

# Nebraska kicking game dismantles Tigers

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The Nebraska football team kicked the Tigers' tails.

An improved kicking game dismantled Big Eight menace Missouri, and gave Nebraska motivation in its second road game of the season.

Nebraska, which is now 6-0 and 2-0 in conference play, defeated Missouri 50-7 Saturday before 55,620 fans at Faurot Field. That audience was the stadium's largest crowd in four seasons.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said the Huskers' kicking game may have had its best performance to date.

"Overall I think the kicking game was really good," Osborne said. "I think this is the most dramatic turnaround we've had in the kicking game. We went from very bad last week to probably as good as we have this week."

"Good" was evidenced by Nebraska placekicker Chris Drennan booting field goals of 48 and 42 yards in the first half, and the Huskers' returning three kickoffs for 69 yards. Senior Richard Bell had 45 of those yards on the opening kickoff, which set up the first score.

Nebraska also blocked two punts by Missouri sophomore Mark Plunkett in the first quarter, and returned seven for a total of 166 yards, including a 59-yarder by Tyrone

Hughes.

The blocked punts both resulted in scores, as outside linebackers Mike Croel and Travis Hill were credited with stuffing the Tigers' punter.

With Nebraska leading 7-0, Croel blocked Plunkett's first attempt which resulted in a safety to make the score 9-0.

After a 24-yard return by Leodis Flowers on the free kick, Nebraska increased the score to 16-0 two plays later.

On the first play, Nebraska running back Ken Clark faked a reverse for a carry of 28 yards, which moved the 5-foot-10, 200-pound senior ahead of former Husker running back Keith Jones to third on the Huskers' all-time rushing list.

Clark finished the game with 125 yards on 17 carries. The senior from Omaha now has 2,589 yards in his career, which trails the 2,814 yards amassed by I.M. Hipp and 4,708 compiled by Mike Rozier.

Following Clark's run, Nebraska quarterback Gerry Gdowski optioned left and scampered 34 yards for the score.

Hill blocked Plunkett's second punting attempt which was recovered in the end zone by strong safety Reggie Cooper, making the score 23-0.

Osborne said Missouri's previous opponents also were successful against the Tigers' punting team.

"They had a couple blocked early

so it looked like their punter wasn't real fast and I think they had a little trouble protecting him," he said. "We decided to come after a couple of them and see if we couldn't rattle him a bit."

After Bell's 45-yard return to start the game, Nebraska, behind the running and throwing of Gdowski, scored on a nine-play, 55-yard drive.

Gdowski, who optioned carries of eight and 17 yards, capped the drive with a timed 19-yard pass to split end Morgan Gregory, who cut to his left and made a diving catch in the front corner of the end zone.

"They came with a blitz up the middle and left Morgan one-on-one and we timed it pretty good," Gdowski said. "Morgan made a great catch for the touchdown."

Last year, Missouri used an effective blitz that limited Nebraska to one first down and 17 total yards in the first half.

This year, Missouri gambled with the blitz on the Huskers' first drive. But after the early big plays by the Husker punt team, the Tigers were forced to play conservative defense, Gdowski said.

"I think it really, really helped that the defense got some big plays," he said. "By that time the score was so wide I don't think they really wanted to risk getting blown out real bad, which would have happened if they kept blitzing."

Nebraska expected a tough con-

test going in, but the punt team put the game in the Huskers' favor, he said.

"Any time you get points from some place other than your offense it's a big boost to the whole team," Gdowski said. "I think we got lucky early and got some big plays on punts and punt returns and I think that was probably the big difference in the game."

Gdowski, who also trotted across the goal line from two yards out to give the Huskers a 36-0 lead at halftime, rushed 12 times for 125 yards, his highest rushing performance this season. He connected on 3 of 4 passes for 41 yards.

Gdowski's backups -- Mickey Joseph and Mike Grant -- each saw equal playing time. Joseph gained 23 yards on nine carries and scored Nebraska's final touchdown with a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter. Grant rushed for 58 yards on nine carries and completed one pass in three attempts for 15 yards.

"I don't know if it was my best game or not, but I felt I ran the ball pretty good," Gdowski said. "Any time you can rush over 100 yards it means a little something. But a lot of that is the blocking up front and the receivers downfield."

Osborne said Gdowski is having a good season. He said there is no doubt that he is the Huskers' No. 1 quarterback.

"He's the best," he said. "There's no question right now. I think he played very well (against Missouri) and he's a very, very valuable football player to us right now."

After Clark scored from five yards out in the Huskers' opening drive of the third quarter to make the score 43-0, Missouri tailback Michael Jones dove over the top from a yard out for the Tigers' first touchdown in 13 quarters.

The Tigers used the same play on a fourth and goal from the one in the second quarter, but that time Jones was stopped in mid-flight by Husker linebacker Pat Tyrance.

Nebraska finished the game with 473 total yards and 26 first downs. Missouri ended with 265 yards -- 117 rushing and 148 passing -- and 17 first downs. Both teams lost two turnovers, but the Huskers were penalized 13 times for 106 yards, while Missouri was penalized seven times for 71 yards.

Osborne said he was pleased with the Huskers' showing in the first half but not the second.

"We played a very good first half of football," he said. "The second half we substituted and got kind of erratic which was a little displeasing because we thought we got some second-unit guys that can play pretty well. But we just seemed like we weren't coordinated."

