

# Barrios boots Huskers past Texas A&M

By Mark Derowitsch  
Senior Reporter

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — With one kick, Gregg Barrios sealed a Nebraska victory and started another controversy.

Barrios drilled a 48-yard field goal with 7:10 left in the game and converted two others as Nebraska rallied to a 23-14 win over Texas A&M Saturday in the sixth annual Kickoff Classic at Giants Stadium.

"I just looked down and hit it," Barrios said of his 48-yarder. "It wasn't a very good kick but it went through and that's the main thing. There was definitely a lot of pressure on me, but I was just able to keep my concentration."

The field goal gave the Cornhuskers a nine-point lead midway through the fourth quarter. Barrios said the kick was the opportunity he was looking for.

"I really felt good to be put in a situation like that," Barrios said. "I've been waiting for this for a long time and I'm glad I finally got a chance to kick in a game."

Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill said plays like Barrios' fourth quarter field goal gave the Huskers a big boost.

"Big plays won the game for Nebraska," Sherrill said. "They made a lot of big plays."

Barrios, a redshirt sophomore from Omaha Creighton Prep, had a chance to give Nebraska an early lead, but his 35-yard attempt was wide

to the right.

"I was really nervous before that kick," Barrios said. "Even though I missed it, I was relieved that I had already been out on the field. The second time, I was able to relax and I did what I had to do."

Barrios, who added field goals of 44 and 38 yards, got a chance to start the game because No. 1 kicker Chris Drennan injured his left leg, his kicking leg, during fall drills. Barrios said the opportunity to start will intensify the competition between the two kickers.

"I think the coaches have to make a decision now," Barrios said. "Chris is capable of doing a good job and I can do a good job. If I'm not the starting kicker, I think I can live with the backup role. We both can do either job."

Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor said the whole offense can do the job as well. Taylor engineered two second-half touchdown drives and was named the game's most valuable player.

I-back Ken Clark capped a 24-yard scoring drive with a one-yard touchdown plunge to give Nebraska its first lead of the game, 12-7, with 4:32 left in the third quarter. The score was set up by defensive back Tim Jackson's 19-yard interception return.

Nine minutes later, Taylor tossed a 20-yard pass to tight end Todd Millikan, who broke two tackles on his way to the touchdown. Clark's

two-point conversion run increased the Huskers' lead to 20-7.

The Aggies took a 7-0 lead when fullback Matt Gurley plunged over from the one-yard line with 2:22 left in the first quarter.

Taylor said he wasn't worried about a Nebraska letdown after Gurley's run. Taylor completed 11 of 22 passes for 125 yards and rushed for 34 yards on 18 carries.

With the 34 yards, Taylor became Nebraska's all-time leading rushing quarterback with 2,033 yards, breaking Turner Gill's old mark of 2,317 set between 1980 and 1983.

"We knew we could protect our lead," Taylor said. "We knew we could do it and we had to. We felt they were getting tired defensively in the second half, but we had to be patient. My offensive line did a great job protecting me and the defense gave us all the breaks we needed."

And while the Husker offense was wearing down Texas A&M, Nebraska's defense kept getting better, outside linebacker Broderick Thomas said.

The Huskers allowed a two-yard touchdown run by Randy Simmons with 10:15 left in the game. The touchdown drive followed Dion Snow's fumble recovery at the Nebraska 44-yard line. Six plays later, Simmons scored to cut the Huskers' lead to 20-14.

"Their defense got off to a quick start in the first half," said Thomas, who finished the game

with a team-high 11 tackles. "We thought it might get easier in the second half, and it did."

"We showed what we can do and what our linebackers can do. I think our whole team is just going to get better and better every game."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne agreed. "A&M had the edge early, I thought, but we started to catch them in the second quarter," Osborne said. "I thought we controlled the game in the second half."

Nebraska held the Aggies to 227 yards of total offense. Aggies quarterback Bucky Richardson connected on 5 of 17 passes for 42 yards.

Lorenzo Hicks, a senior cornerback, said the Huskers' new nickel defense took some pressure off the rest of the defense.

