

Kicking game boots Cowboys

Score by quarters	OSU	0	0	3	0	3
Nebraska	7	0	10	14	31	

Nebraska Flowers 12 run (Barrios kick)
 OSU FG Blanchard 35
 Nebraska FG Barrios 31
 Nebraska Joseph 39 run (Barrios kick)
 Nebraska Mitchell 3 pass from Joseph (Barrios kick)
 Nebraska Hicks fumble recovery in the end zone (Barrios kick)

	OSU	Neb
First downs	12	17
Rushes-yards	50-161	50-266
Passing	66	51
Return Yards	20	82
Comp-Att-Int	6-17-2	6-14-1
Punts	5-39	5-40
Fumbles-Lost	6-3	5-1
Penalties-Yards	5-35	5-35
Time of Possession	33:57	26:03

Source: Associated Press.

Individual STATISTICS

Rushing
 Oklahoma State
 Hudson 17-47
 Ford 19-77
 Wilson 11-41
 Nebraska
 Joseph 9-60
 Brown 4-20

Passing
 Oklahoma State
 Ford 6-17-2 66
 Nebraska
 Joseph 4-9-0 26
 Grant 2-5-1 25
 Haase 0-1-0 0

Receiving
 Oklahoma State
 Kirksey 4-53
 Walker 1-7
 Mayfield 1-6
 Nebraska
 Mitchell 2-11
 Bostick 1-13
 Hughes 2-20

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

October will end next week, and the Nebraska Cornhuskers still haven't shown how good they are.

But does it really matter? Nebraska was good enough to win Saturday, defeating the Oklahoma State Cowboys 31-3 at Memorial Stadium.

The 7-0 Huskers once again are in position to move up in both national polls. Victories over Iowa State, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma would put Nebraska in contention for the top spot.

The offense started slowly, again, against the Cowboys. At halftime the Huskers had seven points and 142 yards.

But does it really matter? The Huskers could become the first national champion of the 1990s with a very old-fashioned team. Every week Nebraska is looking more and more like a team from, oh, 1970 or 1971, winning with defense, special teams and a persistent running game.

"The kicking game was probably the biggest difference today," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said after the Oklahoma State game.

Biggest were two fumble recoveries in the second half. The first, on a Cowboy punt return, led to a Nebraska touchdown. The second, on the ensuing kickoff, was recovered in the end zone by Nebraska's Robert Hicks for the final Husker score.

The Huskers returned three punts for 51 yards and two kickoffs for 74 yards and held the Cowboys to five yards on one punt return and 56 yards on five kick returns.