## Nee: Midnight scrimmage was for fun and the fans

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team tipped off its season at 12:10 a.m. Sunday with its first official scrimmage before a droopy-eyed crowd of 2,318 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Coach Danny Nee's Huskers had the event for the second year in a row. This year's event operated under the guise of "Midnight Madness" as a way to lure fans, Nee said.

The 30-minute, intra-squad, red/gray scrimmage was won 69-59 by the red team, which included Rich King, Richard van Poelgeest, and Clifford Scales, all of whom are returning starters from last year's 17-16 team.

In the halftime slam dunk contest, new Husker Tony Farmer edged out sophomore Dapreis Owens.

Farmer, in his first year with Nebraska after transferring from San Jose State, led the grays with 11 points while Owens and 5-foot-10 junior Keith Moody each added 10 in a losing effort.

Sophomore Chris Cresswell, who sat out last year after transferring from Cal-Irvine, topped the winning red squad with 14 points, including three baskets from outside the three-point arch.

Senior Ray Richardson, who is slated to start at forward this season, added 13 and van Poelgeest and

Scales finished with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Nee said that while he was pleased with how the team looked, he did not look at the scrimmage from a coaching standpoint.

"I did not evaluate this," Nee said. "It was just for fun. It was entertainment to let our fans meet our team and get our booster club involved."

"There were more people here than last year. It's growing. I feel good about it."

"We were just trying to get some publicity and some exposure for our team. I thought we had a really solid crowd and I thought the kids enjoyed themselves and played well."

Nee and his assistants have been working hard to bring fan support to the team and they're hoping for more, he said.

"We still think it's really important that the student body gets involved," he said. "It's very, very important that we get the home-court advantage."

It's important, in part, because of the youth of this year's team, which includes three freshmen and two seniors, Nee said.

"Each year I feel we're bringing better, stronger basketball players into the program," he said. "We're moving in the right direction."

"We've got a lot of youth but if we channel it and develop it, we'll be OK."



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Kelly Lively (in background) battles Rich King for a rebound.

## NU volleyball team breaks records, corrals Colorado

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's volleyball team met Colorado for the second time this season, and created the same result.

The No. 4-ranked Cornhuskers defeated the 14th-ranked Lady Buffs 15-7, 10-15, 15-6, 17-15 Saturday before a crowd of 2,023 at the NU Coliseum. The win improved Nebraska's record to 5-0 in the Big Eight and 14-0 overall.

In the first meeting of the two teams, in Boulder, Colo., Sept. 30, Nebraska defeated the Lady Buffs 15-13, 15-4, 15-10.

It took some record-breaking performances for the Huskers to win Saturday.

Junior setter Val Novak broke Nebraska's all-time individual match record for set assists in four games with 78, topping Lori Endicott's record of 74 set last year.

As a squad, the Huskers broke team records in set assists with 83 and kills with 91. Those marks topped previous highs of 81 and 87 set against Indiana in 1988.

In the first game, Colorado jumped to a 6-4 lead, but after a series of seven side-outs, Nebraska rallied first to tie and eventually win behind the serving of Janet Kruse and Chris Hall. An ace block by senior Carla Baker ended the game 15-7.

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## NU golf team travels south to compete in tournaments

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

With the first competition of the season out of the way, Nebraska men's golf coach Larry Romjue expects competitive experience to lead to better performances in Georgia this week.

After watching his team play poorly in its first competition this season, Romjue said he thinks he will see improvement when the Cornhuskers journey south to compete in two tournaments.

Last week, Nebraska finished in a three-way tie for 12th place in the 17-team Hillman Robbins Memorial Intercollegiate in Memphis, Tenn. The Huskers' highest individual finish was compiled by Mike Troy, who shot

235 and tied for 39th place.

Romjue said his players had been out of competition for quite a while prior to going into that tournament against teams who already had seen competition this season.

Now, he said, his players are prepared and should be more competitive.

"I think the experience of the tournament is the big thing," he said. "We'll be a little more ready."

"We'll be a good team. The talent's there. It's still early in the season."

Nebraska will spend the entire week in Georgia competing in separate tournaments.

The Huskers began competition today in Georgia State's two-day, 10-team Mizuno Peach State Invitational at the Port Armor Club on Lake Oconee near Atlanta, Ga.

In addition to Nebraska and Georgia State,

teams participating include Huntington College (Ala.), Coastal Carolina College (N.C.), Centenary College (La.), Davidson College (N.C.), Appalachian State (N.C.), Southeastern Louisiana, Valdosta State College (Ga.) and Mercer University (Ga.).

Beginning Friday and continuing through Sunday, the Huskers will compete in Columbus College's 21st-annual Dixie Intercollegiate tournament at the Bull Creek golf course in Columbus, Ga.

Columbus College is the defending national champion in Division II.

"They've got an excellent program," Romjue said.

Also competing in the invitational is defending tournament champion Illinois.

In addition, Mississippi State, Mississippi,

Memphis State, Florida Southern, Florida Atlantic, Bryant College (R.I.), Rollins College (Fla.), South Alabama, South Florida, Southeastern Louisiana, Southern Mississippi, Stetson University (Fla.), Tampa University, Valdosta State College and Vanderbilt round out the 18-team field.

Romjue said he expects both tournaments to be competitive. This is the first year Nebraska has competed in these tournaments, he said.

"We'll see some teams equal to or better than the ones we saw (at the Hillman Robbins Memorial tournament)," he said. "It'll be different teams, which is one of the reasons we play around in different areas. Plus, the different areas give you better experience and prepare you for all kinds of situations."