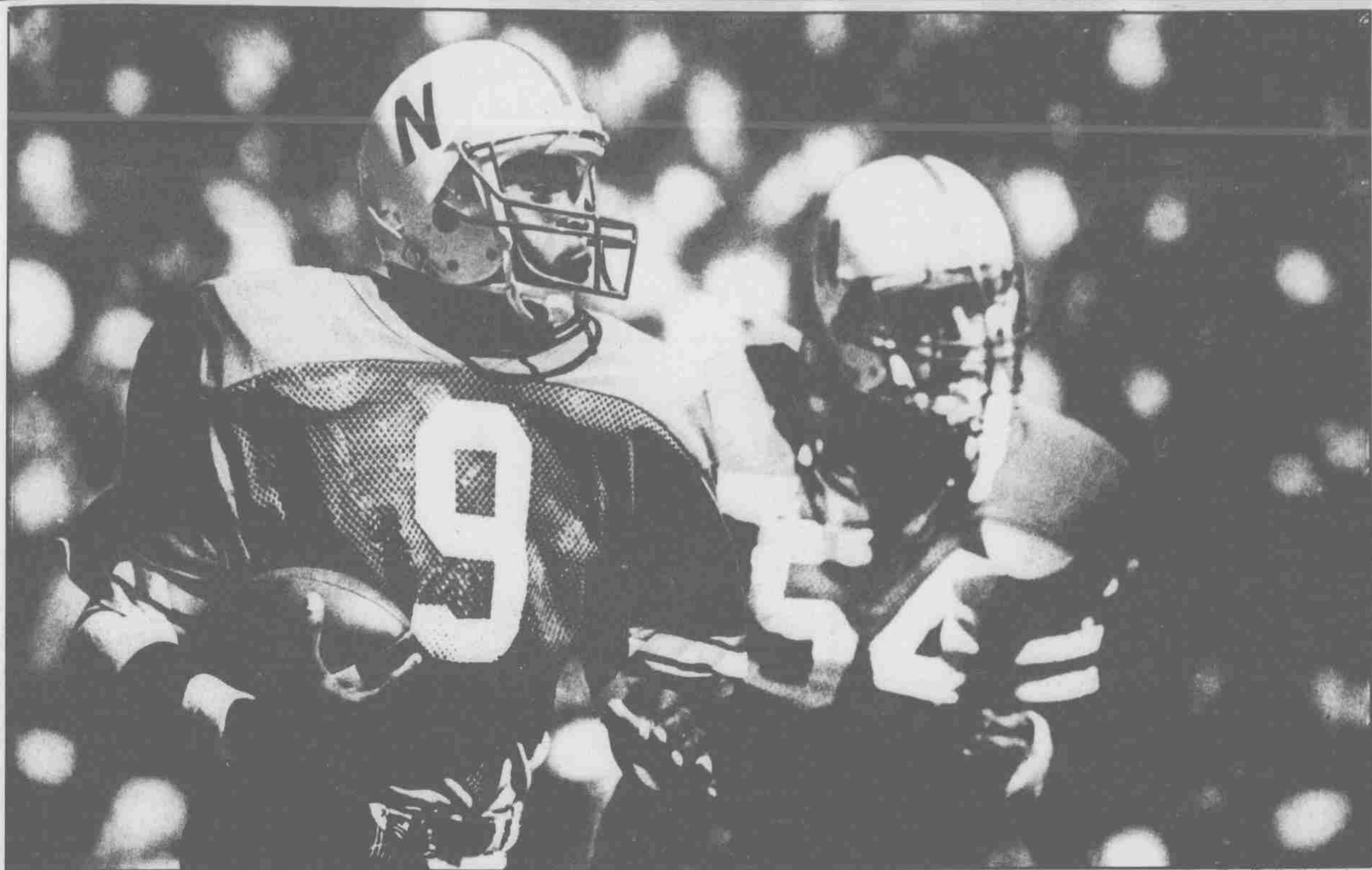


# Sports



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Quarterback Steve Taylor keeps the ball on an option play as Mark Cooper, 54, prepares to block.

