



Fourth quarter 'Sooner magic' fizzles

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Osborne said he credits a different defense for Nebraska's success on defense.

"I think they did a good job with the schemes. We took a page out of Miami's defense and we worked on it a little all year and on Mondays. We tried to use it against Colorado but we were able to save it until today."

Osborne said he was worried most about turnovers. Taylor threw two interceptions while completing 2 of 12 passes for 48 yards. But it was a fumble that had Osborne worried the most.

With 4:35 left in the third quarter, Nebraska had the ball at its own 3-yard line. I-back Ken Clark, who gained 167 yards on 24 carries, carried through the middle but fumbled. The Sooners' Scott Garl recovered at the 30-yard line.

Six plays later, Oklahoma's R.D. Lasher kicked a 29-yard field goal to cut the Huskers' lead to 7-3.

"We expected to see the ball on the ground some today but we just didn't get any turnovers. We had three turnovers and they had one," Osborne said. "I felt if the turnovers went that way, we'd lose the game. I thought we had to at least come out even to win the game."

Nebraska took its 7-3 lead into the fourth quarter, and Osborne said he was confident the Huskers could stop Oklahoma for the final 15 minutes of the game.

With 2:45 left in the game, Nebraska's John Krocker had a punt tipped at the line of scrimmage and the Sooners got the ball at the Nebraska 48-yard line.

After three plays, the Sooners had a fourth-and-15 situation but Thompson was sacked by Willie Griffin to give the Huskers their first win in Norman in five years.

"We talked a lot about the fourth quarter today," Osborne said. "There's been a lot of mention of Oklahoma magic, the fourth quarter and choking. We talked about it a great deal that we're going to play hard in the fourth quarter."

Nebraska outside linebacker Broderrick Thomas said there's no such thing as Sooner magic.

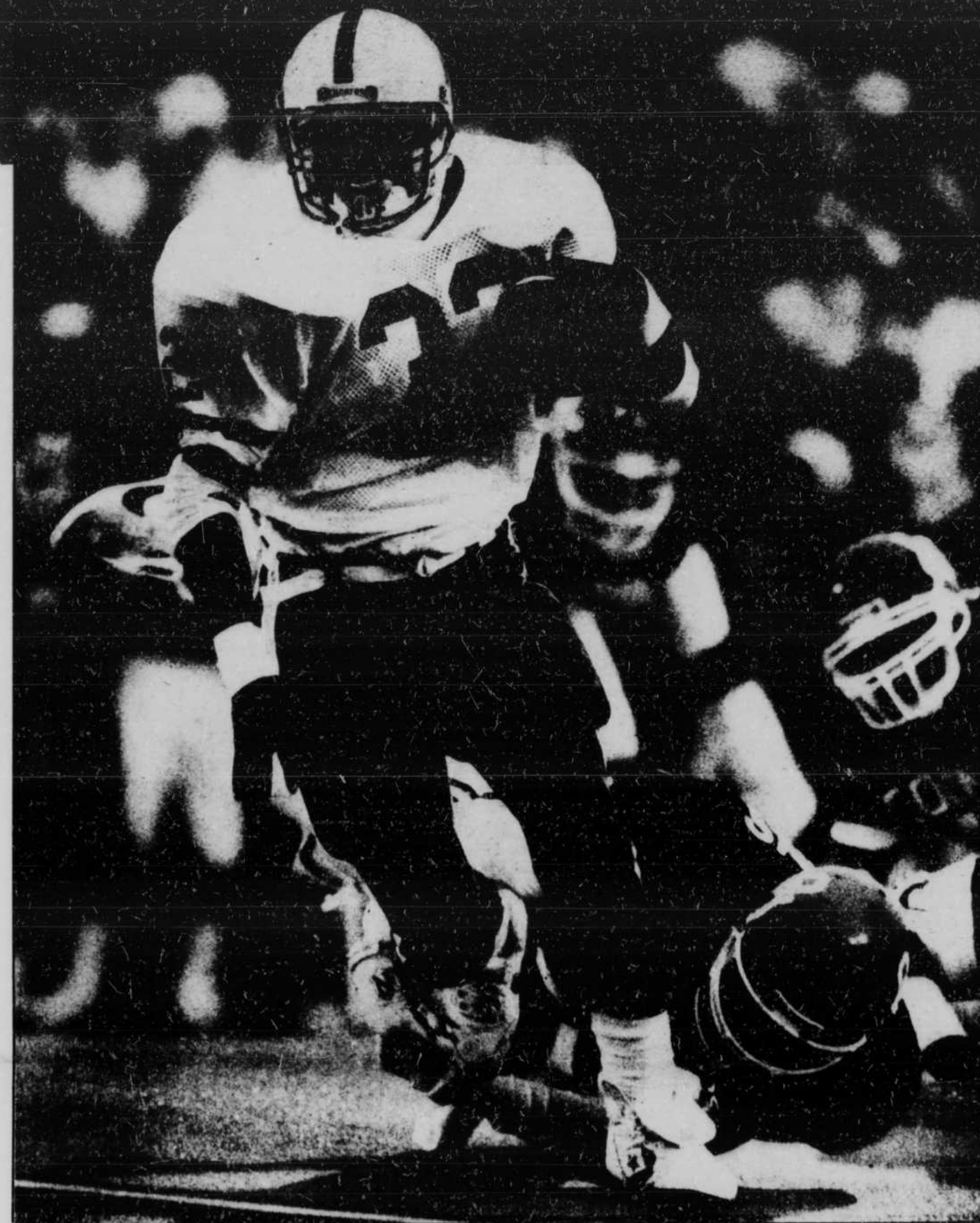
"As far as Nebraska choking and things like that, it's a whole lot of nonsense," Thomas said. "Our team has a saying: 'Don't believe the hype.' And as far as the rest of these things go, it's time to crown a new Big Eight champion."

Thomas said the four-year wait to defeat Oklahoma was worth it.

"They said they had the key to our house," Thomas said. "But I think getting the last laugh is what was most important. Us seniors are going out in class — there's nothing they can say about it. They lost in their house, we took their keys and are going back to Lincoln."

With the Big Eight title, Osborne said he's excited about playing Miami.

"Tell (Miami coach) Jimmy Johnson we're looking forward to seeing him," he said.



Photos, clockwise from top: Ken Clark steps out of a tackle during first quarter action Saturday.

Nebraska's Tim Jackson brings down OU quarterback Charles Thompson.

Two fans huddle for warmth underneath an umbrella as they watch first-half action.

Nebraska cheerleaders celebrate with fans who stormed the field after the 7-3 Husker victory.

To the victor goes the spoils. An orange lies on the field after being thrown by a fan. Nebraska's victory Saturday sends them to the Orange Bowl.

Photos
by
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