

## Sports

# Osborne: Lack of ball control led to Orange crush

By Mike George  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne Monday called last week's 17-9 loss at Syracuse one of the "three or four toughest assignments" the Huskers will face this season.

"This was not a spur of the moment, or fluke game," Osborne said at the weekly Extra Point Club luncheon. "This team was ready to play."

The loss dropped Nebraska from the unbeaten ranks and out of the top position in the college football polls. The Huskers are ranked No. 8 this week by the Associated Press.

Osborne said the Orangemen have been playing solid defense all season, holding Maryland to one touchdown and Northwestern to a touchdown and a field goal. Rutgers defeated Syracuse 19-0 on Nov. 22, but Osborne said all of those points came as a result of fumbles.

Osborne said time of possession was the biggest factor in Saturday's loss. Syracuse controlled the ball for more than 36 minutes, while the Huskers held the ball for just under 24 minutes. Syracuse ran 75 offensive plays, while Nebraska ran just 57.

"Syracuse hung on to the foot-

ball, and when it looked like we would get the ball, we were hit with a penalty," Osborne said. "There were two big penalties that let Syracuse keep their drives going: The holding call in the second quarter, and the 12 men on the field call in the fourth quarter."

Nebraska also was hampered by injuries, but Osborne said that's something a team has to learn to overcome.

"We had hoped Jeff Smith would be able to play for us. We had brought him along, and we had hoped he would have been healthy enough to play. Just before we took the field, Smith felt that he wasn't ready for play," Osborne said.

Fullback Tom Rathman was knocked out on the opening kickoff and injured his ankle.

Rathman was held out of practice Monday and may not practice today.

I-back Paul Miles dislocated his shoulder, and Osborne said that he will not be available for four or five weeks.

Quarterback Craig Sundberg was coming off a shoulder injury, and wasn't able to practice at full speed, Osborne said.

"We had intended to use more of (backup quarterback) Travis Turner," Osborne said, "but we

felt he lacked experience, so we went with Sundberg."

Nebraska assistant Mark Mauer, who scouted Oklahoma State, said things won't get any easier for the Huskers this week.

"Oklahoma State seems to have things going their way. They have been playing fine football thus far," he said.

Mauer said Oklahoma State's offense is not very complex.

"Rusty Hliger, the Oklahoma State quarterback, seems to have a lot of experience. He can move the offense well. He has a strong arm, and goes to the short pass often," he said.

"They have a very short quick backfield with Shawn Jones leading the offense," Mauer said. In Oklahoma State's win against Tulsa Saturday, the Cowboys gained 380 yards in total offense.

"The defense is very aggressive and strong. Oklahoma State had experienced personnel, with 10 of the 11 starters having prior experience," Mauer said.

Osborne said the Cowboys return more starters than Nebraska, including most of their key players.

"The talent is there. The defensive line is back and they have a lot of speed and quickness in the offensive backfield."

