

Husky talent, NU blunders decide game

Nebraska-Washington scoring summary

Points by quarters

Nebraska	0	7	7	0	-14
Washington	2	21	3	3	-29

Scoring stats

- Wash.— Safety, T. Jones sacked Grant in end zone
- Wash.— Bryant 1 run (Hanson Kick)
- NU— C. Jones 73 run (Bennett kick)
- Wash.— Kaufman 1 run (Hanson Kick)
- Wash.— Kralik 29 pass from Hobert (Hanson Kick)
- NU— Grant 1 run (Bennett Kick)
- Wash.— FG Hanson 42
- Wash.— FG Hanson 32

Daily Nebraskan

By Drake Witham

Special to the Daily Nebraskan

SEATTLE — A solid defensive effort and occasional flashes of a brilliant offense were not enough for No. 12 Nebraska Saturday night.

For the second consecutive year, the Cornhuskers dropped a September game to Washington, losing 29-14 before a raucous crowd of 73,333 fans at Husky Stadium.

Despite the loss, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he was pleased with his team's effort.

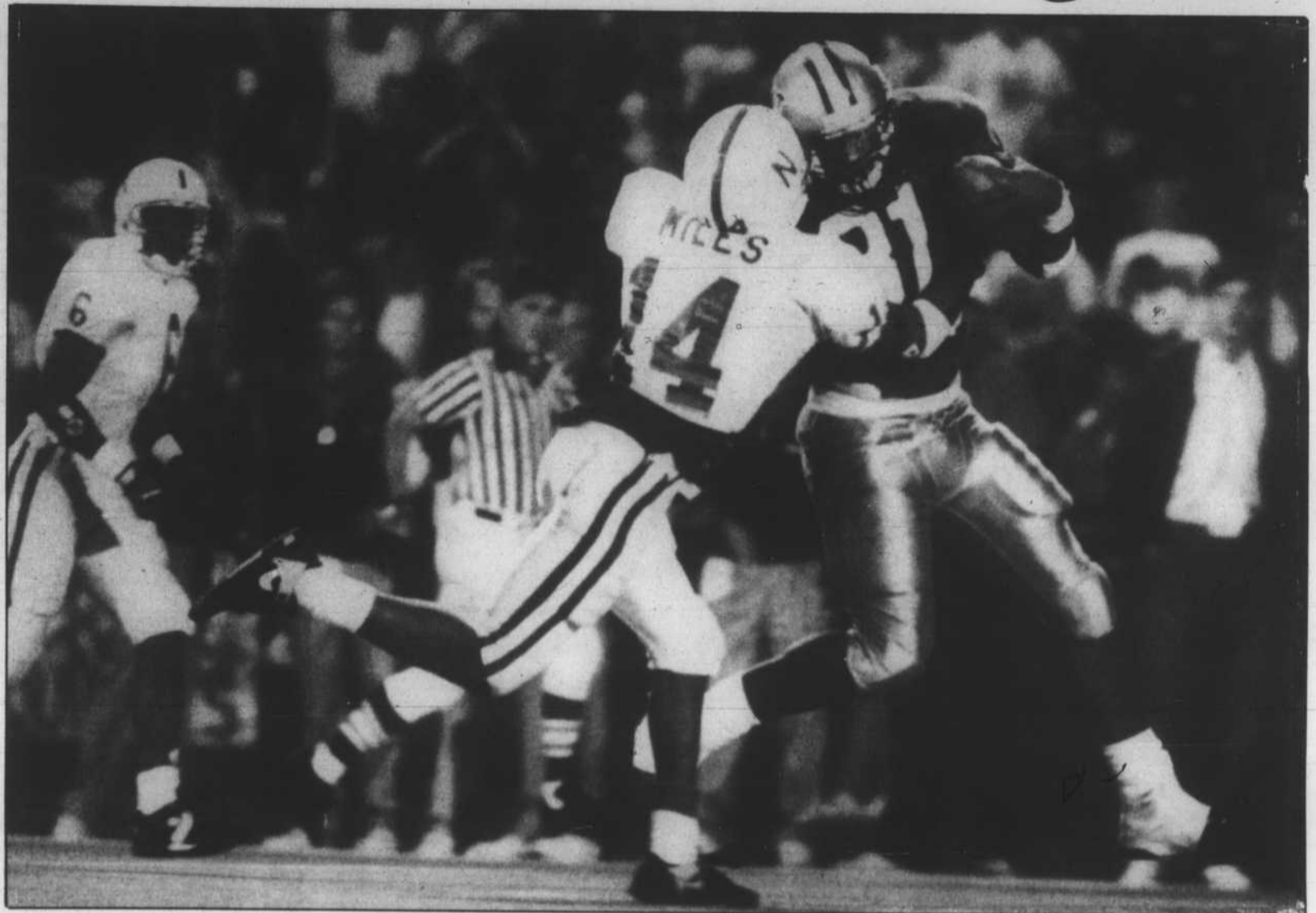
"I'm not down on this team," Osborne said. "For the most part we played well. I think we could have a great team."

