

# Huskers crunch more Aggies

By Nick Hodge  
and  
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Staff Reporters

Nebraska tuned up for its showdown this weekend against UCLA by blasting Utah State 63-13 Saturday at the 156th consecutive sellout at Memorial Stadium.

The Cornhuskers, ranked No. 2 in both The Associated Press and United Press International college football polls, travel to Pasadena, Calif., Saturday to play the Bruins, who are ranked 5th in both polls, at the Rose Bowl.

For the Utah State Aggies, who played in front of its largest crowd ever of 76,233, it may have seemed like they were reliving a nightmare of last season's 56-12 thrashing by the Huskers.

Senior quarterback Steve Taylor completed 7 of 10 passes for 143 yards and one touchdown. He also rushed for 74 yards on nine carries and scored two touchdowns.

Taylor said the Huskers played a nearly flawless game.

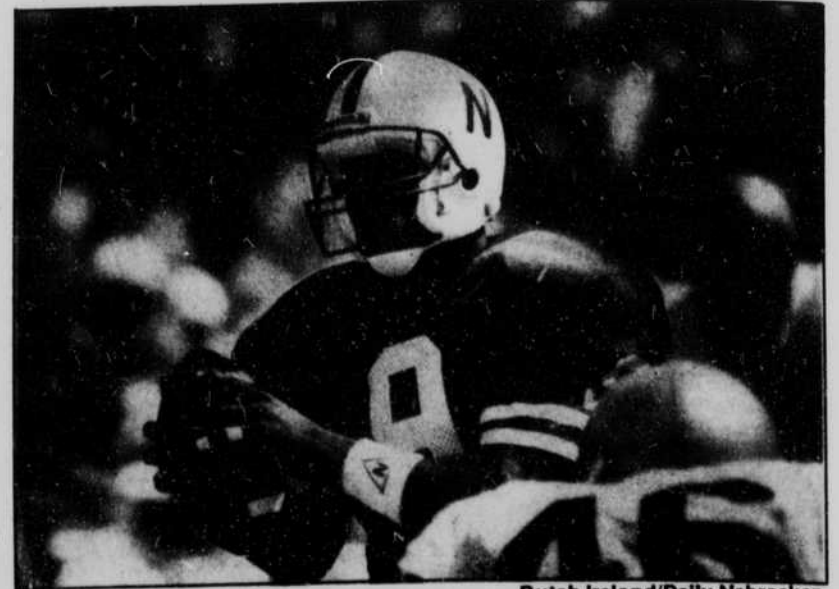
"We were ready for today and we did what we were suppose to do," Taylor said. "We went out there and executed well and put some points on the board — no turnovers, which was very crucial. We had a pretty good day."

Utah State coach Chuck Shelton was so impressed with Taylor that he made him a proposition.

"He's everything they say he is," Shelton said. "In fact, I talked to him after the game and told him we would name our practice field after him if he wanted to transfer to our school. But he didn't seem very interested. He's pretty good."

The Huskers had no turnovers while rolling up 590 yards of total offense, including 421 yards rushing and 169 yards through the air. Nebraska was penalized only five times for 34 yards while the Aggies had one penalty for 5 yards.

But Nebraska's offense wasn't the only Husker unit that played well Saturday. The defense limited the



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

**Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor drops back to pass Saturday during the Cornhuskers' 63-13 win against Utah State in Memorial Stadium.**

Aggies to just 206 yards of total offense — 19 yards rushing and 187 passing.

Senior outside linebacker Broderick Thomas had five unassisted tackles, including three for losses. Thomas said the defensive performance has improved since the Huskers' 23-14 victory over Texas A&M last week.

The Huskers took the game's opening kickoff and drove 80 yards in nine plays, capped off by Taylor's 22-yard touchdown run.

Nebraska's 3rd possession resulted from a Cartier Walker fumble recovery. Nebraska junior Sam Schmidt scored on a 6-yard run three plays later to give the Huskers a 14-0 lead.

Taylor completed a 71-yard, nine-play drive in the second quarter with a 15-yard touchdown scramble. On Nebraska's next possession, Taylor went to the air, completing three passes for 74 yards, including an 11-yard touchdown pass to junior wingback Richard Bell. Bell's reception sent the Huskers to the locker room with a 28-0 lead.

The Huskers opened the second half the same as the first half by driving 68 yards in six plays with junior I-back Ken Clark carrying the final seven yards for the touchdown. Clark's 12 rushes for 90 yards was a career high.

Utah State took the ensuing kickoff at their 27-yard line and proceeded 73 yards down the field in 15 plays. A 1-yard scoring pass from Aggie quarterback Brent Snyder to wide receiver Patrick Newman completed the drive.

Nebraska only needed three minutes for its next score — a 2-yard run by I-back Terry Rodgers. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Nebraska junior quarterback Gerry Gdowski passed to wingback Brad Devall for a 6-yard touchdown and a 49-7 Husker advantage.

In his Nebraska debut, redshirt freshman quarterback Mickey Joseph ran eight yards for another Husker score. Gdowski finished the scoring for Nebraska with a 1-yard sneak.

With 2:47 left, Snyder hit wide receiver Kendal Smith with a 15-yard touchdown pass.

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