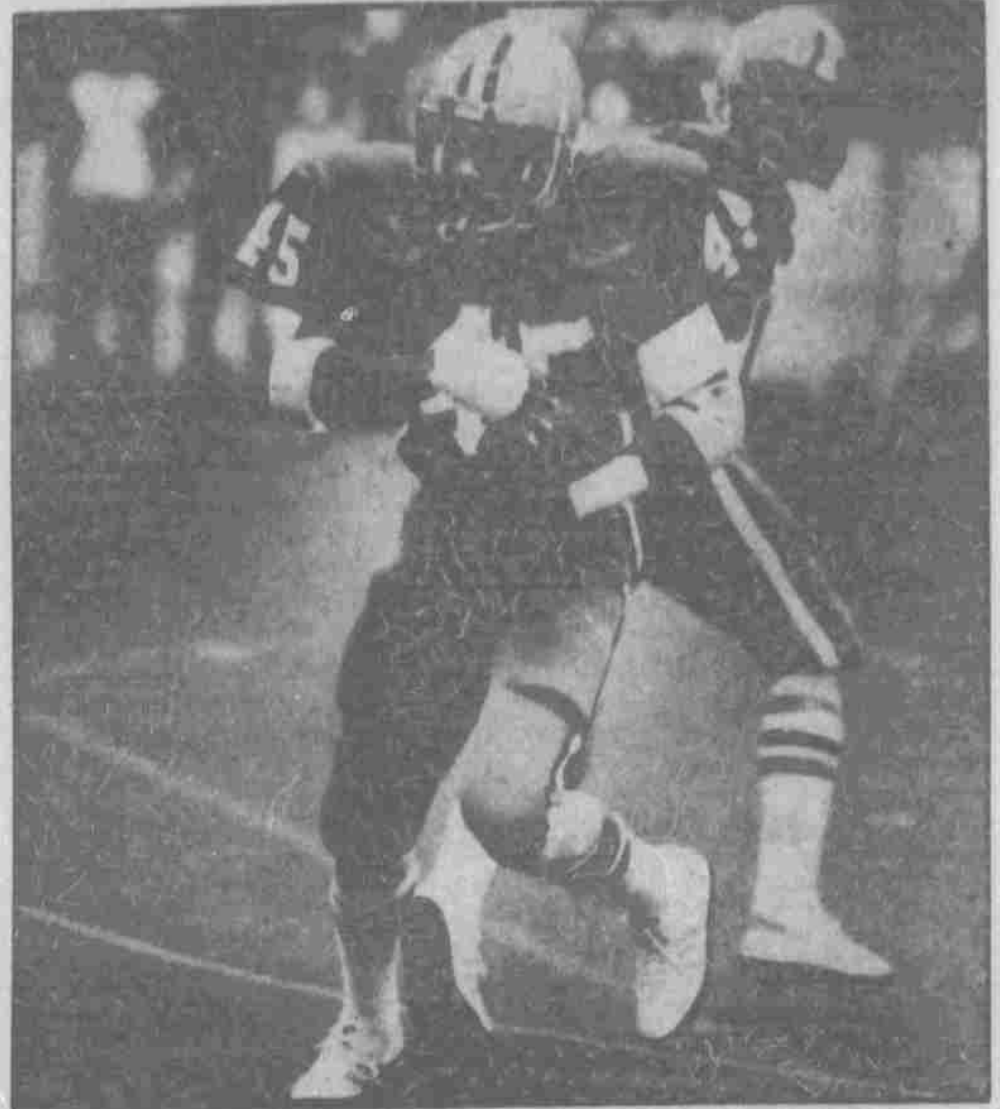


Photo Courtesy of Syracuse Sports Information

Syracuse back Jamie Convington looks for running room. Convington rushed for 99 yards against the Huskers.

## Skateboard renaissance storms city with 'Melee'

By Jonathan Taylor  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Skateboarding bends the mind.

Take the life-risking gymnastics of a circus acrobat, enough energy to create life itself and combine them with the sense of bewilderment only the best magician can provide. Put it all on wheels and you have an inkling of what skateboarding is all about.

The sport began in the mid-sixties when a surfer named Hobie Alter built the first skateboard in California to tide him over when the waves were flat. Since then, the sport has flourished in Lincoln to something much more than "360s" and a way to go to the store for Mom.

With more than 150 people in Lincoln skating in one form or another, skateboarding is the fad that seems to have never died completely.

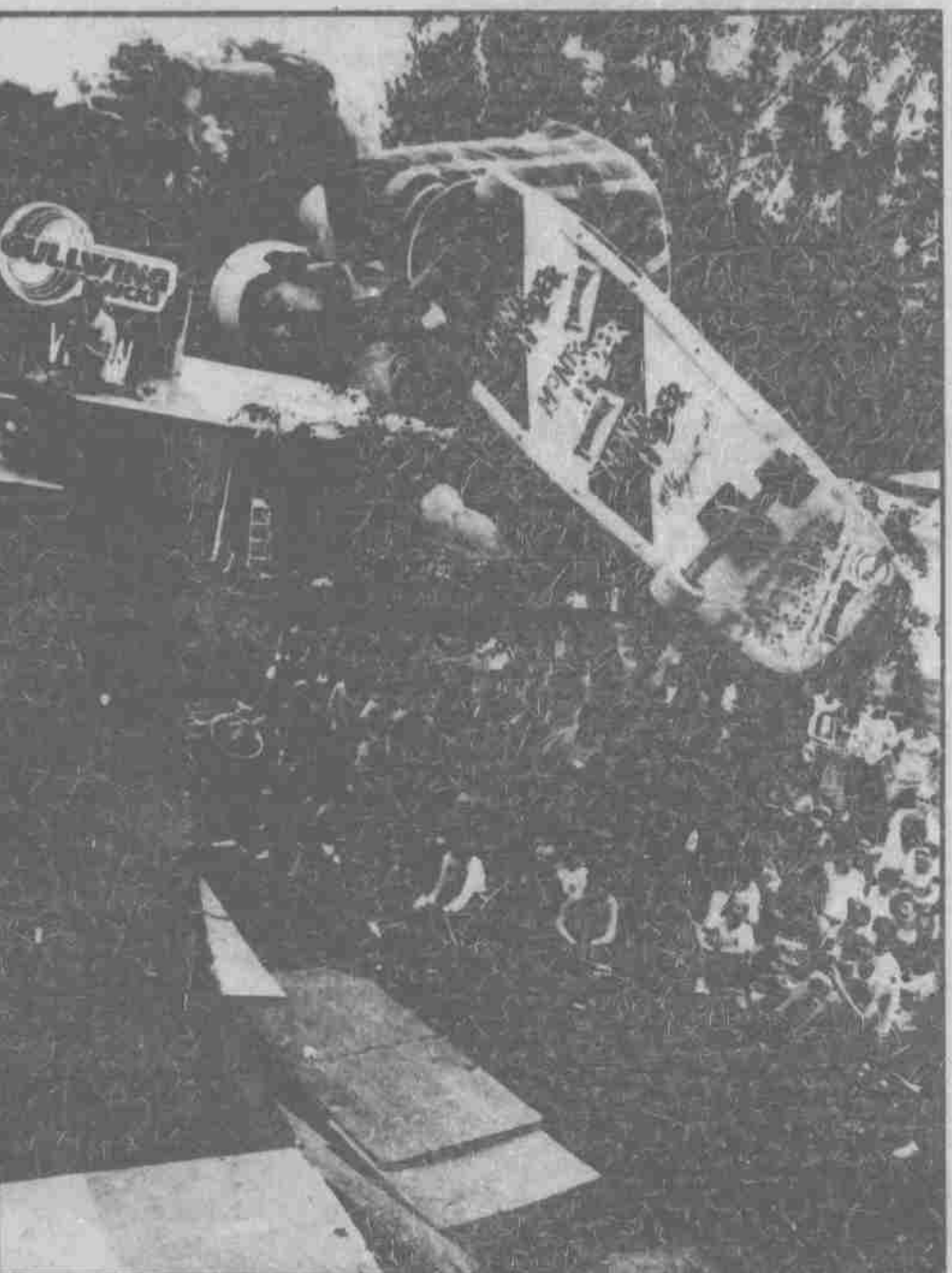
The sport has fought its way back from a time in the late '70s and early '80s when portions of land across the country were paved exclusively for skateboarding. Such places, called skateboard parks, even existed in Omaha.