Turnovers were the difference, as three Husker miscues led to 17 Washington points. Nebraska also hurt itself with penalties, amassing 11 for 76 yards.

"We played great," said Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones, who rushed for 79 yards. "We just had a lot of breakdowns here and there."

Washington jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first quarter when Husky safety Tommie Smith blindsided Nebraska quarterback Mike Grant in the end zone.

With the Cornhuskers driving in the second quarter, Grant was sacked



Hideki Tomeoka/Special to the Daily Nebraskan

Washington fullback Darius Turner is tackled by Nebraska safety Barron Miles in the third quarter of the Huskies' on Saturday night.

again and apparently fumbled before hitting the ground.

Husky linebacker James Clifford pounced on the ball and Washington took over amid Nebraska protests that Grant's knee had touched the ground before the fumble.

"I didn't even go after the ball," Grant said. "I thought I was down."

Washington wasted no time in converting, as a one-yard plunge by tailback Beno Bryant capped a 39-yard drive and put the Huskies up 9-0.

Nebraska then rallied for its most explosive play of the night. Grant ran an option to the right side then pitched to Jones, who galloped 73 yards past a bunched-up Washington defense and

into the end zone to pull the Huskers within 9-7.

"(Nebraska) has a lot of great athletes back there," said Washington linebacker Dave Hoffman. "They have a great line, great backs and they just keep coming at you."

Washington then exploded, scoring two touchdowns in a 42-second span just before halftime to push its lead to 23-7.

Tailback Napoleon Kaufman scored the first touchdown from a yard out, and on Nebraska's next drive, Grant threw an interception on the first play.

Husky quarterback Billy Joe Hobert then hit flanker Joe Kralik in the back

of the end zone on a 29-yard pass to give Washington a 16-point edge.

"The score before the half really hurt," Osborne said. "At the start of the second half, I thought we had a shot."

The Huskers did come out with momentum, scoring on an 80-yard drive to open the second half. I-back Derek Brown had runs of 32 and 10 yards before Grant took it in from one yard out to cut Washington's lead to 23-14.

But turnovers again doomed Nebraska. On the Huskers' next series, Brown fumbled a pitch and Washington recovered deep in Nebraska territory. The Huskies converted when

kicker Travis Hanson booted a 42-yard field goal to make the score 26-14.

Hanson's last field goal — a 32-yarder at the beginning of the fourth quarter — put the game out of reach for the Huskers and ensured their eighth straight loss to teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 10.

The Huskers' inability to throw effectively against a swarming Husky defense also hurt. Grant completed 11 of 21 passes for 133 yards, but also threw two interceptions.

Brown, who rushed for 84 yards and caught three passes for 30 yards, said the Huskers must regroup for this Saturday's game

Thater racks up statistics as Huskers sweep Cowgirls

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

If there were any questions as to whether Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater would be able to repeat as the Big Eight's volleyball player of the year, she answered them Saturday night.

