME OF THE WEEK: San Jose State (1-3) and California (1-2).

QUOTE BOOK: You know how low Notre Dame's fortunes have sunk when coach Gerry Faust says of the Irish's recent 24-20 victory over team ordinaire Michi-

gan State: "It was one of the greatest comebacks Notre Dame has ever had."

SPECIAL CITATION: UCLA, obviously weak after physical batterings by powerhouses San Diego State and Cal State-Long Beach (Queen Mary), failed to score a touchdown for the second time in three weeks.

THE PROS

Even if they weren't 0-4, the Cincinnati Bungles would deserve the Bottom Ten lead just for allowing a 43-yard kickoff return for a touchdown Sunday on a regulation 100-yard field. The Los Angeles Lambs' Mike Guman gathered in the booming 8-yard kick in the fourth quarter and ran it back unhindered.

He was unhindered because the Bungles were on the other side of the field trying to fake out someone — themselves, obviously. It is believed to be the shortest kickoff return for a touchdown in history (apparently no one thought of keeping statistics in this category until the Bungles came along).

But don't think that Cincinnati's coach last year, Forrest Gregg, is so happy to be out of there. At Green Bay (1-3), Gregg has managed the impossible — he's taken a tea with spectacular wide receivers James Lofton and John Jefferson and made it dull.

Speaking of wrecks, No. 3 Indianapolis fell 7-44 to Miami and its new 275-pound-plus running back Pete Johnson, who arrived from the San Diego Chargers via container ship earlier in the week.

The College Football Bible

By Chuck Bauer

Nebraska (-24) at Syracuse: Pass. One of two things happens after a team loses 63-7: They get so intimidated and scared that they roll over and play dead, or they get so mad for the way the Cornhuskers deliberately poured it on that they go out and try to make popcorn of them.

UCLA (-11) at Colorado: Bet UCLA. The Bruins are at their best on the road, including 4-2 against the spread after big games at home. They also are 75 percent versus passers.

Mississippi State at Florida (-14): Bet Florida. It is 3-1 against the spread after a week off.

Georgia (-4) at South Carolina: Bet Georgia. Obvious hangover and sandwich situation for Georgia after Clemson and before Alabama. But South Carolina is incredibly bad home dog (15 percent). Bet 'Dawgs unless sandwich scares you.

Louisiana State at Southern Cal (Even): Bet LSU if it becomes the dog. USC will probably be higher than a kite after win over Arizona State, but is caught with a nonconference game between two Pac-10 games. LSU should have momentum.

Texas Christian at SMU (-11 1/4): Bauer says go with TCU at +10. This is probably TCU's best chance to win this game outright.

Last week: 1-2-1. Bauer is the author of The College Football Bible.

TEAM	THE RANKINGS LAST LOSS	NEXT LOSS
1) Cincinnati (0-4)	14-24, L.A. Lambs	Pitt
2) Houston (0-4)	10-42, Atlanta	New Orleans
3) Indianapolis (1-3)	7-44, Miami	Buffalo
4) Buffalo (0-4)	26-28, N.J. Jets	Indianapolis
5) Chicago (3-1)	9-38, Seattle	Dallas
6) Pitt (2-2); 7) Cleveland (1-3); 8) tie among the Bays (Green, Tampa) and the Thousand Lakes (Minnesota) (4-3 combined).		

SPECIAL MONDAY NIGHT CRUMMY GAME OF THE WEEK: Cincinnati (0-4) at Pitt (2-2).

NO SENSE OF HISTORY: Houston coach Hugh Campbell, bemoaning his players' lack of appreciation for the Oilers' 20 straight road losses: "The streak doesn't mean much to most of them because they haven't been here for all of it."