

## Sports

# Cornhuskers crush Seminoles, 34-17

By Bob Asmussen  
Night News Editor

Saturday night was cold and drizzly. It was the kind of night that Ernie Banks would have said, "Let's play two." The Nebraska football team was happy to be playing even one.

The Cornhuskers beat Florida State Saturday night in Memorial Stadium, 34-17. The game brought to a conclusion a week that was not happy for the Nebraska players.

Trouble began on Wednesday when Nebraska coach Tom Osborne was told by the NCAA that 60 players had been suspended for Saturday's game. The suspensions were the result of an NCAA finding that the players misused complimentary game tickets. On Thursday, the NCAA granted a stay of the ruling until an appeal is heard Tuesday. After the game Osborne said he was happy Nebraska won.

"That's a relief," Osborne said. "You never know what you got. The way we played tonight, I think we have a good team. I was pleased with the players' response to the adverse conditions they had earlier in the week."

The first drive of the game by Florida State had to leave the Nebraska players

wondering whether or not having the 60 suspended players would be enough.

The Seminoles took the opening drive 74 yards in six plays to lead 7-0. The big play in the series was a 33-yard forward fumble that Florida State's Mark Salva recovered at the Nebraska 43-yard line. Three plays later, Florida State quarterback Chip Ferguson hit Victor Floyd with a 30-yard touchdown pass. Derek Schmidt added the extra point. Florida State led 7-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Nebraska scored its first points of the 1986 season at 9:11 in the second quarter. Sophomore quarterback Steve Taylor, starting his first varsity game, gained all 54 yards of the four-play drive. After two incompletions, Taylor scrambled 34 yards for a Nebraska first down at the Florida State 30-yard line. On the next play, Taylor ran to the left side of the field and scored. Dale Klein converted the extra point kick.

Nebraska took its only lead of the first half, 10-7, on a Klein field goal with 51 seconds left. The lead lasted all of 18 seconds. Following a kickoff and a Nebraska penalty, Florida State's Sammie Smith scored on a 57-yard run. The Seminoles led 14-10 at halftime.

The second half got off to a bad start for Nebraska. The Huskers couldn't move the ball on their opening series. After Florida State was stopped on its first series of the second half, Nebraska's Dana Brinson fumbled a Louis Berry punt and the Seminoles recovered at the Nebraska 35-yard line. Schmidt kicked a 46-yard field goal to push the Florida State lead to 17-10 with 10:12 left in the third quarter.

Nebraska took the kickoff following the Florida State field goal and drove 63 yards for the tying score. The key play in the drive was a pass interference call against Florida State at the Nebraska 6-yard line. On the third down and eight play, the ball and defender appeared to get to Nebraska's Rod Smith at the same time. But the official ruled Smith had been hit early, and Nebraska got the ball at the six. Taylor scored to his right on the next play.

Florida State used the Tango Attack on its next series — one-two-three-kick — and Nebraska got the ball at its 49-yard line. Taylor hit tight end Todd Millikan for a 12-yard touchdown with 45 seconds left in the third quarter. It was the first touchdown catch of Milli-

kan's career.

Several players on the Nebraska offense said the defense was the key to taking the lead.

"You have to give credit to the defense because they did come back in the second half," Nebraska wingback Von Sheppard said. "When the defense started stopping them in the third quarter, that's when the momentum started to go our way."

Florida State, which gained 175 yards in the first half, was held to minus two yards in the second half. The Seminoles had only two first downs in the second half and eight in the game.

"I've got a world of confidence in our defense," Nebraska offensive guard and co-captain Stan Parker said. "They're the ones that got the momentum back our way."

Parker said mistakes kept Nebraska from controlling the game early.

"I think we dominated pretty well early, but we kept stopping ourselves," Parker said. "We didn't quit. We just kept coming at them."

Nebraska added to its lead early in the fourth quarter on a 46-yard touchdown pass from Taylor to Sheppard. Klein ended the scoring with a 38-yard

field goal with 1:23 left in the game.