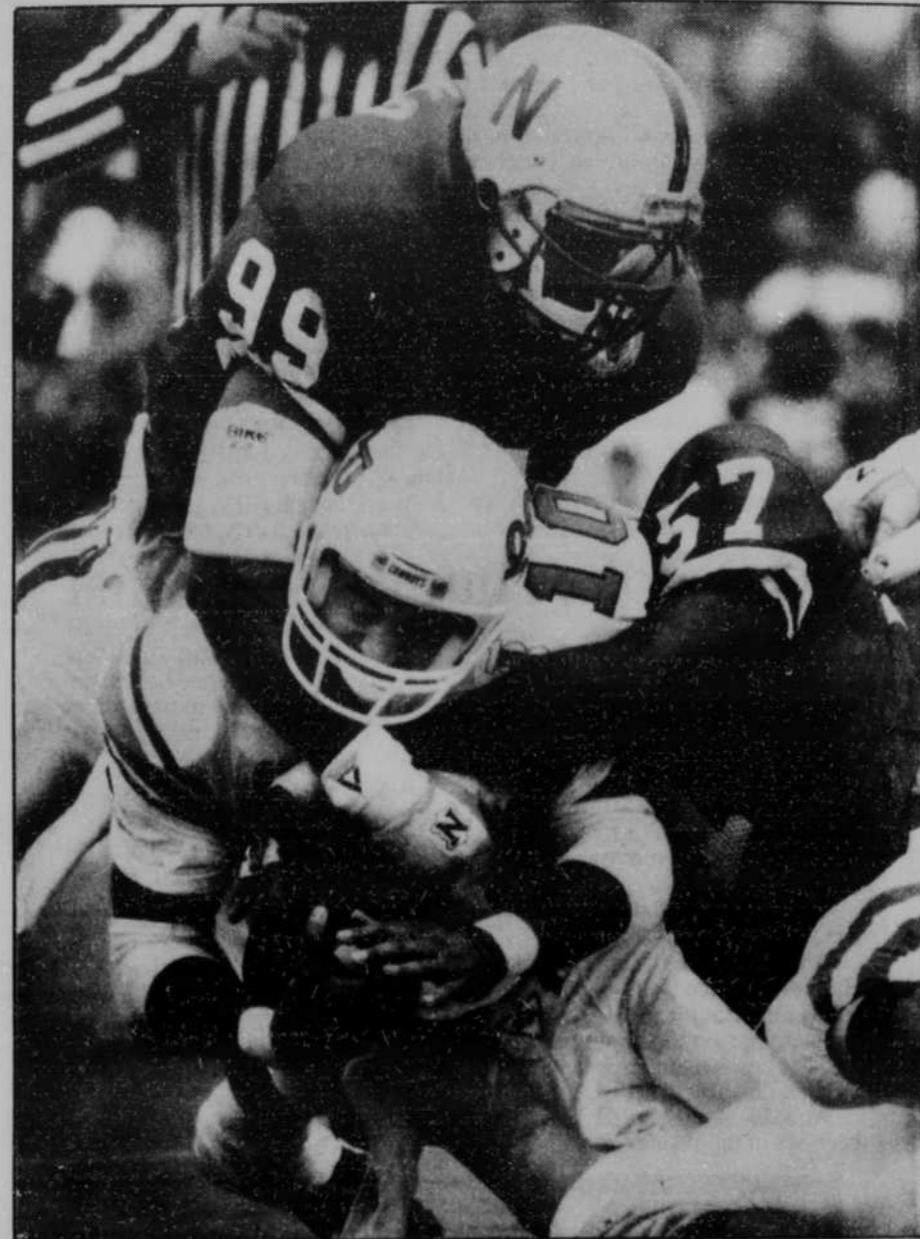
Nebraska's average possession started on the Husker 46-yard line, while the Cowboys averaged out to begin on their 18.

That was just part of a trend, Osborne said. "I think there was one game so far this year when I didn't think we were a clear-cut plus in the kicking game," he said.

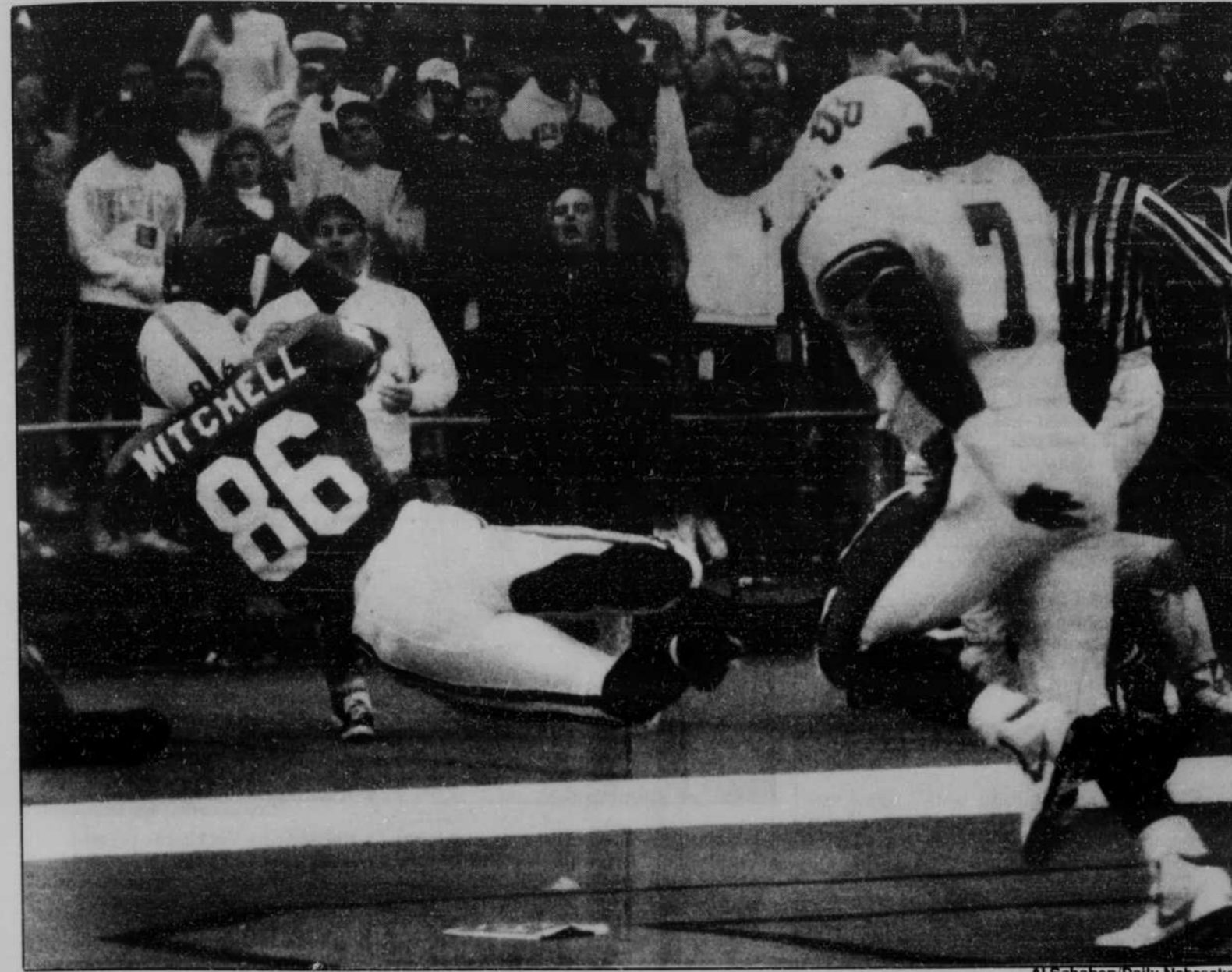
The defense held Oklahoma State to 227 yards, 78 in the first half. Most of the yards on the Cowboys' one scoring drive came on a 52-yard quarterback draw by Kenny Ford.

