

Colorado jolts NU; Buffs top Big Eight

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

BOULDER, Colo. -- Long after most of the 52,877 fans had filed out of Folsom Field Saturday, the stadium's main scoreboard lit up the chilly night sky.

It read: "Colorado 27, Nebraska 21. Things have changed."

But on the game's final play, things were just a few inches from staying the same.

The Cornhuskers, trailing by six with a first down on the Buffaloes' 42-yard line, had six seconds left in the game to work with. Nebraska quarterback Gerry Gdowski, who had completed 11 of 27 passes for 211 yards and three touchdowns, had one more chance.

As he rolled to his left, Husker split end Jon Bostick sprinted into the end zone, under a shroud of double coverage by Buff defensive backs. The ball came in, Colorado cornerback Dave McCloughan hit Bostick and the ball tumbled harmlessly to the AstroTurf.

"I had the ball in my hands for a second," Bostick said. "But it was gone and on the ground just as quickly."

The goalposts were on the ground a few minutes later, after thousands of Colorado fans poured onto the field. It was the second time in the last three visits to Folsom Field the Huskers came away with a loss, and the first time in 28 years the Buffs had defeated Oklahoma and Nebraska in the same season.

The win also put Colorado alone at the top of the Big Eight standings with games against Oklahoma State and Kansas State left, and almost assured the Buffs of a trip to the

Orange Bowl Jan. 1.

"I would like to congratulate Colorado," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "They're a great team, and today was an excellent day for college football."

The game, which was broadcast to a national television audience by CBS, was expected by many football prognosticators to be a Colorado stampede.

But the stampede came from the Buffs and the Huskers.

Colorado rushed for 205 yards, while Nebraska rolled up 186. Tailback J.J. Flannigan led the Buffs' rushing attack with 96 yards and two touchdowns, while quarterback Darian Hagan added 86 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries.

I-Back Ken Clark rushed for 95 yards on 21 carries for the Huskers, and Gdowski rushed for 69.

Osborne said the Huskers deserve a lot of credit for their effort Saturday.

"Colorado's got a great football team, but so do we," he said. "I think those two teams can play with anybody in the country."

Nebraska's last drive came after it stopped the Buffs on their own 25-yard line. Colorado punter Tom Rouen got the ball off, while Husker wingback Tyrone Hughes stood waiting to field the punt.

"I saw the punt coming and I took a step back," Hughes said. "I saw the rotation of the ball in the air, and I thought it was going to bounce back to the Colorado side. By the time the ball hit, I was out of position."

"Looking back, I should have fielded it. It was a crucial moment." But Hughes didn't, and the ball rolled to the Nebraska 12, putting the Huskers farther from their end zone

and, more importantly, eating 14 seconds off the clock.

Nebraska's final drive was kept alive by two fourth-down conversions -- both passes from Gdowski.

It was evident from the start that the game would be a see-saw battle. After Nebraska cornerback Tyrone Byrd intercepted a Hagan pass on Colorado's first possession, the Huskers had the ball on their own 49. On Nebraska's first play, Gdowski floated a screen pass to fullback Bryan Carpenter, who cut to the inside, juiced a defender and ran 51 yards for the score.

The extra point by placekicker Gregg Barrios gave Nebraska a 7-0 lead with 13:30 left in the first quarter and stunned the highly partisan Colorado crowd.

But after the teams traded possessions, the fans again came to their feet.

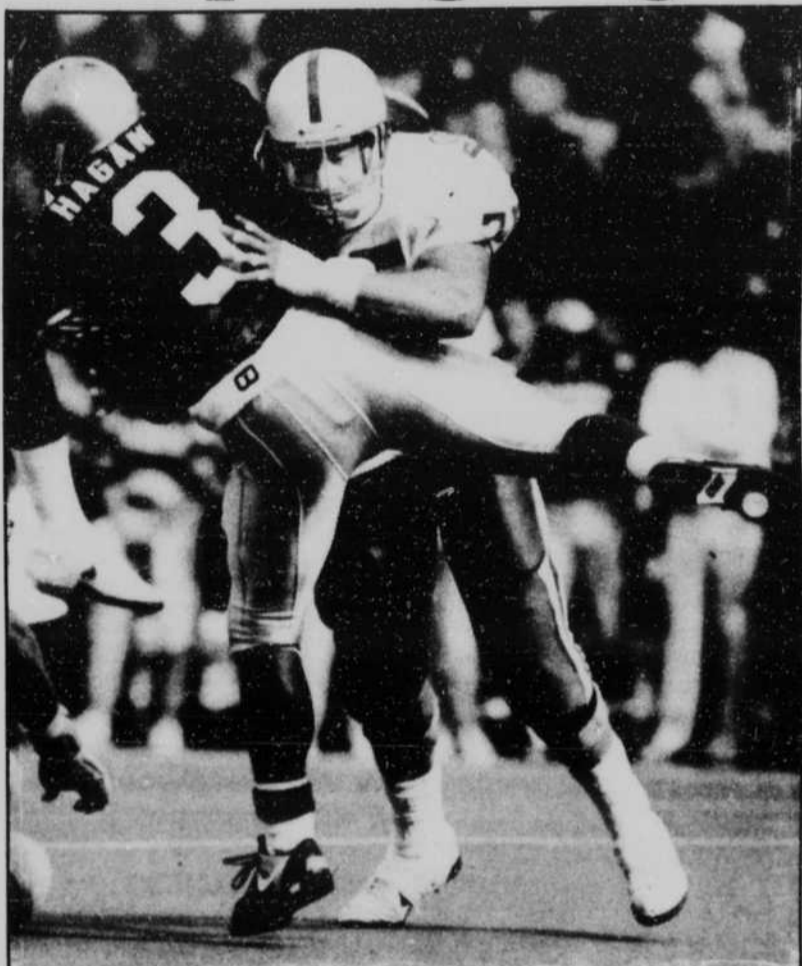
On first-and-10 at his own 30, Hagan ran an option to the left and kept the ball for 20 yards before pitching to Flannigan, who sprinted untouched to complete a 70-yard touchdown run. Ken Culbertson's extra point tied the game at 7-7 with 8:22 left in the first quarter.