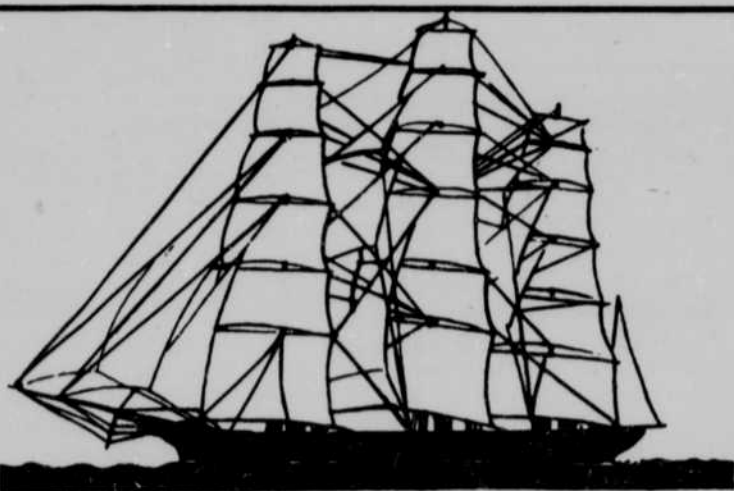
"In the nickel, I line up as a middle linebacker," Hicks said. "And today I found out something new: I have to watch out for the run. But we had pretty good coverage. He (Richardson) scrambled a lot, so we must have had pretty good coverage."

But inside linebacker LeRoy Etienne said everybody should take credit for the Huskers' season-opening win.

"We knew we had to keep the intensity up and we did," said Etienne, who finished the game with 10 tackles. "Our offense played a great game, our linebackers and whole defense was good. As far as I'm concerned, it was a total team effort."

## 1988 College Football Staff Poll

Jeff Apel	Rich Cooper	Chuck Green	Tim Hartmann	Mike Kluck	Mike Reilly	Steve Sipple	Steve Thomas	Consensus
1. Oklahoma	1. Nebraska	1. Nebraska	1. Florida State	1. Oklahoma	1. Florida State	1. Florida State	1. Florida State	1. Florida State
2. UCLA	2. Oklahoma	2. Florida State	2. Nebraska	2. Florida State	2. Oklahoma	2. Miami	2. Miami	2. Oklahoma
3. Florida State	3. Florida State	3. Auburn	3. USC	3. Miami	3. Miami	3. Oklahoma	3. Oklahoma	3. Miami
4. Michigan	4. Miami	4. Oklahoma	4. Oklahoma	4. Nebraska	4. UCLA	4. Clemson	4. Nebraska	4. Nebraska
5. Iowa	5. Penn State	5. USC	5. Auburn	5. UCLA	5. Iowa	5. Iowa	5. UCLA	5. UCLA
6. LSU	6. Texas A&M	6. LSU	6. Notre Dame	6. Notre Dame	6. Florida	6. Notre Dame	6. Clemson	6. Auburn
7. Miami	7. Notre Dame	7. USC	7. UCLA	7. Michigan	7. Nebraska	7. Nebraska	7. Alabama	7. Clemson
8. Alabama	8. UCLA	8. Clemson	8. Miami	8. Florida	8. South Carolina	8. Auburn	8. Iowa	8. Michigan
9. Syracuse	9. Clemson	9. Miami	9. Michigan	9. Arizona	9. Auburn	9. Michigan	9. Auburn	9. Notre Dame
10. Auburn	10. LSU	10. UCLA	10. West Virginia	10. So. Carolina	10. Notre Dame	10. Syracuse	10. USC	10. Iowa
11. Clemson	11. Michigan	11. Michigan	11. Clemson	11. USC	11. Clemson	11. Alabama	11. Texas A&M	11. USC
12. Oklahoma St.	12. Arizona St.	12. Oklahoma St.	12. Texas A&M	12. Auburn	12. Georgia	12. Texas A&M	12. So. Carolina	12. Texas A&M
13. South Carolina	13. Florida	13. Notre Dame	13. Syracuse	13. Penn State	13. Oklahoma St.	13. Penn State	13. W. Virginia	13. South Carolina
14. Texas A&M	14. Ohio State	14. Texas A&M	14. Iowa	14. Florida	14. Arkansas	14. Tennessee	14. LSU	14. LSU
15. USC	15. Auburn	15. Iowa	15. Penn State	15. Clemson	15. LSU	15. Colorado	15. Washington	15. Alabama
16. Notre Dame	16. Auburn	16. Alabama	16. Georgia	16. Michigan State	16. Michigan	16. North Carolina	16. Georgia	16. Florida
17. Colorado	17. Michigan St.	17. Georgia	17. Oklahoma State	17. Syracuse	17. Michigan State	17. N. Carolina St.	17. Pittsburgh	17. Penn State
18. Ohio State	18. Colorado	18. West Virginia	18. Alabama	18. Texas A&M	18. Tennessee	18. Pittsburgh	18. Michigan	18. Syracuse
19. Arizona State	19. Oklahoma St.	19. Minnesota	19. Texas	19. Oklahoma St.	19. Texas A&M	19. USC	19. Syracuse	19. Oklahoma State
20. Nebraska	20. USC	20. Colorado	20. Colorado	20. Tennessee	20. USC	20. Minnesota	20. Penn State	20. Arizona State



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