Cowboy tailback Gerald Hudson, who had been gaining 135 yards a game, rushed for 47 yards on 17 carries.

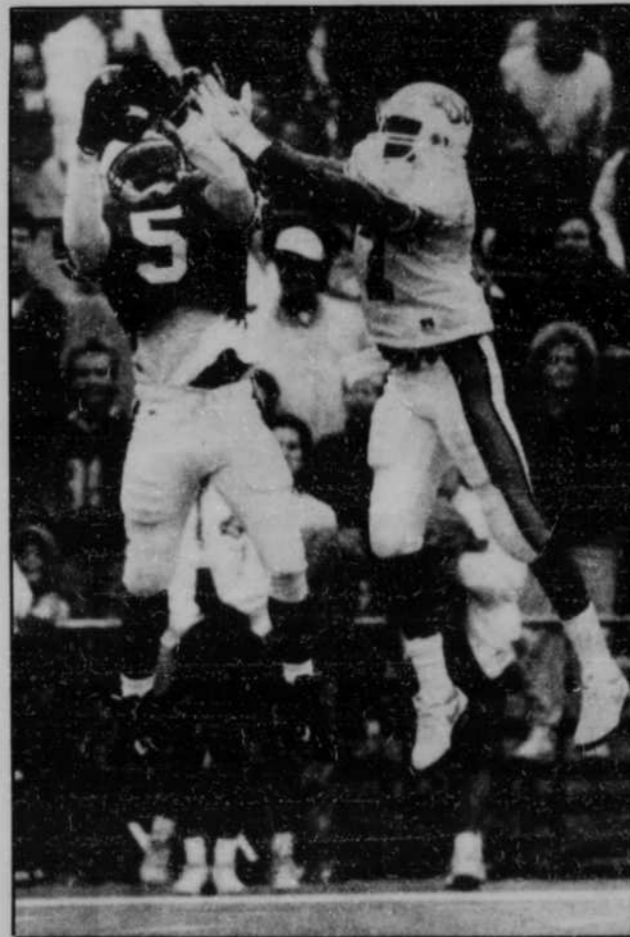
Clockwise from top right:
 Nebraska freshman tight end Johnny Mitchell catches a 3-yard touchdown pass from Mickey Joseph.
 NU I-back Leodis Flowers jumps over defenders in a first-quarter 12-yard touchdown run.
 NU's Matt Penland, right, celebrates with teammates after Husker cornerback Robert Hicks, bottom, recovered a fourth-quarter fumbled kickoff in the end zone.
 Nebraska cornerback Tahaun Lewis intercepts a Kenny Ford fourth-quarter pass.
 NU's Mike Petko and Kenny Walker wrap up Oklahoma State quarterback Kenny Ford.