Thater had 14 kills in 20 attacks for a .700 hitting percentage Saturday in leading the Cornhuskers to a three-game sweep of Wyoming at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska beat the Cowgirls 15-13, 15-8 and 15-8 in winning for the second straight night against Wyoming. The Huskers were victorious against the Cowgirls on Friday 10-15, 15-7, 15-10, 5-15 and 15-10 in North Platte.

Thater's performance was an all-time best for the All-American, as the Union, Mo., native bettered her career mark of a .654 hitting percentage set against Colorado in 1990.

The top hitter for Wyoming was outside hitter Anna Bradley-Houser, who hit .194.

Thater said her teammates should receive credit for her play against the Cowgirls.

"I attribute that to our whole team," Thater said. "A lot of my stats reflect

“The people around her made it possible for her to get the ball. But when Steph gets in a rhythm, nobody can stop her — women or men.”

Not
NU assistant volleyball coach

on other people on the court.”

Nebraska assistant coach Cathy Noth agreed that a lot of Thater's success was due to her fellow Huskers.

"The people around her made it possible for her to get the ball," Noth said. "But when Steph gets in a rhythm, nobody can stop her — women or men."

As for the series, the Huskers were able to handle Wyoming on Saturday in one hour and nine minutes before a crowd of 2,168 fans at the Coliseum. This followed Nebraska's five-game victory Friday over the Cowgirls before a sellout crowd of nearly 2,000 fans at Mid-Plains Community College.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry

Pettit said the Huskers were able to execute better against Wyoming on Saturday.

"I thought we were more consistent," Pettit said. "We were more alert and played a lot better."

Wyoming volleyball coach Mike English agreed with his counterpart.

"They adjusted well from last night; their game plan worked well and they came out hungry to win," English said.

In Saturday's match, Nebraska and Wyoming exchanged the lead numerous times in the first game before the Huskers won by two points, then the Huskers corralled the Cowgirls with identical 15-8 scores in the following two games.

The third game was highlighted by junior Laura Luther, as the outside hitter from Grand Island served consecutive aces to lift Nebraska from an early 3-1 deficit en route to the seven-point win. Luther is currently tied with Thater for service aces in the season, as each has 13 this year.

The series sweep improved the sixth-ranked Huskers to 5-2 for the season.

But Pettit is still looking for a starting lineup that can help improve Nebraska's record, as the coach used 11 of his 13 players in numerous situations Saturday night.

Runner ten Bensel sets course record

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

As last year's Big Eight champion, big results were expected from Husker cross country runner Fran ten Bensel.

But for ten Bensel to set a Pioneers Park course record at the Woody Greeno/Nebraska Cross Country Invitational was beyond Coach Jay Dirksen's expectations.

"Fran ran amazingly well for the first meet," Dirksen said. "She was — I don't know how to say it — but just awesome. She is an outstanding runner."

Ten Bensel set a course record with a time of 16:59.0.

"Susan Bliss, the woman who had the previous record, set it when the course was in really good shape toward the end of the season," Dirksen said. "This was our first meet."

Ten Bensel and junior Theresa Stelling led the Huskers to a first-place finish at Saturday's meet.

"We had a couple of setbacks, but for the first meet, we did well," Dirksen said.

Two of the Huskers' top runners were injured. Katie Fletcher was out after having surgery on her hip,

and Michele Schaefer was out because three screws were inserted in her hip.

"We had to rely on people a little more quickly than we wanted to," Dirksen said. "Sandy Fein and Dannika Hardersen ran very well."

Fein finished 15th, and Hardersen was 22nd.

On the men's side, the Huskers finished fourth.

Dirksen said the loss of junior David Itteffa, who didn't compete because of injury, hurt the Huskers.

"With Itteffa, we could have gotten second," he said. "David makes us a better team."

Renier Henning was the leading runner for the Husker men, finishing in 17th place. Kevin Miller followed in 18th place.

"Henning looked real good, and Miller had a real good meet," Dirksen said. "This gave us a better idea of where we're at right now, and we're not ready to really race yet."

As for the rest of the season, Dirksen thinks his men's team will improve.

"I hoped that they would have run a little bit better, but by the end of the season, we'll be pretty good."