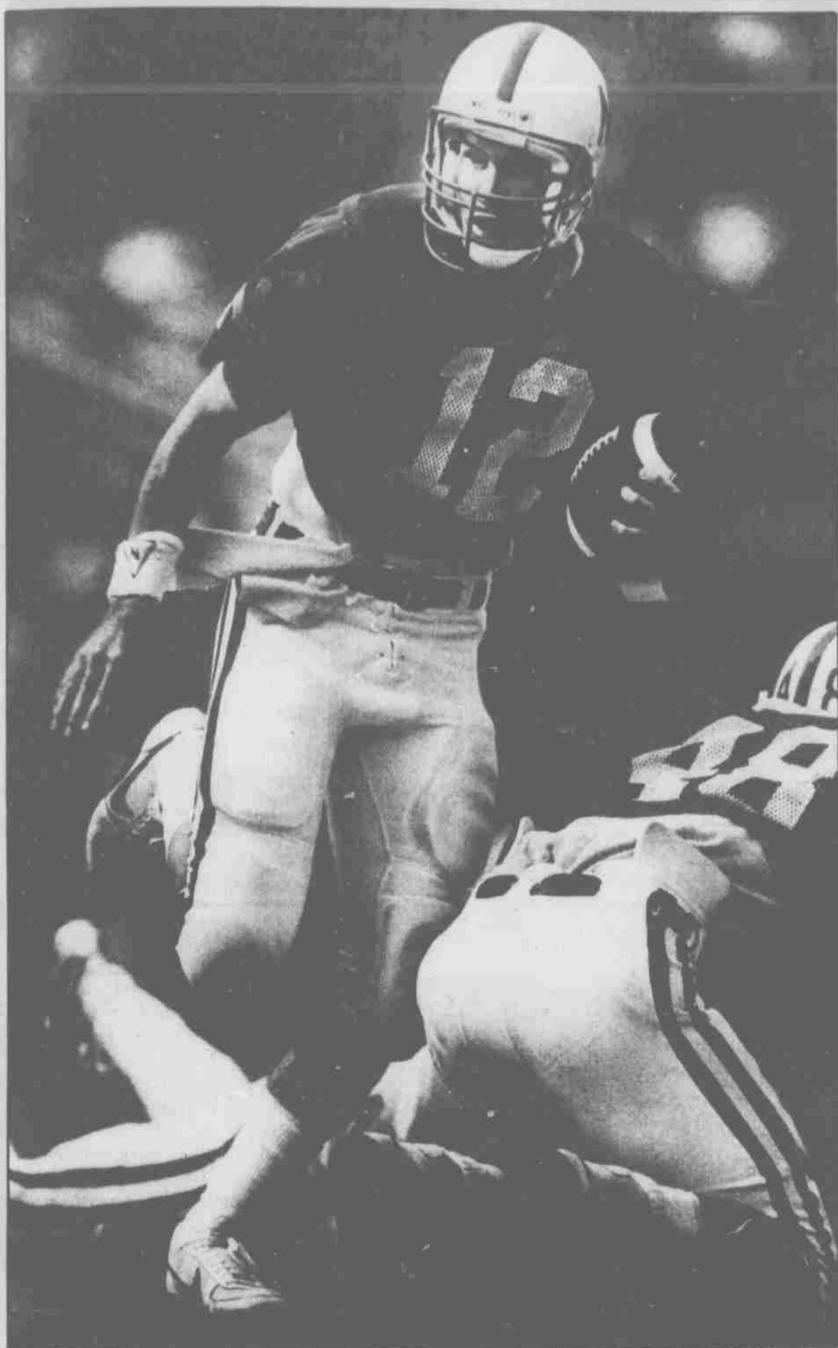


Sports



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska quarterback Blakeman carries the ball in Saturday's Red-White spring game.

Red team breaks record with 70-14 scrimmage win

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Sometimes you just can't win. Four months before Nebraska's football season opener against Florida State, people already are talking about Coach Tom Osborne running up the score. These "accusations" came in a light-hearted manner, however, from fans who were at the annual Red-White spring game Saturday in Memorial Stadium. The Red team, consisting of first- and fourth-team players, mauled the White team, 70-14. The Red team's 70 points set a spring game record. The 23,006 fans who attended got their money's worth of big plays and big points. Osborne said the score was misleading. "The game was set up in a way that the scoring might be a little higher than usual," Osborne said. On the first play, White team quarterback McCathorn Clayton threw an interception to Brian Siebler, who returned the ball to the White 7-yard line. The turnover set up a 6-yard touchdown run two plays later by Red quarterback Steve Taylor. Taylor finished the day with 52 yards rushing and three touchdowns on nine carries and completed three of eight passes for 81 yards and one touchdown. Osborne said Taylor performed well, but still has room for improvement. "Steve needs to continue to be more consistent," Osborne said. "Toward the end of the game, he could have scrambled for some big gains, and he elected to throw the ball. Hopefully in the fall when he's got 20 yards around the corner, he'll take the 20 yards." After the White team failed to gain a first down on their next possession, Craig Schnitzler punted the ball to Red return man Dana Brinson. Brinson fielded the ball at his own

