

Miami bombs Huskers in Orange Bowl

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

MIAMI -- The pain and agony felt by Notre Dame 16 years ago was relieved by Nebraska during this year's Orange Bowl Classic.

Nebraska, which finished with a 9-2-1 record in 1973 by taking a 20-0 halftime lead enroute to defeating the Fighting Irish 40-6 in the Orange Bowl, trailed Miami by that same halftime margin en route to losing 23-3 to the Hurricanes.

Miami coach Jimmy Johnson said the Hurricanes dominated Nebraska by controlling the offensive and defensive lines. He said Miami also relied on a blitzing defense that helped the Hurricanes hold Nebraska to 135 yards of total offense.

"Defensively, we pretty well had them zeroed in on everything they did," Johnson said. "I felt like we were a better team, but I felt like they would move the ball a little better."

Johnson said Miami's 20-point

victory proves the Hurricanes are the best team in the country. He said Miami, which lost its national championship bid when it dropped a 31-30 game to top-ranked Notre Dame, was on a mission against Nebraska.

"More than anything else, we wanted to prove we were the very best," Johnson said. "We're very happy to be the Orange Bowl champions. It's great to win this ballgame."

Miami quarterback Steve Walsh, who along with Nebraska cornerback Charles Fryar was named the game's most valuable player, said the Hurricanes were ready for Nebraska. But he said he never imagined Miami's defense would shut down the Huskers' offense.

"It's just unbelievable what they did to the Nebraska offense," Walsh said.

Miami defensive end Greg Mark said the Hurricanes' defense dominated Nebraska by shutting down the Huskers' vaunted running attack. Nebraska gained only 80 yards rush-

ing against Miami, 31 of which came in the first half.

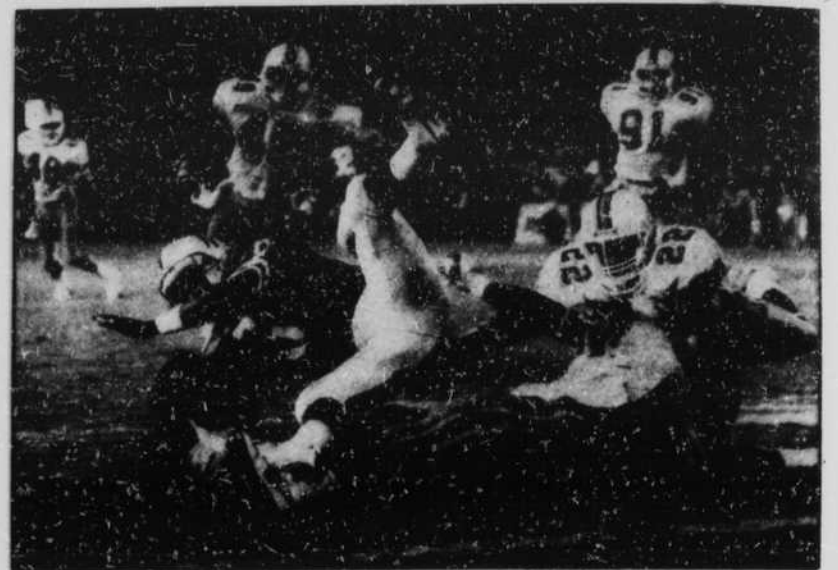
Mark said Miami also controlled the Huskers' offense by confusing them with many different blitzes.

"We did everything we wanted to do," Mark said. "We went out there and played flawlessly. It was just a great game."

Miami cornerback Bubba McDowell said the performance left him feeling good because the Hurricanes' defense was not getting the respect it deserved. He said Miami knew it was playing well defensively when it forced Nebraska quarterbacks Steve Taylor and Gerry Gdowski to pass. Taylor and Gdowski completed 8 of 22 passes and threw three interceptions.

"We wanted them to pass because we knew we had a good secondary," McDowell said. "We knew we had a good chance of dominating them if they had to pass. It wasn't easy, but it

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Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor is upended by Miami defensive tackle Jimmie Jones (63) and outside linebacker Randy Shannon.

Cornhuskers agree: The best team won the Orange Bowl

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

MIAMI -- Following Nebraska's 23-3 Orange Bowl loss to Miami Jan. 2, the overwhelming consensus in the Cornhusker locker room was that the best team won.

Husker coach Tom Osborne didn't hesitate to explain the outcome.

"We just got beat by a better football team tonight," Osborne said.

Nebraska, which finished its season 11-2 and ranked 10th in The Associated Press and United Press International postseason polls, gained 135 yards of total offense -- 80 yards rushing and 55 yards passing -- against the faster defense of the Hurricanes.

Miami's swarming, blitzing defense harassed Husker quarterback Steve Taylor throughout the game. As a result, Taylor completed only 8

of 21 passes, was intercepted twice and sacked six times.

By halftime, Nebraska's offense had been limited to 29 total yards and two first downs. Meanwhile, the Hurricanes racked up 212 total yards and 11 first downs to build a 20-0 lead at halftime.

Nebraska entered the Orange Bowl with the nation's most prolific ground attack. For the fifth time in the 1980s, the Huskers led the country's Division I-A teams in rushing, with a 382.3 yards-per-game average.

Husker I-back Ken Clark, who gained 1,497 yards during the season and averaged 124.8 yards a game, was held to 36 yards on 14 carries by Miami's defense.

Osborne said Miami's ability to shut down Nebraska's rushing attack forced him out of the initial game plan.

"We wanted to run the ball at

them," Osborne said. "I guess we should have done more of it, but once you get down by 14-0 and 20-0, it makes it really hard to just run it up the middle. We had to get some bigger chunks of yardage."

Osborne said the strength of the Hurricanes is their defense, not offense.