But, according to Scott Bouwen's and Rich Flowerday, ramp owners and skate shop proprietors had management and poor park designs, coupled with the inability to insure skaters against injury, forced a majority of the parks to close. Just as the sport seemed to have the most strength, even as plans to include skateboarding in the Olympics were rumored to be discussed, people began to put their boards in closets. For many, their only places to ride were being taken away.

Then, skateboarding underwent a renaissance period. People faced with having the equipment to skate but nowhere to do it took matters in their own hands. Groups of skaters became instant



Dave Wesely/Daily Nebraskan



David Greumer/Daily Nebraskan

Pandemonium broke out (left) when sponsors of the Pro Skateboard ramp contest threw T-shirts and other skateboard equipment off the ramp and into the waiting crowd. At right, pro Monte Nolder flies off a ramp.

carpenters, and soon skateboard ramps of all sizes and forms, most of them U-shaped structures called half-pipes, popped up to accommodate the reborn interest.

Though Lincoln never had a skateboard park to begin with, the skaters in this city represent a prime example of the renaissance attitude.

Lincoln was basically a one-ramp town with a small group of skaters keeping the sport alive. But that was before professional skateboarders stormed the Midwest in the fall of 1983 to participate in the first "Midwest Melee" ramp contest. That event, which took place on the ramp behind Flowerday's home in the middle of a quiet, suburban neighbor-

hood, was the single most contributing factor to skateboarding's renewed popularity, Flowerday said.

Since the first "Melee" the number of skaters has "increased exponentially," Flowerday said, with two skaters getting four more interested and four skaters introducing the sport to 16 of their friends.

Compared to surfing or skiing, Flowerday said, skateboarding is basically inexpensive. A complete skateboard will average around \$120 while a full set of pads for the knees, elbows, hips, head and wrists costs about \$100. But with more people skateboarding, beginners are able to buy used equipment cheaper.

Skateboarding is so popular, Flowerday said, because "it is an individual sport, you don't have to be on a team to do it."

Although competitions are good for the sport, Flowerday said another key to the successful progress of the sport in Lincoln is that it isn't necessary for skateboarders to enter competitions to have fun.

However, four amateur ramp contests took place this summer, three in Lincoln and one in Omaha, all of which were sponsored by local skateboard shops. Each contest featured three divisions, 15 and under, Open B and Open A, which gave skaters of every skill level a chance to show off for a crowd and win prizes.

Eighteen professional skateboarders competed in Lincoln last week in the "Midwest Melee II." Hundreds of dollars in prizes were awarded as the pro skaters performed for a crowd estimated at more than 350 people.

Presently there are four ramps in Lincoln of various sizes. Flowerday said skateboarding is a much stronger sport now than in the past because skaters are building ramps and supporting the sport, instead of skatepark managers trying to make a buck.

The immediate future of skateboarding in Lincoln is positive, Flowerday said, with plans being discussed to relocate or build a ramp indoors for the winter months.