

# Sports

## Defense, big players key Husker victory

By Ward W. Triplett III  
Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor

One could make a pretty good case for the assertion that Iowa State gave Nebraska an easy win Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

The Cyclones, who had played two consecutive close games against Oklahoma and Missouri, gave up two fumbles, threw four interceptions, collected 61 yards in penalties and surrendered 91 total return yards. As a result, Nebraska's offense was given six chances from inside the Cyclone 50-yard-line. Four chances paid off, and Nebraska walked away with a 44-0 win.

But even as the Cyclones racked up such unimpressive numbers on their own, the saving grace was again the Nebraska defense. The Huskers used about 10 different defenses to hold Iowa State to five first downs and 53 total yards. The Cyclones used 54 plays in the game, and thus ended with a yard total average below one. The same team that passed for 354 yards against Nebraska last year completed four of its nine receptions for negative yardage. And, All-American candidate Tracy Henderson was held to two catches for 11 yards.

"Considering the talent that we had to go against, I think it was our best defensive game of the year," said safety Bret Clark, who had his fifth interception of the season.

"What really helped us was the way they went up and down the field on us last year," said defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "That was a very good incentive for us."

Coach Tom Osborne praised the defensive effort as perhaps the best since he had been at Nebraska.

"I'm very proud of our defense," Osborne said. "This had to be the best defensive game we've played since I've been head coach. I can't remember a better one."

The defense was so good that the Huskers were able to get a consistent rush on Iowa State quarterback Alan Hood without

using any blitzes, Osborne said. "I don't think we called a blitz all day," he said. "When you can get an effective rush with a three or four man line you're doing pretty well."

The defensive heroes included Clark, defensive end Bill Weber, whose third quarter interception set up the touchdown that got Nebraska rolling, backup defensive end Gregg Reeves, who made his first career interception in the fourth quarter, and Marc Munford, who tied Weber for the team lead in tackles with five.

Even with Iowa State's failure to move the ball, the game was still a game until midway through the third quarter. The Huskers had to settle for a 20-yard field goal by Dale Klein on its first scoring possession in the first quarter. In the second, the Huskers went 46 yards on 10 plays for its first touchdown, a 1-yard sneak by Travis Turner.

Both teams were hindered by a steady wind of 30 mph, which made passes sail and punts from both sides flounder embarrassingly short. Iowa State's Jim Thompson had a 10 yard kick against the wind that gave Nebraska field possession for its first touchdown, but later Thompson kicked a 72-yarder with the wind.

"There were two factors," Osborne said about the lack of scoring in the first half. "Iowa State played good defense and the wind presented problems. We didn't move the ball well against the wind, but we moved it with the wind. Iowa State was down just 10-0 at the half, and players from both sides were aware a big play could change things. "We went in the second half and regrouped ourselves," Cyclone linebacker Jeff Braswell said. "We knew we could still win the game. We didn't feel like we were being beat."

"I was afraid that one big play could get them back in the ball game," Weber said.

But the big play wasn't Iowa State's. On a third and one on the Cyclone 21-yard-line, Hood

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David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan  
Iowa State quarterback Alan Hood goes down in the arms of Rob Stuckey and Danny Noonan.

## Allen: Meet shows team's quality

By Rich Cooper  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Strong performances Saturday from UNL's Wes Suter, Neil Palmer and Mike Bowers helped the men's gymnastics team win the overall team title in the Big Eight Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"I was very impressed with the teams overall performances," coach Francis Allen said. "They made a few mistakes, but I think this meet was a good indicator of how good of a team we have."

Bowers finished second in the all-around competition and Suter finished second in the Olympic all-around competition which included Friday night's compulsories.

Charles Lakes of the University of Illinois won the Olympic all-around.

Allen said he was happy with the performances of the team's freshmen, even though he said he thought they made a few mistakes.

But for a while it looked like the Huskers might not win the meet. They were in third place behind Oklahoma and Southern Illinois.

But in the third event the still rings, Huskers Paul Engle, Mike Epperson and Wes Suter scored in the mid-nines to put the team into second place.

The Huskers went on to the vault and again posted scores in the low to middle nines. That moved the Huskers into first place for good.

The Huskers finished the meet with a total score of 276.15. Southern Illinois finished in second place with 270.90 and in third place was the University of Iowa with 269.90. The two Big Eight schools at the meet, Oklahoma and Iowa State, finished in fifth and sixth place, respectively. Oklahoma finished 10 points behind the Cornhuskers and Iowa State finished 12 points behind.

Suter said he thinks the freshmen will become the team's strong point.

"I felt that we made a few mistakes but the freshman looked real tough," Suter said.

Allen said practices for the next two weeks will be tough to prepare for the upcoming Chicago Invitational. Both Penn State and Ohio State will be at the invita-

tional.

"They will be tough," Allen said. The Huskers' next home meet will be in December when they will face the Japanese National team.



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan  
Steven Juengert of Illinois flies over the vault at the Sports Center during the Big Eight Invitational Friday night.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan  
Travis Turner skips away from Jim Laebbers.