

Aggies play better, coach says

By Todd Cooper
Senior Reporter

Utah State Coach Chuck Shelton lost his voice and a game Saturday. But the mere fact that he lost his voice probably meant he was finally in a game against Nebraska. The Aggies lost 59-28, despite their highest offensive output at Memorial Stadium. "Utah State's a better football team than it's ever been," Shelton said, his voice cracking. "This is the best team we've brought in here and this is the best we've ever played them."

Utah State twice cut Nebraska's lead to within two touchdowns, with 5:16 left in the second quarter, and again just five minutes into the third quarter.

Then came the rain. Heavy rains started with seven and a half minutes left in the third quarter, when the Aggies were trailing 31-20. Lightning then forced play to be delayed with 2:10 left in the third quarter.

"I knew it was going to offset us a

little," Aggie quarterback Ron Lopez said. "I thought we might have to run more, but we pretty much kept throwing."

Lopez threw and threw and threw. The 6-foot-5 senior had a career-high 373 yards — the third highest total ever given up by Nebraska — on 23 for 41 passing. In their opener against Utah, Lopez completed seven of 24 passes for just 93 yards.

Rod Moore, who caught 12 passes for 220 yards and three touchdowns, said he didn't see much difference between Utah's and Nebraska's defensive backfields.

"They were about the same," Moore said. "Nebraska has better athletes but there were a lot of holes over the middle."

Lopez said there was no comparison between Nebraska's and Utah's backfields.

"Nebraska's was far better," he said. "The coaches just had a perfect game plan for us this week."

But the Aggies' defense, which

gave up 787 yards and an NCAA record 44 first downs to Nebraska, was far from perfect, Shelton said.

"We knew we couldn't stop them (after the first half)," Shelton said. "But we thought we might be able to make them work a little harder for what they got."

Utah State soon will have more work cut out for them. The Aggies have a week off before they travel to Norman, Okla., to play the ninth-ranked Sooners.

Lopez said his performance Saturday should carry over into that Sept. 21 match-up.

"We started to put it together today," Lopez said. "We feel like we can use this as momentum going into Oklahoma."

But Shelton said the Aggies aren't closing the gap on teams like Nebraska and Oklahoma.

"I feel like we've moved up a level," he said. "But this is Nebraska here."

"That's a lot of levels above us."

NU loses 'Husker Bob'

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska athletic department and fans lost a good friend Saturday as Robert L. Rowe, better known as "Husker Bob," died from a heart attack suffered during the Nebraska football game.

Rowe had been a fixture at Cornhusker sporting events over the past 13 years, carrying signs and leading cheers to rally fans at games.

Rowe also suffered a heart attack shortly after a game in 1987, and said at the time that he might slow down a little, but his love of Nebraska athletics proved too strong to keep him from roaming the stands.

It is probably safe to say that Rowe died happy, as he was doing what he loved to do — leading cheers in Memorial Stadium.

Goodbye, Bob. Football games won't be the same without you.

