



Florida State's Stanley Scott recovers a fumble by Nebraska's Dana Brinson in the first half of Saturday's game. The fumble was one of two by Nebraska in the game.

David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

# Heat takes early toll on Huskers

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"Coach Bowden and I talked before the game and we thought that the fumbles would be the difference," he said.

Saturday's heat also was a factor, particularly early in the game, Watkins said. The temperature at kickoff was 93 degrees, but thermometers on the stadium's artificial surface showed readings as high as 132 degrees.

"It was pretty hot out there in the first half," Watkins said. "But I kind of cooled off and got a second wind in the second half and it really didn't feel that hot."

Osborne was pleased with the defensive play in the second half.

"The defense played much better in the second half," he said. "We showed signs of being a better football team as the game progressed."

McManus, who finished with 172 yards passing, left the game early in the fourth quarter after he was decked by Husker defensive tackle Jim Skow. McManus was replaced by senior Kirk Cocker and never returned to the game.

At that point Watkins, one of the few experienced players in the Nebraska secondary, said the Seminole offense played a "tentative" game.

"After their quarterback (McManus) went out it seemed like they were happy to have the 17-13 lead and that was that," he said. "Their receivers weren't even making cuts to try and get open."

Watkins said he wasn't challenged in the second half and even "felt like going to sleep a couple of times."

Nebraska held the Seminoles to 53 yards passing after halftime. McBride said the Huskers made some defensive adjustments and decided to "go with some of the guys who had played in some games before."

"I thought the defense rose to the occasion in the second half," Watkins said. "We shut them out, but then they did the same to us."

"We still have respect for Florida State," he said. "But it's not like they ran all over us and did what they wanted to do, though."

The Seminoles finished with a total of 290 yards while the Huskers had 412.

"One good thing about this game is that we found out we could drive the ball," said Clayton, who finished with 97 yards rushing. "We're a strong, physical and aggressive football team. We just have to pull together and things will click for us, for sure."

"We capable of winning the Big

Eight and we're capable of wining a major bowl if we play the type of ball we can."

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