



Nebraska-Missouri Scoring Summary

Points by quarters					
Nebraska	14	10	0	10	—34
Missouri	0	14	7	3	—24

Scoring stats	
1	NU—Frazier 3 yard touchdown run (Bennett kick) NU—Frazier runs wide 7 yard touchdown run (Bennett kick)
2	MU—Jackson 1 yard touchdown run (Jacke kick) MU—Ofodile 13 yard touchdown, pass from Handy (Jacke kick) NU—Jones 1 yard touchdown run (Bennett kick) NU—Bennett 26 yard FG
3	MU—Bailey 39 yard touchdown pass from Handy (Jacke kick)
4	NU—Bennett 26 yard FG MU—Jacke 25 yard FG NU—Frazier 5 yard touchdown run (Bennett kick)

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Frazier jumpstarts Husker win

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Tommie Frazier made Nebraska football history, and Missouri narrowly missed making a little history of its own in the Cornhuskers' 34-24 win over the Tigers Saturday.

Frazier became the first true freshman to start at quarterback under Husker coach Tom Osborne, and for a while it looked as if the Tigers would beat Nebraska for the first time since 1978.

"We felt Tommie had progressed where he deserved a chance to start," Osborne said. "Frazier has had two good weeks of practice and I think he's made improvement."

Despite some nervousness at first, Frazier said he was relaxed during the game.

"I felt comfortable. The teammates felt comfortable with me. The way they were looking at me told me it'd be all right if I made a mistake," Frazier said.

Nebraska I-back Derek Brown, who ran for 148 yards on 25 carries, said he saw no difference between Mike Grant, who had started Nebraska's first five games at quarterback, and Frazier.

"He's a smart guy," Brown said. "I'm just really impressed with the way he's been running, taking control of the offense out there."

"He wasn't nervous at all. It was just business as usual."

Grant had experienced back problems the past few weeks, Osborne said. As a result, Grant missed practice Monday and wasn't full speed yet by Tuesday.

As it turned out, it was Missouri that suffered from Grant's back pain.

Frazier made the most of his first career start. He finished the day 9 for 20 passing for 157 yards, ran for 77 more and scored three touchdowns, including a 5-yard clincher on fourth and 5 with 2:09 left in the game to give the No. 8 Huskers a 34-24 lead and allowed Nebraska to improve to 5-1 on the season, 2-0 in the Big Eight. Missouri dropped to 1-6, 0-3.

Osborne said he was pleased with Frazier's performance.

"He was very stable out there," Osborne said. "We thought he played a good, solid ball game and made the



right decisions."

But Missouri's Jeff Handy made some good decisions of his own. The sophomore quarterback, making only his second start, turned in a 29-of-44 passing performance for 424 yards and two touchdowns and gave the 53,337 fans — about 12,000 of them from Nebraska — at Faurot Field reason to believe Missouri could win.

It was Handy's passing that kept the Tigers close throughout the game, even after falling behind by two touchdowns in the first quarter.

On Nebraska's second possession, Frazier engineered a 12-play, 75-yard drive for the first score of the game — a 3-yard run by Frazier.

Frazier scored again the next time Nebraska got the ball, this time on a 7-yard run to give the Huskers a 14-0 lead.

Missouri coach Bob Stull said it was good to see his team refuse to give up at that point.

"I was happy to see them not lose their poise," Stull said. "What creates emotion is plays. If you can make a

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—Frazier
NU quarterback

play on offense or defense, you can get everyone fired up, including the fans."

It was the Tiger offense that began to make those plays.

It took Handy only 56 seconds to get the Tigers back into the game. Handy marched Missouri 80 yards down the field in five plays, with Mark Jackson scoring from a yard out to cut Nebraska's lead to 14-7.

After holding Nebraska on three plays, the Tigers scored again. This time Handy hit A.J. Ofodile from 13

yards out to tie the game at 14-14.

On their next possession, the Tigers advanced the ball to the Husker 40 before Kenny Wilhite intercepted a Handy pass and returned it 49 yards to the Missouri 20. From there, the Huskers moved to the 1, where Calvin Jones scored on fourth and goal.

Wilhite said Missouri's success through the air got to him, but it was something he had to shake off.

"For me it was (frustrating), but if you get frustrated, you get down on yourself and then you stop thinking about what you have to get done," he said. "They had a lot of success with the pass today. We knew they were going to throw, but not that much."

Nebraska was able to get one more shot before halftime. The Huskers got the ball back at their own 16 with 1:21 left and were able to drive to the Missouri 9. Byron Bennett kicked a 26-yard field goal on the last play of the half to give Nebraska a 24-14 lead.

Brown said he was surprised with the fight the Tigers put up. "To tell you the truth, I was sur-

prised that they played us this tough," he said. "That's not to say that I thought it was going to be a breeze coming in here. I knew they'd play us tough, but not this close."

After the two teams traded missed field goals in the third quarter, Handy and the Tigers struck again. Handy hit Bailey with a 39-yard scoring pass and the Husker lead was only 24-21.

The Huskers then ground out a 16-play, 73-yard drive that took more than seven minutes. Nebraska was unable to get the ball into the end zone, however, and had to settle for a 26-yard Bennett field goal to increase the lead to 27-21 with 14:56 left.

Nebraska kept the ball on the ground and threw the ball only three times during the drive.

A 25-yard Jeff Jacke field goal closed the gap to 27-24, and, after holding the Huskers on their next possession, Missouri took over the ball with 7:54 left and had a chance to take the lead.

But John Reece spoiled those chances two plays later with an interception at the Missouri 49.

It was then up to Frazier and the Husker offense to put the game away.

The Huskers converted two third downs and faced a fourth-and-goal situation at the Missouri 5. At that point, there was only one call to make, Osborne said.

"If we kicked a field goal, we're up six," he said. "That's nice, but on the other hand, the way they had moved the ball at times we weren't real sure that we wouldn't get beat by a point."

On fourth down, Frazier rolled right, looked to pass and then tucked the ball away and leaped over a defender into the end zone to secure the 34-24 Husker win.

"It was a basic bootleg action, run-pass first," Frazier said. "There were two men out there. I was hesitant at first but I saw the fullback block one of them and I said 'Hey, this is for all the marbles.' I jumped and got in."

Immediately after the game, the question surfaced: Would Frazier start Saturday against Colorado?

"I would say right now it would be surprising if he didn't," Osborne said.

But Frazier said it didn't matter to him. "I just want what's best for the team," he said. "If that's what's best for the team, then I'll take it."