

Sports

Husker defensive pressure sacks Missouri

By Jim Rasmussen
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Missouri's quarterbacks had to deal with pressure Saturday afternoon, and the pressure got to them.

That pressure was supplied by Nebraska's defensive line, as the Huskers sacked Tiger quarterbacks Marlon Adler and Warren Seitz six times in a 33-23 Nebraska football victory.

The Huskers' third sack may have been the game's turning point, as Husker middle guard Ken Graeber dumped Adler for a safety with 6:11 left in the first half. The safety gave Nebraska a 9-7 lead, and the Huskers never trailed again.

After Shane Swanson returned the Missouri free kick to the Tiger 48, Nebraska solidified its lead. Doug DuBose shot through a big hole in the line and burned through the Missouri secondary for a touchdown. Nebraska was on top, 16-7.

After Adler left the game with an injury later in the quarter, Seitz went the rest of the way at quarterback. Seitz didn't find the going any easier. He was sacked three times, and had to run from pressure all afternoon.

After the game, Nebraska linebacker Mark Daum said he thought the sacks put some doubt in the Tiger quarterbacks' minds.

"You've got to give the defensive line credit," Daum said. "I think those sacks may have made their quarterbacks a little nervous, and they may have thrown a few balls up for grabs."

Sophomore linebacker Mark Munford did the grabbing for Nebraska. He intercepted two Seitz aeriels, returning one 57 yards for a touchdown that put the Huskers up, 23-10 with 11:41 left in the third quarter. Munford had an excellent day overall, making 16 tackles and breaking up another pass.

Luckily for the Huskers, Munford was out of position on his touchdown play.

"It was bootleg pass, and I saw



Nebraska linebacker Marc Munford lowers the boom on Missouri wide receiver George Shorthose during Nebraska's 33-23 victory at Memorial Stadium.

Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

their guards pull the opposite way," Munford said. "I was actually supposed to be on the tight end, but I was caught half and half between covering him and rushing the passer."

Seitz underthrew the ball, and it landed right in Munford's hands. The Husker linebacker sailed into the end zone untouched.

Munford's interception was a big play, but the big plays weren't confined to the defense. Nebraska's offense produced some big plays of its own.

DuBose's touchdown was one of those big plays. The sophomore I-back, who blitzed the Tigers for 162 yards on 23 carries, said he knew he had to "turn it on" once he broke into the clear.

"The line blew a nice hole," DuBose said. "I followed fullback Tom Rathman's block, and then I got into the secondary and just outran some people."

DuBose played most of the game in place of Jeff Smith, who continued to have problems with a sore ankle. Smith played in the

first half, gaining 52 yards on eight carries. Smith scored the Huskers' first touchdown, a 21-yard run that tied the game at 7-7.

Smith said the touchdown came on Nebraska's bread-and-butter running play, the 41 pitch.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he was pleased with his team's effort against Missouri.

"I thought the offense got untracked some," he said. "I was

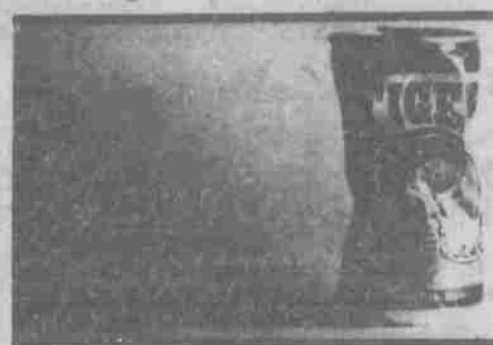
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Loss to Nebraska disheartens Tigers

By Mike Reilley
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

After Missouri suffered its sixth straight loss to Nebraska, 33-23, Tiger coach Warren Powers was asked where his team was headed. "Back to Columbia," Powers snapped.

Once they return to the friendly confines of Faurot Field, Powers said it will be time for the Tigers to lick their wounds and start working.



"We've got half the season ahead of us," Powers said. "It's a heart-breaker, and it will be tough to get over it, but we will get over it."

The loss was particularly disheartening to the Tiger players, who had never defeated the Cornhuskers. Among the most disappointed was linebacker Tracey Mack.

"Nebraska is the only team we haven't beaten since I've been here," Mack said. "It's my third time here. I thought the third time was a charm, but it didn't work out."

Turnovers, bad breaks and a strong Husker pass rush sank Missouri's hopes for its first win in Lincoln since 1978.

Quarterback Warren Seitz threw two interceptions and Tiger running backs coughed up two fumbles. Despite the Missouri bumbles, Powers said Nebraska played well enough to win.

"You have to credit Nebraska," Powers said. "They took advantage of our mistakes."

Fullback Eric Drain agreed with Powers.

"Nebraska got some of the better breaks," Drain said. "We just couldn't make some of the big plays they did."

The Nebraska sack exchange canned Missouri quarterbacks six times. Right tackle Jim Skow registered two sacks to lead the Husker charge.

Middle guard Ken Graeber sacked Marlon Adler in the end zone with six minutes remaining in the second quarter to give Nebraska the lead it never relinquished.

