

Bears win without Ditka

CHICAGO (AP) - Mike Ditka and his beloved Chicago Bears came through their first separation in six years with flying colors.

The time away from the team, ironically, also provided Diana Ditka with the first opportunity in recent memory to spend an entire football Sunday with her gum-chomping husband.

"He did great," she said after leaving his bedside at Lake Forest Hospital, where the 49-year-old Ditka is recovering from a mild heart attack suffered Wednesday.

"He didn't do anything different than if he were watching another (team's) game. ... If we were watching a game after our game were over with, he would always yell, 'Catch the ball.' He just gets

excited a few times when somebody makes a mistake."

No kidding.

"But he really did fantastic," she added, "even though he chewed his gum a little harder, I think."

The Bears took most of the suspense - not to mention stress - out of the contest by pounding Tampa Bay early and often en route to a 28-10 victory. In other early games Sunday, Cincinnati defeated Pittsburgh 42-7, Philadelphia beat the Los Angeles Rams 30-24, New England beat Miami 21-10, the New York Giants nipped Dallas 29-21, Minnesota defeated Detroit 44-17 and Atlanta blanked Green Bay 20-0.

Cyclones' wind doesn't blow away NU as Cornhuskers defeat Iowa State

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

Nebraska may have played its best game of the season Saturday when the Cornhuskers defeated Iowa State 51-16 in Ames, Iowa, Coach Tom Osborne said Sunday.

Osborne said Nebraska's performance was remarkable considering the severe weather conditions at Cyclone Stadium-Jack Trice Field. Wind gusts of 40 mph, 35-degree temperatures and snow greeted the teams.

"Overall, we played as good as we have all year," Osborne said. "Under the circumstances, I'm very pleased with our performance."

Osborne said Husker quarterback Steve Taylor "had a great day." Taylor's ability to run and throw well helped him against Iowa State, Osborne said.

Taylor, a 6-foot, 205-pound senior from Fresno, Calif., ran for a season-high 154 yards on 12 carries to pace the Huskers' 566-yard rushing onslaught. He also scored three touchdowns on runs of 28, 23 and 11 yards.

Taylor added a 6-yard touchdown pass to tight end Todd Millikan. Taylor connected on 5 of 9 passes for 71 yards.

The strong winds made Saturday difficult for either team to pass,

Osborne said.

"It was not a good day to throw," he said. "The wind was a tremendous factor."

Osborne said the Husker offensive line did a good job blocking against the Cyclones' defensive scheme.

"(The offensive line) played pretty well," he said. "It's no secret that we didn't play as well as we would have liked against Missouri."

Nebraska defeated Missouri 26-18 last week in Lincoln.

Osborne said Nebraska's defense also played an excellent game against the Cyclones.

"I think our defense played very well until the last part of the game," he said. "We substituted pretty freely."

Nebraska's defense held the Cyclone offense to 251 total yards — 148 rushing and 103 passing. Iowa State could only muster 49 yards, all rushing, in the first half as the Huskers amassed a 31-0 lead.

Nebraska's kicking specialists performed well in the adverse weather conditions, Osborne said.

Husker senior John Kroeker punted three times for a 43.3 yard average, including a wind-aided 60-yarder. Sophomore place kicker Gregg Barrios made Nebraska's only field goal — a 30-yarder — as time

expired in the first half.

Barrios' field goal drew a chorus of boos from Cyclone fans. The boos marked the second-straight week the Huskers received voiced displeasure from the crowd following the conclusion of the first half.

Osborne said he wasn't trying to run up the score by kicking the field goal. He said because the wind was such a factor, he wanted to score as many points as possible when the wind was in the Huskers' favor.

"I thought we were really fairly good to Iowa State," he said. "We substituted freely the whole game. I don't think there's any doubt that we could have scored 60 or so points if we left our starters in."

Osborne said he's expecting a very difficult game Saturday when Colorado faces the Huskers in Lincoln.

"I think they're a real good football team," he said. "It will be a tough game."

Colorado, 7-2, beat Missouri 45-8 Saturday in Columbia, Mo.

Osborne said the Buffaloes don't run a true wishbone offense anymore. He said Colorado has switched to an offense that is very similar to Nebraska's.

"Anyway you slice it, Colorado's got to be real good," Osborne said.

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Jackson stymied Huskers gain revenge on Waldorf

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By halftime, Nebraska I-back Scott Baldwin was closing in on Walter Wallace's 1978 freshman rushing record of 561 yards, but Baldwin suffered a strained knee ligament late in the first half and did not play in the second half. He finished with 18 carries for 105 yards, giving him 498 rushing yards on the year.

