

Sports

Husker win brings praise, talk of championship

By Chuck Green
Staff Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan.—Folks in Grand Island had a lot to talk about Saturday afternoon — again.

They certainly talked about Nebraska's 41-3 victory against Kansas State. They probably talked about Nebraska's win in Manhattan, Kan., being the Cornhusker's 600th football victory, becoming only the sixth team in NCAA history to do so.

But people in Grand Island probably talked more about Tom Rathman.

The senior Husker fullback from Grand Island carried 11 times for 84 yards and two touchdowns, including a 37-yard jaunt early in the first quarter to begin the Husker rout.

In all, the Huskers compiled 450 offensive yards, 375 on the ground.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Rathman may be the best all-around fullback Nebraska ever has had.

"Andra Franklin was close," Osborne said, "but Tom is probably the best running fullback we've had and the best blocking fullback, too. We feel he's the best pure college fullback in

the country."

Rathman's first touchdown came on the first play of Nebraska's second possession. Taking a handoff from quarterback Travis Turner, Rathman burst through a hole in the line and outran Kansas State defenders 37 yards for the score. An extra point by Dale Klein made the score 7-0 with 8:06 remaining in the first quarter.

Following a 44-yard field goal in the first quarter by Kansas State's Mark Porter, Nebraska drove 75 yards in 11 plays. The drive was capped with a 21-yard touchdown run by I-back Paul

Miles early in the second quarter.

Rathman scored once more on a 5-yard run late in the second quarter.

"The line really did a great job out there today," Rathman said. "When the line does well, it's easy for me to do better."

Miles added another touchdown in the fourth quarter, and Klein kicked a 39-yard field goal in the second quarter and a 50-yard field goal in the third quarter. The kick tied Nebraska's record of 12 field goals in a single season, held by Billy Todd (1978) and Dean Sukup (1979). The kick also was Klein's longest ever.

Meanwhile, the Husker defense held the Wildcats to 186 yards total offense, including 58 yards running.

"The main goal for the defense was to stop their run," Husker linebacker Mike Knox said. "We did that. We wanted a shutout, but limiting them to only three points was pretty good."

Mike Carl, Brian Davis and Knox all intercepted against Kansas State quarterback John Welch. Knox's interception came with 3:10 left in the second quarter.

"It was kind of a fluke," Knox said. "It bounced up into the air and I just kind of dove for it."

The Husker fans, who accounted for at least half of the 41,200 people in the

stadium, were treated to a rare performance by two Nebraska freshman.

Defensive end Broderick Thomas led Husker tacklers with nine stops, all of which were unassisted.

Steve Taylor, a freshman quarterback, led Nebraska to its final touchdown. With less than 30 seconds remaining, Taylor kept on an option and weaved 32 yards through the Kansas State defense to the KSU one-yard line. On the next play, I-back Jon Kelley ran the final yard with no time remaining in the game.

"It was like throwing salt and pepper in an open wound," Kansas State defensive end Jeff Hurd said of the play. "In my opinion, he (Osborne) just wanted to run up the score."

Following top-ranked Iowa's loss to Ohio State, the inevitable talk of national championship has begun. Nebraska should advance in the Associated Press and United Press International ratings, where, heading into Saturday's game, the Huskers were rated third and fifth, respectively.

"We'll take whatever comes," Osborne said. "I hope we might move up a notch or two."

Rathman was more optimistic. "The offense is improving," he said.

"When we don't stop ourselves, we can do a lot."

Huskers inflated score, Moon says

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State coach Lee Moon accused Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne of running up the score in the Cornhuskers' 41-3 victory against the Wildcats on Saturday.

Moon, who took over as Kansas State coach when Jim Dickey was fired two games into the 1985 season, said he didn't mind any of the Cornhuskers' first four touchdowns or either of the two field goals kicked by Nebraska's Dale Klein.

But he was upset with Nebraska's final touchdown of the game, which came with no time remaining on the clock.

"I'll remember it (the final score)," Moon said. "After the game, I didn't go look for Coach Osborne because I didn't want to talk about it."

The touchdown was set up when

freshman quarterback Steve Taylor scampered 32 yards down the Nebraska sideline to the Kansas State 1-yard line.

Fourth-string I-back Jon Kelley then scored the touchdown on the next play just as the buzzer sounded.

Back-up place kicker Dan Wingard added the extra point for the final score.

"It was like they (Nebraska) we're trying to rub it in," Wildcat defensive tackle Jeffery Hurd said. "The game's final outcome had already been decided, but I guess they (Nebraska) wanted to score one more time."

Quarterback John Welch defended the Huskers' final score.

"They (Nebraska) were on the goal line, so their offense expected to score," he said. "They had the ball at our goal line, so they kind of deserved to score."

Welch, who completed 15 of 34 passes for 128 yards in the game,

blamed poor field position for Kansas State's offensive problems.

"We moved the ball against the No. 5 team in the nation extremely well," Welch said. "We were getting two or three first downs every time we had the ball, but we were starting out with such bad position that we couldn't get anything going."

Kansas State picked up its only score of the game late in the first quarter when kicker Mark Porter kicked a 44-yard field goal to bring the Wildcats to within four points, 7-3.

Moon said Kansas State played better defensively than it had all season, even though the Wildcats gave up 450 total yards of offense.

"I thought we fought from start to finish defensively. I'm just disappointed in the finish," he said. "I told all of the kids that they should come out of this game with their heads up because they gave a great effort against a great team."

Women take cross country title

By Richard Cooper
Staff Reporter

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Nebraska women's cross country coach Jay Dirksen finally got the Big Eight title he wanted when the UNL team edged out Iowa State for the Big Eight Cross Country Championship.

Not only is it the first time in Nebraska cross country history that the team has won the Big Eight title but also the first time they finished in the top four.

The Cornhuskers placed four women in the top 15, and their fifth runner Sammy Resh, a freshman from Shelton, finished 23rd for the fifth-ranked Huskers.

"This is just fantastic, the girls worked so hard for this honor and they earned every bit of it," Dirksen said.

The race ran slow because rain during the week made the hilly course slippery, Dirksen said.

Christine McMiken from Oklahoma State, who had set the course record on Sept. 21 with a 15:35, won with 17:04, finishing 28 seconds ahead of Jacque Struckoff from Kansas State.

Before the meet Dirksen said he knew it would be a dogfight with Iowa State and Kansas State. Once the race started runners from all three teams jockeyed for position because of narrow

spots on the course.

The Huskers won with 61 points. Iowa State scored 66 points and Kansas State finished third with 84 points.

Dirksen said this was the best race the Huskers had run as a team because they knew there was pressure and they handled it well. He said the meet was the most competitive he had seen in three years at Nebraska.

The Huskers had three All-Big Eight performers as top-10 finishers. Jill Noel finished fifth with a time of 17:41. Mary Amen finished ninth with a 17:51.6 and Husker team captain Laura Wight finished 10th with a 17:55.

Dirksen said the race was very close and that the title wasn't decided until the last 1,000 meters.

He said the key was that the Huskers

ran close to each other.

Each Nebraska runner was about 10 seconds apart. Nebraska had the fifth, ninth, 10th, 14th and 23rd spots while Iowa State had the seventh, eighth, 11th, 19th and 21st spots.

Noel said the team ran a tougher race than Iowa State. She said she is excited that they won the conference championship but now they have to worry about their next obstacle, the Region five meet on Nov. 16 at Stillwater, Okla. That meet decides what two teams will go to the NCAA Cross Country Championships.

"We ran a good race today and Iowa State didn't. In two weeks at the regions it could be a different story," Noel said. "They are in the same situation as we were before this meet."

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