Hagan added a 1-yard touchdown run on Colorado's next possession to give the Buffs a 14-0 lead.

The play was set up by a 47-yard return by Colorado split end Jeff Campbell, who gave the Buffs the ball at the Nebraska 4.

Campbell also returned a punt 55 yards to Nebraska 19 in the third quarter, setting up a 2-yard run by Flannigan that gave the Buffs a 24-14 lead.

Nebraska's other first-half touchdown came with 11:30 left in the second quarter on a 12-yard pass



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska defensive tackle Ray Valladao upends Colorado quarterback Darian Hagan.

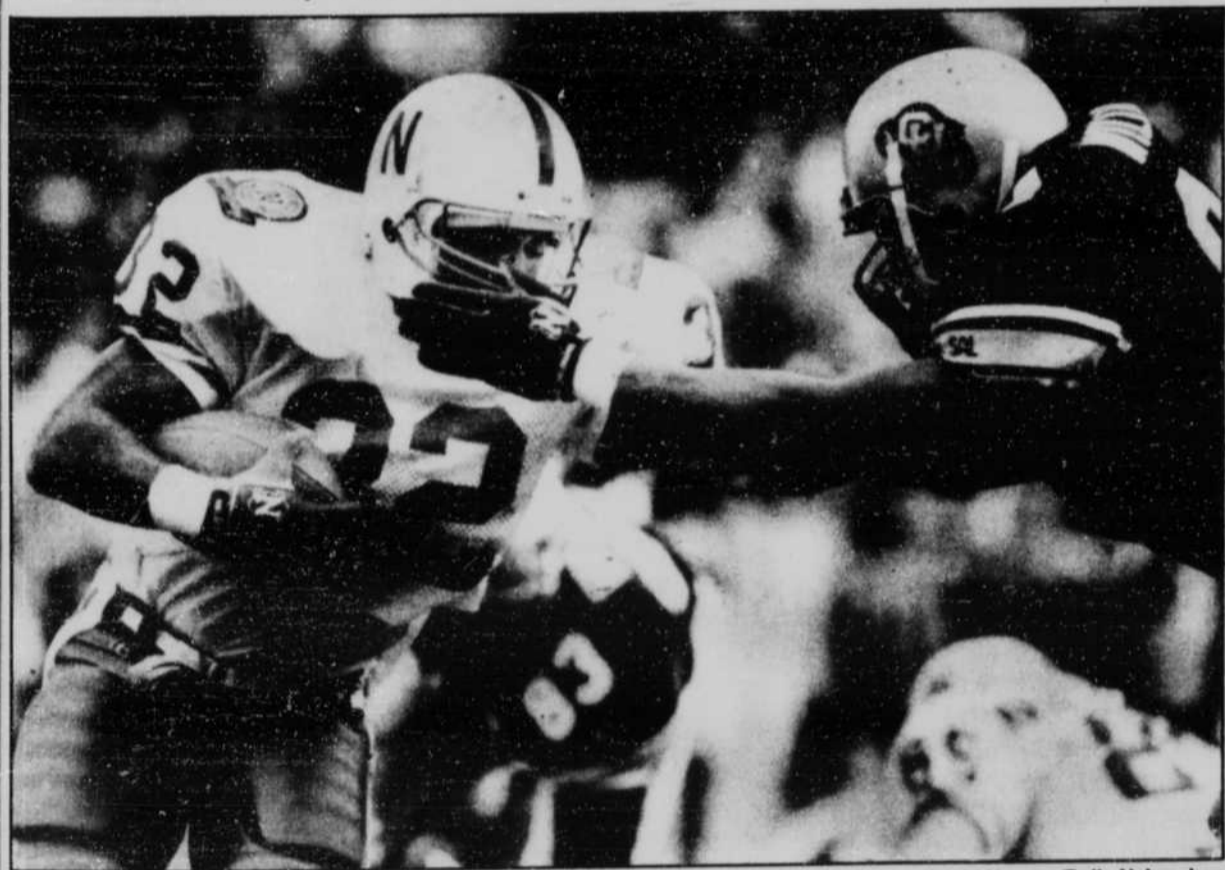
from Gdowski to split end Morgan Gregory.