Taylor led Nebraska with 139 yards on 22 carries. He also completed 10 of 16 passes for 130 yards. Taylor missed by four yards the Nebraska record for rushing by a quarterback. In 1952, John Bordogna gained 143 yards against Iowa State.

Nebraska outgained Florida State 427 yards to 173 yards. Nebraska had 24 first downs to the Seminoles eight. Unlike last year, when Nebraska had several turnovers in a 17-13 loss, the Huskers were able to hold onto the ball. Brinson's fumble was Nebraska's only turnover of the game. Florida State had no turnovers.

"Defensively, we played a great football game," Osborne said. "I was very pleased. I hope we have the kind of people and attitude to overcome whatever they throw at us."

On Tuesday, the NCAA will decide whether or not to throw a one-game suspension at 60 Nebraska players. If the decision is upheld, Osborne will likely hold out 10 players for the next six Nebraska games, starting with the Sept. 20 game at Illinois.

Florida State, now 1-1, plays North Carolina Sept. 20 in Tallahassee.

## Bowden full of praise

By Chuck Green  
Sports Editor

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden has always been one to heap praise on the Nebraska football program. Saturday night's 34-17 Cornhusker win didn't change anything.

"They (Nebraska) didn't look that sharp at first," Bowden said, "but they kept getting better and better. We tried the trap, off-tackle, everything, and they just killed us."

**'Their quarterback was the difference. He made some plays that we just couldn't stop. Without him, Nebraska doesn't win. Any superlatives about the Nebraska offense had to start with that quarterback.'**

—Bowden

Bowden said he was particularly impressed with Husker quarterback Steve Taylor. Taylor rushed for 139 yards on 22 carries Saturday night — a 6.3 yard per carry average — and two touchdowns to lead all Husker ball carriers. Taylor fell just four yards short of the Nebraska single-game quarterback rushing record of 143 yards, set by John Bordogna against Iowa State in 1952.

"Their quarterback was the difference," Bowden said. "He made some plays that we just couldn't stop. Without him, Nebraska doesn't win. Any superlatives about the Nebraska offense have to start with that quarterback."

Taylor also completed 10 of 16 passes for 130 yards.

Bowden said he never saw much of former Husker quarterback Turner Gill against the Seminoles, but "I don't remember him (Gill) being that much better," he said. "He (Taylor) was fantastic."

"The first big run on third-and-long (in the second quarter when Taylor sprinted 34 yards for a first down) was unbelievable. He broke out of there and we couldn't get to him. And then when he ran for that touchdown — I've never seen a quarterback cover 20 yards that fast."

Bowden was equally impressed with the Nebraska defense. He said it was the best Husker defense he has seen in the four years Florida State has played in Lincoln.

"They just crunched us," Bowden

said. "We couldn't get nothing inside. They were an outstanding, pretty physical bunch. They whipped us up front."

Many of Bowden's players agreed with their coach on the intensity of the Nebraska defense.

"They didn't allow us to score in the second half, so they must have been tough," Seminole quarterback Chip Ferguson said. "They were certainly tougher than Toledo."

Ferguson said he didn't think the game was really out of reach for Florida State until the final minutes.

"They put a lot of points on the board in a hurry, but we still felt we could come back," Ferguson said. "It might hurt us for a day or two, but we'll get over it."

Seminole cornerback Eric Williams echoed the thoughts of his quarterback.

"I didn't really think the game was over until they were at 30 and we were still at 17 with about three minutes left," Williams said. "They made some big plays on defense. It was a big win for them."

Bowden said Florida State's biggest problem throughout the game was their inability to maintain a consistent running game.

"If we could have gotten our running game going, we would have had them," Bowden said. "But once our short running game broke down, we didn't have anything to throw them (Nebraska) off balance. They just crunched our running game. I've been worried about that game."