Left end Bill Weber was not part of the sack attack, but he did his share to damage to Adler. Adler suffered a concussion after Weber slammed him to the turf late in the first half.

"The rush was there all the time," Powers said. "They came up with some good blitzes and we didn't read them."

"They blitzed a lot, their pass rush hurt us," Drain said.

I-back Doug DuBose ripped the Tigers for 162 yards rushing. Drain credited part of Nebraska's win to its stable of running backs.

"They were impressive. They ran," Drain said. "They have quality backs, but so do we."

Drain led all Tiger rushers with 93 yards.

Mack said the loss was an emotional strain.

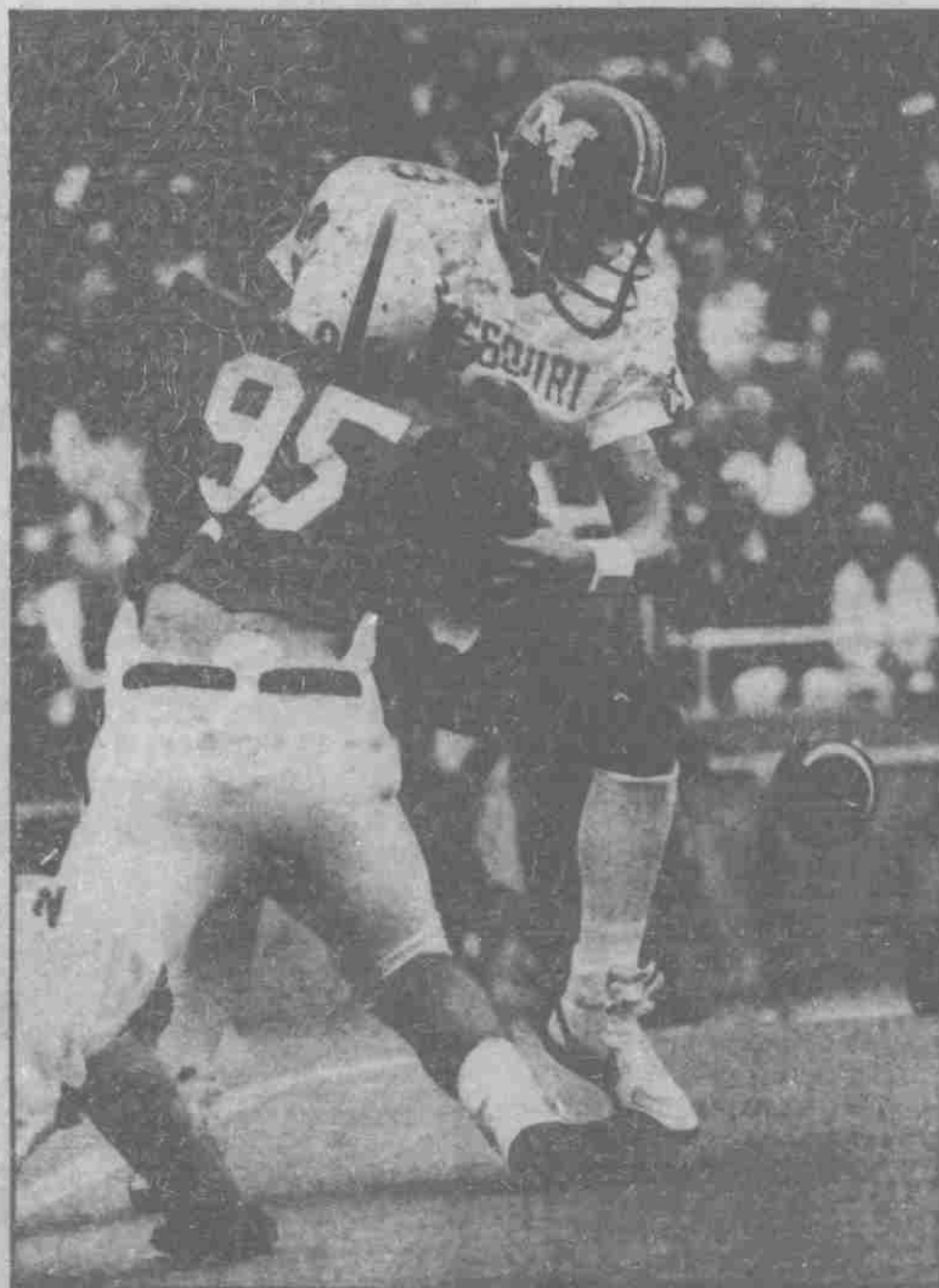
"It's like drinking cod liver oil," Mack said. "It doesn't taste too good."

Drain said the Tigers will bounce back next week against Kansas State.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Enid Schonewise readies a spike against Purdue Sunday at the Coliseum. The Huskers beat Purdue 15-9, 16-14, 15-12 and Missouri Saturday 15-6, 15-7, 9-15, 15-6.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Danny Noonan of Nebraska jars the football from Missouri quarterback Warren Seitz in the third quarter.