Nebraska padded its lead in the third period with a 32-yard touchdown pass from Grant to Jon Bostick, making the score 42-7. Waldorf scored three touchdowns in the final 6:27 of the game to account for the final 15-point margin.

The Huskers' pressure defense

helped stymie Waldorf sophomore quarterback Pat Jackson, who engineered the Warriors' win over Nebraska last year when he rushed for 149 yards and threw for 55, accounting for all six Waldorf touchdowns.

This year, Jackson threw for 174 yards and one touchdown and rushed for 108 yards and another touchdown. But Nebraska held him to 23 yards rushing and 11 passing in the first half.

Thorell said the Huskers concentrated more on stopping Jackson this year.

"He really embarrassed us last year," Thorell said. "He made us look silly trying to tackle him. So we really emphasized to our guys how impor-

tant it was to wrap him up."

Bolstorff said the offensive line did not block as well as it should have for Jackson this year.

"He just doesn't have any offensive line in front of him this year," Bolstorff said of Jackson. "Nebraska's got a good football team, too. Everybody knows about him and knows what we're going to do."

Thorell said he saw improvement from his team.

"I thought our team played as good as a team as they had all year," he said. "Mentally, we didn't have as many mistakes on offense and the intensity on defense was really good. We were tackling good. The guys just gave a good overall effort."

Pettit credits kids, self-confidence after seeing Huskers rally past Texas

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tory. The loss also ended Nebraska's 31-match home victory string.

Pettit said the scores from Friday's and Saturday's games indicated Nebraska improved throughout the weekend.

"I just think we kept getting better with every game," Pettit said. "I think Texas came in and played at a higher level than we did (Friday) night. We just kept getting better and better and better."

"We were making adjustments. We were figuring out what we had to do to win. We were just more aggressive in everything we did."

Pettit said Texas outplayed the Huskers Friday night.

On Saturday, Pettit credited his team for not giving up when the Huskers were down two games to none.

"Most of the credit just goes to the kids," Pettit said. "They just hung on and hung on until Texas let go. Texas is a great team and I have as much respect for their program as any in the country. To hang in there and do the job means that we believe in ourselves and we believed we could do it."

Texas coach Mick Haley said the Longhorns weren't hitting the ball as well Saturday as they did Friday. He said Saturday's five-game match — Texas' first five-game match of the season — will help the Longhorns.

"(The Huskers were) the aggressors all night," Haley said. "I think we fed off their intensity the first two games. (In) the third game, we started to falter and when our passing went we looked a little bit like Nebraska

last night."

Nebraska took a 3-0 lead in the first game before Texas tied the match at 7-7 and then built an 11-9 lead. The Huskers tied the match 11-11 with an ace spike by freshman middle blocker Cris Hall. The Longhorns scored two straight points before a block by Nebraska's Virginia Stahr's cut the lead to 13-12.

'We stuck together against a great team. We just kept saying 'one point at a time.'

—Stahr

But Texas then scored the final two points to win the first game.

Texas built a 5-0 lead to start the second game before Nebraska tied the match 8-8 on an ace serve by junior Carla Baker. Baker's kill gave the Huskers an 11-9 lead before the Longhorns scored the final six points to post the 15-11 win.

Pettit said he was pleased with the Huskers' play in the first two games. "I thought we played very well in the first two games," he said. "If we hadn't made some mistakes, we would have won."

Stahr said she didn't think Nebraska could rebound from the two-game deficit. But, she said, the Huskers kept fighting.

"We stuck together against a great team," Stahr said. "We just kept saying, 'One point at a time.'"

Texas scored the first two points of the third set. Nebraska battled to a 5-5 tie before getting the win by recording the final 10 points of the game.

Haley couldn't explain what happened to Texas in the match's fourth game. Husker senior setter Lori Endicott registered an ace serve during that game, which gave her the Nebraska career record with 135 aces.

Haley said he felt his team let up during the fourth game.

"I really felt like we quit swinging. I just really felt like we quit being the aggressors," Haley said. "I really don't know why my setter quit running the middle. I really felt we needed to run the middle to keep them honest. We need to attack the middle."

Pettit said Texas gave Nebraska an opportunity Saturday to attack the middle.

The Huskers never trailed in the fifth game as they built a 10-5 lead on sophomore Linda Barsness' ace spike.

Texas was never able to get closer than four points as the Huskers won the game 15-9 when Longhorn middle blocker Janine Gremmel's spike went wide.

Stahr said the Huskers improved on their ball handling, defense and serving against Texas.

Haley said Nebraska and Texas played well during the matches.

"It's a pretty good battle and I think spectators ought to really like that, especially if you're a Nebraska fan," Haley said.