**'They put a lot of points on the board in a hurry, but we still felt we could come back.'**

—Ferguson

Bowden may be more worried about the Seminole running game after Saturday night. Florida State was able to generate only 76 yards rushing and only 97 yards in the air.

"We've got a lot of going back to do and we've got some shortages to fill," Bowden said. "They shut our offense down completely. They stuffed us back completely and forced us out of the things that we wanted to do. They forced us into things that we didn't want to do."

Though Bowden is upset about the loss to Nebraska, he isn't quite ready to throw in the towel for the season.

"I don't know how good they (Nebraska) are," he said. "We may have gotten beat by a great team and if that's the case, then we're not too bad. But we still have a lot of question marks left."

## Taylor debut draws rave reviews

By Bob Asmussen  
Night News Editor

Jamelle who?

That might be what Nebraska fans are saying to themselves after watching the opening act of the Steve Taylor Show Saturday night.

Taylor, a sophomore from San Diego, Calif., started his first varsity game against Florida State. Taylor rushed for 139 yards, ran for two touchdowns and passed for two more. He accounted for 269 yards total offense.

"I thought Steve played very, very well," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "He has that kind of talent. He told me as the game came closer, he started to feel better and more confident. I think earlier in the week, he was feeling pretty nervous."

Taylor agreed with Osborne about his nervousness.

"Preparing for the game, I was very uptight," Taylor said. "But, as the week went along, I began to feel more confident. I was nervous because I was starting my first game, against a team with a game under their belts. The first quarter showed that Florida State had already played a game, and we hadn't."

Taylor got over his pregame nervousness enough to impress his teammates.

"I'm so proud of Steve," Nebraska offensive guard and co-captain Stan Parker said. "Last year in the huddle he was a little hesitant. This year, from the first play on, he was calm and cool and was in total charge."

"I'm impressed as can be," Nebraska fullback Micah Heibel said. "He's just a leader out there."

"He really helped us out," wingback Von Sheppard said. "He's always been confident. Down the road, he's going to be a great quarterback."

Down the road might be sooner than Sheppard thinks. Taylor's performance outdid the performance of another sophomore in a game 400 miles to the south. Oklahoma's Jamelle Holieway gained 83 yards on 10 carries in leading Oklahoma to a 38-3 win against UCLA. Holieway hit only one of six passes in the game for nine yards. He was intercepted twice.

Taylor's 22 carries in the game were three short of the Nebraska record for a quarterback set by John Bordogna in a 1952 game. Taylor said he didn't think he would have that many rushing opportunities in



Richard Wright/Daily Nebraskan

**Nebraska defensive end Broderick Thomas lets the crowd know who's No. 1.**

the game.

"I've never heard of John Bordogna," Taylor said. "But I wouldn't mind if I don't carry that much or more in the future. Every time you carry the ball you've got to get hit."

Taylor had two touchdown runs, one from six yards and one from 20. He also had touchdown passes of 12 yards to Todd Millikan and 46 yards to Sheppard.

"The receivers ran good routes," Taylor said. "All I had to do was put the ball there."

While Florida State was on offense, Taylor's roommate, Broderick Thomas, tried to disrupt the Seminole offensive line. Thomas had five tackles, including a nine-yard sack of Florida State quarterback Chip Ferguson. Thomas said he has one goal for his Nebraska career.

"My goal is to be one of the best defensive players in Nebraska his-

tory," Thomas said.

Thomas said he thinks Nebraska has a good chance to win a national championship.

"When you have a potent offense and a top-ranked defense, that can equal a national championship," Thomas said. "I guess it's meant for us to win a national title."

Thomas said his friendship with Taylor has helped him become a better player.

"We talk a lot," Thomas said. "Steve's my best friend. He's just a great guy. It helps me to be around a guy like that."

Thomas said the NCAA ruling to suspend 60 Nebraska players for one game made the game a must-win situation for him.

"I think we proved a point to the nation. No one thinks we're in the wrong. I don't think they (the NCAA) should be so hard on us."