## Huskers pluck Quack Attack, 48-14

By Bob Asmussen  
Night News Editor

Maybe after Nebraska's 48-14 win against Oregon Saturday, the Cornhuskers should swap nicknames with the Eugene school. Call Nebraska the Lucky Ducks. Or, even better, the Opportunistic Ducks.

Nebraska intercepted four Oregon passes Saturday and recovered two Duck fumbles. Twice in the game, Nebraska fumbled the ball and then recovered it for touchdowns.

At his weekly press conference Tuesday, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said that he hoped the team could win the turnover ratio in one of its games this season. Defensive end Broderick Thomas must have been paying attention.

Thomas, a sophomore from Houston, recovered three fumbles, two by the Ducks and one by teammate Jeff Tomjack after an interception. On the Tomjack fumble, Thomas ran the ball four yards for his first collegiate touchdown. All three of Thomas' fumble recoveries came in the first half.

"No one said that the offense is the only people that can touch the ball," Thomas said. "I just love being around the ball."

Thomas said he had scored touchdowns in high school on similar plays. He said when he saw the Tomjack fumble, he knew what to do with it.

"That was a great fumble recovery," Thomas said. "I enjoyed it. Six points is six points. I don't care if it's 90 yards or three yards, it's six points."

I'd much rather run 90 yards for the excitement, yet it's still great.

"When I saw the ball go, I said, 'Brod, you better get the fumble,' I didn't feel like crawling on the ground, so I just picked it up and kept running."

Thomas' touchdown helped him do something not many people thought he could do in a game — outscore his roommate. Thomas' roommate, Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor, didn't score a touchdown, but did throw a touchdown pass to Todd Millikan.

For the second week in a row, the Nebraska defense started the game by forcing a turnover. After the opening kickoff, Oregon quarterback Chris Miller fumbled the snap on the first play from scrimmage. Thomas' recovery gave Nebraska the ball at the Oregon 22-yard line.

But Nebraska was just as generous as the Ducks. Taylor's first pass of the game was tipped by Oregon's Mike Blakey and intercepted by linebacker Dan Devaney.

The turnovers continued on Oregon's next series. Miller threw two incompletions before finally connecting on third down. Unfortunately, Miller's first completion was to Nebraska cornerback Charles Fryar.

After three plays took Nebraska to the 12, Taylor ran an option to the left side of the field. Taylor fumbled at the one, but the ball was recovered by teammate Keith Jones for Nebraska's first touchdown.

On Oregon's next series, the Ducks again

played Santa Claus. This time, Thomas made all three parts of the play: sacking Miller for a 12-yard loss, forcing a fumble and recovering the ball.

Three plays later, a Taylor to Millikan pass for 22 yards gave Nebraska a 14-0 lead.

Following Nebraska's second touchdown, Oregon had a nine-play, 83-yard drive for its first touchdown. Miller hit Alan Jackson for a 25-yard touchdown pass to complete the drive and pull the Ducks within seven points, 14-7.

Nebraska scored on its next drive, a 15-play, 71-yard journey capped by Micah Heibel's 4-yard touchdown run.

On Nebraska's next possession, Taylor had a run that had to bring back memories of Bobby Reynolds and Mike Rozier to Nebraskans. Taylor started toward the right side of the field. He then reversed direction, going back 12 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Taylor picked up some blocks and ran 46 yards to the Oregon 12-yard line. Four plays later, quarterback Clete Blakeman scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

Nebraska's final touchdown of the half came on Thomas' recovery of Tomjack's fumble. Tomjack, a junior from Ewing, intercepted a Miller pass and ran 36 yards to the 4-yard line. He fumbled and Thomas scooped the ball up for the touchdown. Nebraska led 35-7 at halftime.

"Defensively, we were trying to improve on things and getting more turnovers was one of them," Nebraska defensive tackle Lee Jones said.

Despite the lopsided final score, Osborne said the Cornhuskers were not at the top of their game.

"We're pleased with the win," Osborne said. "I thought our effort was pretty good. I think we can play better than we did today."