Culbertson added field goals from 49 and 28 yards for the Buffs, and Nebraska's only other score was a 26-yard touchdown pass from Gdowski

to tight end Chris Garrett, which cut Colorado's lead to 24-21.

But that was as close as the Huskers would come.

See LOSS on 10



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Colorado outside linebacker Alfred Williams prepares to hit Nebraska I-back Ken Clark.

CU coach praises fans, quarterback for Buffs win

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

BOULDER, Colo. -- After Colorado beat Nebraska 20-10 in 1986, Bill McCartney told his team that "it doesn't get any sweeter."

Now, the Buffaloes' football coach has changed his mind.

"This is sweeter and I couldn't be prouder of our guys," he said after Colorado's 27-21 win against Nebraska Saturday. "Obviously, this is the greatest win I have ever been associated with. The things that are going through my mind right now center on all the problems we've had to overcome to get here."

Colorado's main "problem" was the loss of former Buff quarterback Sal Aunese, who died last September after a long bout with stomach and lung cancer. Colorado players and fans have rallied this season to win the Big Eight championship for Aunese.

"People think it's crazy, but those were Sal's last words: 'Bring home the Orange Bowl trophy,'" Buff tailback J.J. Flannigan said.

McCartney praised the play of Colorado quarterback Darian Hagan, who rushed for 86 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries.

Hagan's biggest play of the day was a pitch to Flannigan early in the first quarter, which went 70 yards for a touchdown. The play tied the score 7-7, after the Cornhuskers had scored on their first play from scrimmage.

"The pitch by Hagan to Flannigan was a play we needed," McCartney said. "They (the Huskers) stunned us early in the game with the interception and then coming right back and scoring on a screen play on the very next play."

Flannigan said the play boosted his confidence for the rest of the game.

"Hagan is unbelievable," he said. "No matter where he is on the field, he can always pitch it. As I was going down the sideline, I was thinking 'hold on to the ball, get in the end zone and celebrate.'"

"I didn't think about fumbling any other time during the game."

See BUFFS on 11

Women swimmers earn second-place finish at Iowa meet

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

The Nebraska women's swimming team answered a big question during the Iowa quadrangular this weekend in Iowa City, Iowa.

Nebraska coach Ray Huppert said the young Cornhuskers showed that they have adjusted to collegiate competition. He said adjustment is always a big concern, because some teams take longer to adapt than others.

Nebraska freshman Michelle Butcher showed that she is adjusted, as she set a school record in the 1,650-

yard freestyle. Butcher's time of 16:43.84 shattered the old record of 16:51.66 that was set by All-American selection Emily Kettles in 1985.

Butcher's performance helped Nebraska earn a second-place finish at the two-day meet. Sixth-ranked Michigan won the meet with 199 points, followed by Nebraska with 137. Iowa finished third with 94 points, and Brigham Young was fourth with 57.

Huppert praised the performance of Butcher, who also became the first Husker to complete the 500 freestyle in under five minutes when she recorded a 4:56.42 clocking.

Huppert also praised the efforts of Jenell Garcia, Melanie Wirtner, Chris Frederick and Mindy Matheny. Matheny finished third in the 50 freestyle and teamed with Lynne Braddock, Frederick and Kristen Neuenfeldt to form Nebraska's 400 free relay team, which finished second.

Wirtner, a junior transfer from Alabama, teamed with Carol Johnson, Jenny Bauernfeind and Frederick to form the Huskers' 200 medley relay team that also finished second. Garcia won the 100 butterfly and finished second in the 200 butterfly.

"You can really see the experience Jenell has," Huppert said. "She's been here two full seasons and she knows how to swim her races."

Huppert said Nebraska showed that it is a team not to be taken lightly. "I'm very, very happy," he said. "We're young, and we're going to get better."

Huppert said the Huskers cannot afford to savor their performances, because they face Colorado State and Minnesota Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The meet, which is free for Uni-

versity of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their IDs, begins at 7 p.m.

Huppert said this week will be a busy one in practice.

"There's still quite a few things we need to work on," he said. "It really is going to be an important time."

Huppert said he is anxious for Saturday's meet.

"It's going to be nice to be at home," he said. "I'm hoping we can get a lot of fans to come to the meet. Athletics always perform better if their friends are in the stands."