35-yard line, cut to his left and sailed untouched into the end zone. Miller put his name into the scoring summary seven minutes later, blocking a punt and recovering the ball in the end zone. After a Dale Klein extra point, the Reds led 21-0. With 5:27 remaining in the 20-minute first quarter, Taylor and Von Sheppard hooked up for a 61-yard touchdown strike. The White team finally lit up the scoreboard two minutes into the second quarter, getting more points than they had hoped for. Chris Drennan lined up for what was to be a 46-yard field goal attempt, but the snap was bobbled by Jerry Mlinar. Mlinar raced to the right sideline under heavy pressure and threw the ball into the end zone. Tight end Mark Diaz pulled down the pass for the touchdown. The extra point by Drennan cut the Red lead to 21, 28-7. Later in the second quarter, the Reds scored again on a 2-yard burst up the middle by fullback Micah Heibel, then on a 6-yard pass from Clete Blakeman to Todd Millikan. On the ensuing kickoff, the fans came to their feet again as Lorenzo Hicks returned the kick 85-yards down the sideline for a touchdown. After a successful onside kick, the White team had the ball back with 17 seconds remaining in the first half. Red cornerback Brian Davis intercepted a pass, though, and returned it 67 yards for a touchdown which sent the teams to the locker rooms. The Red team led 49-14 at half-time. Clayton, who had switched jerseys and moved to the Red team, threw a short pass to Brinson, who immediately was cut off at mid-field by White defenders. Brinson spun, reversed direction across the field and sprinted 81 yards for the final points of the afternoon. I-back Jon Kelley led all rushers, gaining 91 yards on 10 carries for the Red team.

ORU defeats Huskers with tie-breaking homer

By Mike Jeffries
Special to the Daily Nebraskan

TULSA, Okla. — Sixth-ranked Oral Roberts needed Keith Lockhart's tie-breaking home run to overcome Nebraska Saturday, 4-3, and sweep a two-game weekend series with the Cornhuskers at Johnson Stadium. The Titans won the first game Friday, 9-5. Lockhart's game-winning blast, one of his four hits, came in the seventh inning after Nebraska rebounded from a 3-0 deficit by scoring two in the fifth inning and another in the sixth. All four Titan runs came as the result of home runs, including Craig Colbert's three-run shot in the third inning. Nebraska pitcher Mike Dobbs agreed that the homers were the key. "I thought I pitched pretty well," Dobbs said. "But, I'd like to have a couple of pitches back." Dobbs attributed the three-run homer to miscommunication with catcher Mark Kister.

"He wanted a slider and I thought he wanted a fastball in," Dobbs said. "Colbert didn't look like a home run threat. I'd like to have that one back too."

Dobbs allowed seven hits and struck out three.

In Friday's game, Nebraska scored four runs in the fifth to fight back from a 6-0 disadvantage. Heflin batted for Burt Beattie and walked. Todd Bunge singled to load the bases for the Huskers. Meyers hit a line drive past third for a hit, advanced to third on an error before scoring on Franklin's sacrifice fly.

Again in the seventh, Nebraska loaded the bases but Titan coach Larry Cochell called on relief pitcher Garry Clark. Franklin sent a sacrifice shot to center to pull Nebraska within one but ORU responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning.

After the series, ORU is 38-11. Nebraska is 28-17.

Rathman waits for NFL choices, rated third in draft by USA Today

The Associated Press

Former Nebraska football player Tom Rathman said he'll be waiting by the telephone and watching ESPN TV early Tuesday morning when the National Football League draft gets under way. The Grand Island native is among a handful of former Nebraska players who expect to be drafted. Rathman said Tuesday will be a big day for him and his wife, Holly. Their trailer home will be filled with family and friends, reporters and Cornhusker football players. ESPN has contacted him about a live telephone interview after he's drafted, Rathman said. USA Today rated Rathman third among full-

backs in the draft, and The Sporting News rated him fifth.

The ratings are interesting to players and fans, but "you don't know how accurate they are," Rathman said.

"A team might be looking for a certain type of fullback," he said. "Maybe the guy ahead of me is a better runner, but maybe I'm a better blocker than he is."

Rathman, who is 6-4 and weighs 238 pounds, enhanced his position in the draft with a senior season in which he rushed for 881 yards, a school record for fullback. He averaged 7.5 yards a carry, evidence that he can run with the ball as well as block.

Former Cornhuskers Bill Lewis, Jim Skow, Todd Frain, Dan Wingard, Paul Miles, Mike Knox and Brian Blankenship also have been named as potential draft picks.

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