"I think Miami has a great defensive team -- they run awfully well," Osborne said. "We just couldn't generate enough of a running game to keep pressure off our defense. Their defense played very, very well."

Miami, which finished 2nd in the AP and UPI polls behind national champion Notre Dame, gained 354 total yards against Nebraska. Passing accounted for 285 of the Hurricanes' offensive output.

Osborne said Nebraska's defense kept the Huskers in the game.

"Our defense probably played

well enough to keep us -- to win a lot of games, but they have a fine offense," Osborne said.

Nebraska's three points were set up when cornerback Tahaun Lewis intercepted a pass thrown by Miami quarterback Steve Walsh. Lewis returned the interception 31 yards to the Hurricane 37-yard line.

Four plays later, Nebraska's Gregg Barrios kicked a 50-yard field goal to cut Miami's lead to 20-3 with 9:06 remaining in the third quarter.

Husker All-America center Jake Young said it wasn't a case of one phase of Nebraska's team not doing its job, but every part of the team.

"The biggest failing was that we didn't win the game," Young said. "That was it. That's the biggest failing. There's no one factor that contributed to it. It was all the factors that contributed to it. We scored three points -- you can't win scoring three

points."

Nebraska offensive guards Andy Keeler and John Nelson said they were prepared for Miami's quick defense, but the Hurricane defensive line ran stunts that the Huskers hadn't seen on film prior to the game.

"They probably did a little bit more slanting and looping than we expected," Keeler said. "We expected them to do a little bit, but not to that extent. When they did, they came hard."

Keeler, an All-Big Eight selection, said Miami's speed and blitzes were difficult to handle. But he said that's still no excuse for losing.

"They were all over the place," Keeler said. "They brought a few of their safety men in for blitzes. We just really didn't protect Steve that well, didn't give him a shot. I'm going to

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Huskers dominated by OSU in Stillwater

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Danny Nee was the first to admit that his team was manhandled Saturday night after the Cornhuskers lost to Oklahoma State 82-69 at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla.

Nee said no team this season has physically dominated Nebraska like Oklahoma State did. He said that includes Ohio State, which walloped the Huskers 103-76 earlier this season in Columbus, Ohio.

"They (Ohio State) beat us by a large score, but they didn't dominate us physically," Nee said during his postgame radio show. "We made mistakes by throwing the ball away."

Nebraska committed a team-record 30 turnovers against Ohio State, and added 21 against Oklahoma State. The Cowboys finished with 12 turnovers.

"I thought they outworked us," Nee said. "They were more ready. They were very domineering and I told the kids that they really took it to us."

Nebraska was outworked to the point that sophomore Beau Reid failed to score in the game. Reid came into the game as the Huskers leading scorer at just over 12 points per game.

Two freshmen -- Corey Williams and Byron Houston -- helped lead Oklahoma State past Nebraska. Williams scored a

team-high 16 points while hitting 3 of 6 shots from the three-point range, while Houston added 14.

The Cowboys connected on seven three-point shots, while Nebraska hit two.

Nee said the Huskers need to develop some "mental maturity." He said he knows his team can play better.

"We have got to grow up," Nee said.

Nebraska trailed Oklahoma State by as many as nine points in the first half. The Huskers cut the Cowboys' lead to 40-35 at halftime despite giving up a buzzer-beating basket by reserve guard Darwyn Alexander.

Nee said Nebraska was just trying to survive in the first half.

"I thought they dominated us from start to finish," he said. "They completely had us on our heels, even in the first half."

"They took us out of our game plan. We didn't execute and it was because of Oklahoma State's pressure. They outplayed us."

Oklahoma State outscored Nebraska 25-10 to start the second half and led by as many as 24 points in the game's final 20 minutes.

Nee said things may have been different if the Huskers would have given a better effort, changed their attitudes and been more motivated.

"If we changed it around and we had the psychological edge, and played as hard as they did



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Oklahoma's Tony Martin battles Nebraska's Eric Johnson and Pete Manning for a rebound.

tonight, it might have been a different story," he said. "It was their night. They made things happen with their energy, their enthusiasm, their coach getting them ready to play."

Nee said the lone bright spot for Nebraska was guard Eric Johnson, who scored a team-high 16 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

"I thought E.J. was accountable all night," Nee said. "I thought he was the one guy who showed up

and played well."

Nebraska guard Clifford Scales also turned in a strong performance, scoring 14 points. Also, Husker center Rich King tied the single-season record for blocked shots with 30 when he rejected a shot by the Cowboys' Johnny Pittman. Nebraska's next game is on Tuesday, when the Huskers face Maryland-Baltimore County. The game begins at 7:35 p.m. at the sports center.

NU men's team wins experience on Hawaii trip

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Experience earned during a trip to Hawaii over winter break almost lead to an upset of Oklahoma.

Nebraska participated in the Chaminade New Year's Tournament on Dec. 28 through 30 in Chaminade, Hawaii. The Cornhuskers defeated Chaminade 86-85 and Morehead State 81-77 but lost to Louisiana State 90-87.

Nebraska then faced the 3rd-ranked Sooners last Monday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Huskers led 78-75 but were outscored 14-3 in the final three minutes to lose the contest 89-81.

Nebraska sophomore Beau Reid, who tallied a career-high 12 rebounds against the Sooners, said the Chaminade Tournament helped the Huskers.

"We played pretty well in Hawaii and came together as a team," Reid said. "We're getting more and more close knit."

"In Hawaii, we won two really close games. You hear the names of the teams and you think we should have killed them," Reid said. "But it's not the case when you're playing Hawaii-Chaminade and there's three Hawaiian (referees). We overcame a lot of adversity to win the two games we did."

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