Osborne said he wasn't happy with the blocking of the offensive line.

"Offensively I was disappointed with the way we knocked them off the ball," Osborne said "I thought we could dominate them a little bit more than we were able to."

For the third game in a row, Nebraska held its opponent to less than 100 yards rushing. The Ducks gained 47 yards on 33 carries. Oregon also gained 224 yards on 16 pass completions.

Taylor led Nebraska with 85 yards rushing. Jones gained 67 yards and Heibel gained 55 yards. Taylor hit three of 10 passes for 40 yards and one touchdown.

Millikan caught two touchdown passes in the game to become the first Nebraska player to have two touchdown receptions since Todd Frain had two against LSU in the 1985 Sugar Bowl.

Oregon's leading rusher was James Harper with 39 yards. Miller completed six of 17 passes for 110 yards and had three interceptions. Miller injured his elbow in the first half and didn't play the rest of the game. Pete Nelson had 114 yards passing in relief of Miller.

Nebraska, 3-0 and ranked No. 4 in the nation, travels to Columbia, S.C., Saturday to play 1-3 South Carolina. Oregon plays undefeated Southern Cal.

## Saturday's score disappoints Oregon coach, but team's strong effort eases the pain

By Chuck Green  
Sports Editor

Oregon coach Rich Brooks wasn't quite as disappointed as he was this time last year, but he was still less than happy.

According to Brooks, the Ducks played much harder than they did in last year's 63-0 stomping at Memorial Stadium.

"We had some good things for our younger people today," Brooks said. "I don't know what they (Nebraska) were down to today. Maybe they were at their eighth or ninth teams there at the end of the game, but at least our second and third teams didn't get blown out like our seconds

and thirds got blown out by their seconds and fives and eights and 10ths last year."

Brooks said he was pleased with the way his players never gave up and played hard until the end of the game. Brooks was especially impressed with the play of freshman quarterback Pete Nelson, who replaced starter Chris Miller in the second quarter. Miller was forced from the game with an injury to his right elbow.

"He made some youth mistakes, got a couple of delay of the game penalties and things like that," Brooks said, "but I think it's a tough situation for a young guy to see extensive duty against a hostile

crowd and a very good football team."

"He showed that he was inexperienced a couple times, but he also made some very fine plays," he said.

"I was very pleased with the job we did stopping their offense," Brooks said. "We really played their option game pretty well."

Oregon free safety Ed Hulbert echoed his coach's feelings.

"I thought our defense, though they came up with only 48 points, played pretty well under the circumstances," Hulbert said. "To turn the ball over six times and give them (Nebraska) the short edge of the field, playing a team like Nebraska, it's not hard to give up points."

## Husker 2nd at invite

By Kristi Reetz  
Staff Reporter

The Husker Volleyball Invitational started Friday night with No. 7 Nebraska beating No. 17 Wyoming in four sets, 13-15, 15-4, 15-6, 15-8.

In the first game, Wyoming took the lead, 14-10, before Nebraska started to come back. On Wyoming's match point, Nebraska's Karen Dahlgren made a kill to keep the Huskers in contention. Lori Endicott then served three points for Nebraska to put the score at 13-14 before Darcy Cudaback served the game point for Wyoming.

In the second game, Nebraska scored five points before Wyoming got on the boards. Wyoming never really threatened, though, as Nebraska put the game away on a kill by redshirt fresh-

man Virginia Stahr to take the game, 15-4.

In the third game, Nebraska scored first but Wyoming quickly took a 4-1 lead. Nebraska scored three straight points to tie the game at four, then scored three more to take a 7-4 lead. Wyoming managed one more point before Nebraska put it away, 15-6.

Wyoming took control of the fourth game early, holding a 3-0 lead before Terry Pettit called time-out. The Huskers regrouped and scored two points, one on a kill by Kathi DeBoer. Wyoming then took leads of 5-4, 7-5 and 8-6. Nebraska came back behind the serving of Jackie Cook to take a 9-8 lead, then finished off the Cowgirls to take the game and the match, 15-8.

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