Opener

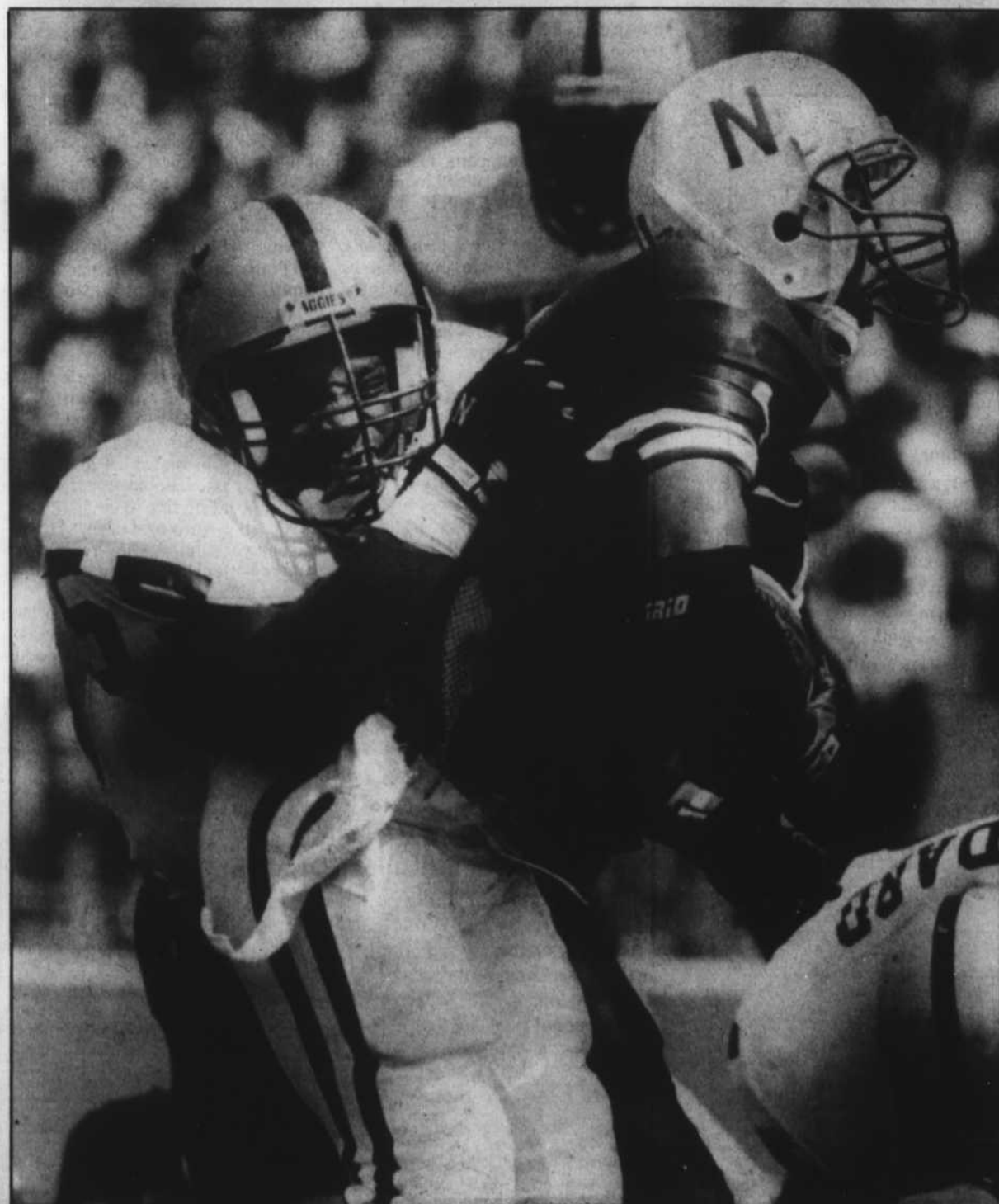
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pleased with the way his team performed in its first game, the Huskers have a lot of improvements to make.

"It was a typical first game," he said. "We were lucky that we didn't make enough mistakes to lose."

One thing that wasn't typical, Osborne said, was Nebraska's passing. The Huskers threw 21 times against Utah State.

"We're throwing the heck out of it," he joked.



NU vs. USU

GAME STATISTICS

Final score: Utah State 28
Nebraska 59

Attendance: 76,115

1st NU — Baldwin 29 run (Bennett kick), 11:22. NU — Hawkins 22 pass from Joseph (Bennett kick), 8:24. NU — FG Bennett 32, 3:27. USU — Tiger 1 run (Beach kick), :31. Scoring: USU — 7, NU — 17