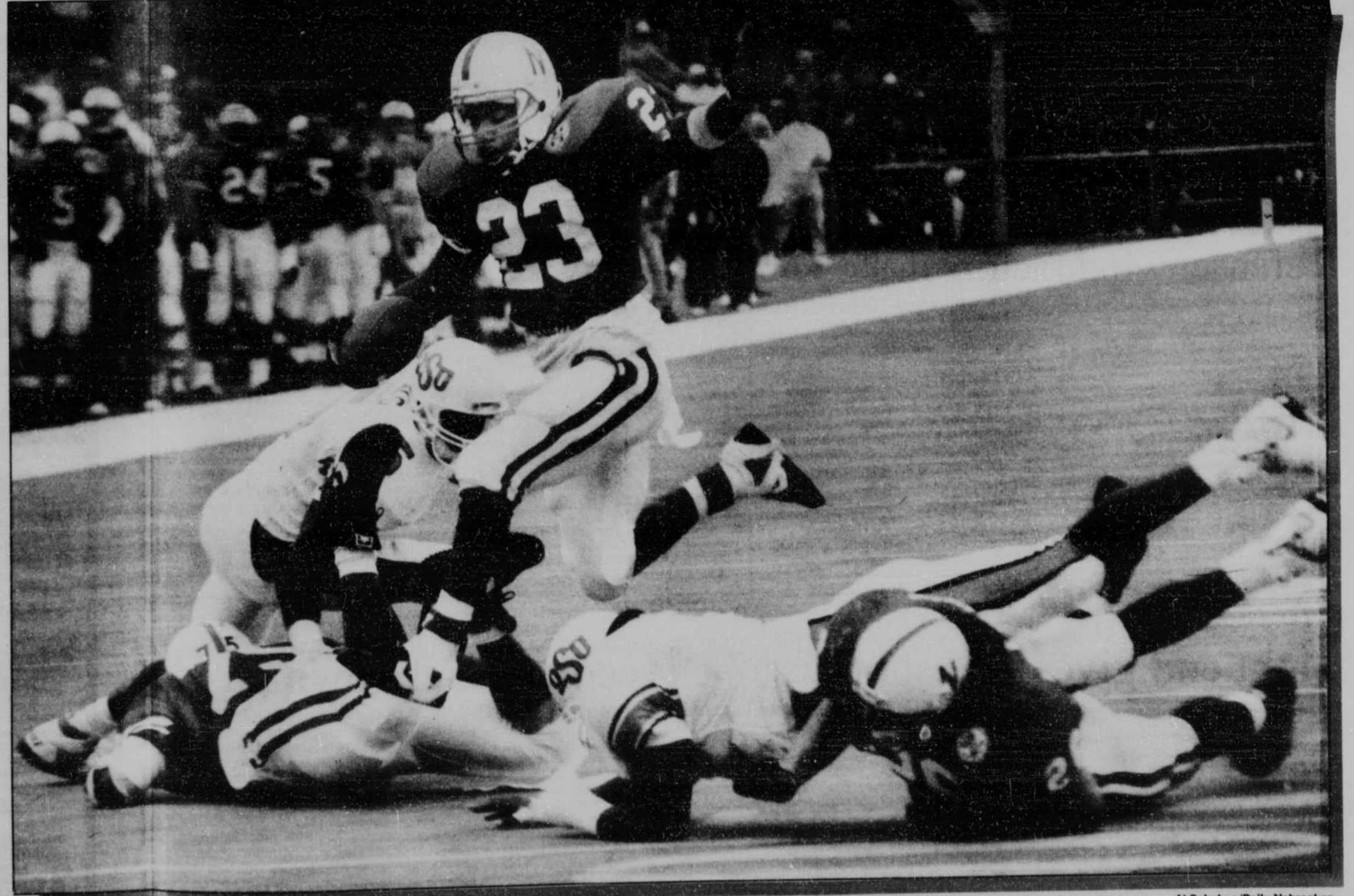
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