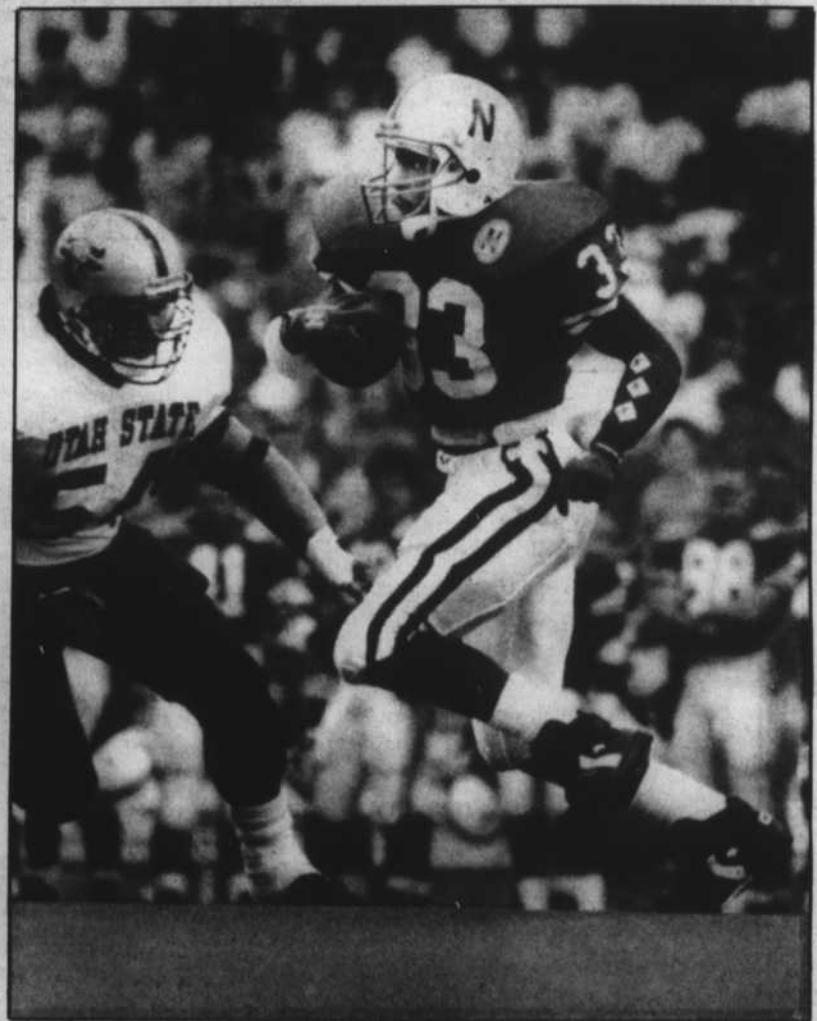
2nd NU — Mitchell 27 pass from McCant (Bennett kick), 7:15. USU — Moore 44 pass from Lopez (Beach kick), 5:16. Scoring: USU — 7, NU — 7

3rd NU — McCant 12 run (Bennett kick), 12:45. USU — Moore 12 pass from Lopez (Beach kick failed), 9:56. NU — FG Bennett 37, 6:00. NU — Jones 3 run (Bennett kick failed), 2:10. Scoring: USU — 6, NU — 16

4th NU — Jones 2 run (run failed), 13:35. NU — Joseph 10 run (Sieler kick failed), 7:58. NU — Wade 1 pass from Gagnano (Sieler kick), 1:22. USU — Moore 51 pass from Lopez (Hampton pass from Lopez), :38. Scoring: USU — 6, NU — 19

	USU	NU
First downs	22	44
Rushes-yards	23-48	77-617
Passing yards	373	170
Total yards	421	787
Return yards	12	111
Comp.-att.-int.	23-41-2	11-21-1
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-2
Sacks-by-yards lost	1-8	0-0
Time of possession	23:42	36:18

Amie DeFrain/Daily Nebraskan



TOP LEFT: I-back Scott Baldwin slides into the end zone for the first Cornhusker touchdown of the game and of the year. Baldwin sprained his ankle on the play and is expected to miss next week's game against Colorado State.

LEFT: Utah State linebacker Willie Jackson gets a grip on Nebraska freshman Corey Dixon during a kick return.

ABOVE: Cornhusker split end Tyrone Hughes runs around Utah State lineman Brook Phillips.

Photos by Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan