

# Huskers trip Sooners, gain gloating rights

## 33-9 rout puts NU one win from Orange Bowl trip

By Nick Hytrek  
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla.—For Nebraska football fans, it didn't matter that the Cornhuskers' matchup with Oklahoma on Friday wasn't for the Big Eight championship.

It didn't matter that the game didn't mean an automatic berth in the Orange Bowl for the winner.

What it meant for Husker fans at Owen Field was another year to gloat and poke fun at the Sooners.

And gloat they did after the No. 12 Huskers beat Oklahoma 33-9 before 69,770 fans, many of whom were Sooner backers who left long before the game was over.

After Steve Collins replaced oft-booped Sooner quarterback Cale Gundy late in the game, Husker fans greeted Collins with a chorus of "We want Gundy!"

Rather than savoring the win as much as the fans, Husker coach Tom Osborne said the win was just another hurdle to clear on the way to achieving the team's goals.

"We hope we've got enough left to carry ourselves through this thing and win the Big Eight championship and get down to the Orange Bowl," Osborne said. "I think we took a big step today."

But for the first half, the Sooners, 5-4-2 overall and 3-2-2 in the Big Eight, were bent on salvaging their season. Oklahoma needed a win to finish third in the conference and earn an Aloha Bowl bid. A loss would mean the end of the season.

The Sooners kept the ball on the ground and limited Nebraska, 8-2 and 5-1, to only three offensive plays in the first quarter.

"The first quarter didn't look too exciting for us," Osborne said. "I wasn't real sure we were ever going to get the ball. Oklahoma just came out and just ran it right at us."

The Sooners racked up 142 yards of offense in the first quarter, compared with only six for the Huskers.

Still, Nebraska led 7-3, thanks to inside linebacker Ed Stewart.

With the Huskers trailing 3-0, Stewart stepped in front of a Gundy pass and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown.

"I don't think Gundy saw me," Stewart said. "I read his eyes all the way, and I just stepped in front of the tight end, and the ball was right there. From there I was just hoping that no one could catch me."

And even though the Husker offense wasn't getting a chance to have the ball, Stewart said the defense wasn't concerned.

"We were kind of enjoying it a little bit," he said. "It took us a little while to settle in defensively at first, but finally we got things done and took care of business."

**"I think every guy on our team just made up in his mind that we were going to turn it up a notch higher and go out and win this thing."**

Stewart  
NU linebacker

But when Nebraska got the ball with 2:23 left in the first half, Oklahoma had regained a 9-7 lead on two more Scott Blanton field goals.

Then Nebraska's offense finally got in gear. The Huskers went into their two-minute offense and were able to get a 33-yard field goal from Byron Bennett with six seconds left before halftime to take a 10-9 lead.

That score gave Nebraska the boost it needed, Osborne said.

"I think the drive right toward the end of the half and field goal gave us a lift emotionally," he said.

Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier said the team had just wanted to be ahead at halftime.

"All we were determined to do was come into the lockerroom with the halftime lead," he said. "When we did that we knew we were getting the ball back after halftime and if we push it down there and score then it would break the game wide open right there."

The Huskers did just that, taking

the second-half kickoff and driving 64 yards for a score. Frazier capped the drive with a 24-yard touchdown pass to Gerald Armstrong to give Nebraska a 17-9 lead.

It was then the defense's turn to strut its stuff. The Huskers dominated Oklahoma's offense in the second half and held the Sooners to 50 yards in offense and allowed only one completed pass.

"In the second half we knew that we were going to be the dominant team by the end of the game," Stewart said. "We just came out in the second half and it seemed like we gelled a lot better."

"I think every guy on our team just made up in his mind that we were going to turn it up a notch higher and go out and win this thing."

Outside linebacker Travis Hill supplied more emotion for the defense later in the third quarter as he sacked Gundy in the end zone for a safety and a 19-9 Nebraska lead.

From there, the Huskers wore down Oklahoma with the ground game and piled up 317 yards rushing, 137 of those by Calvin Jones, who scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to put the game away.

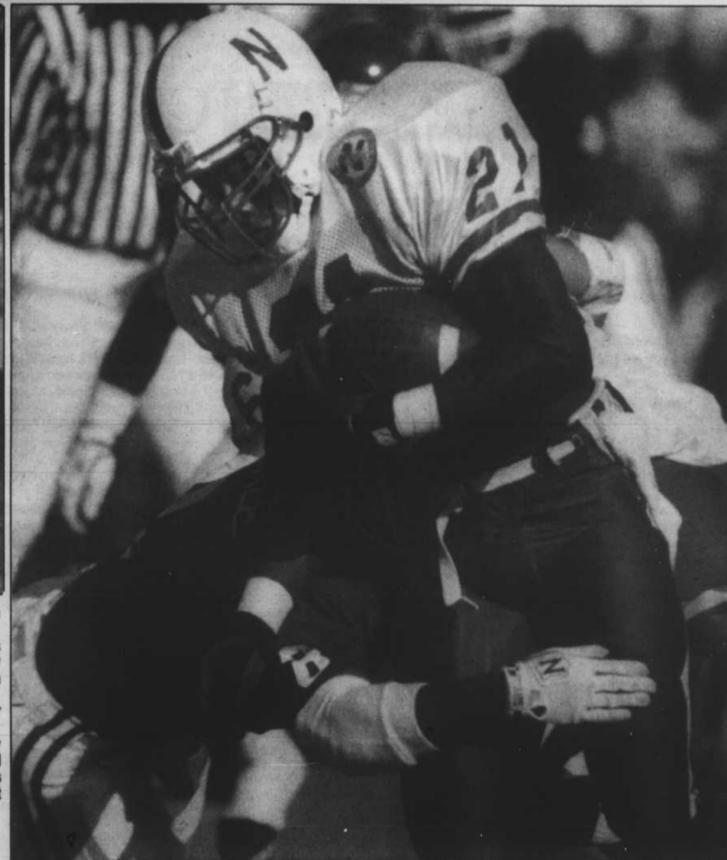
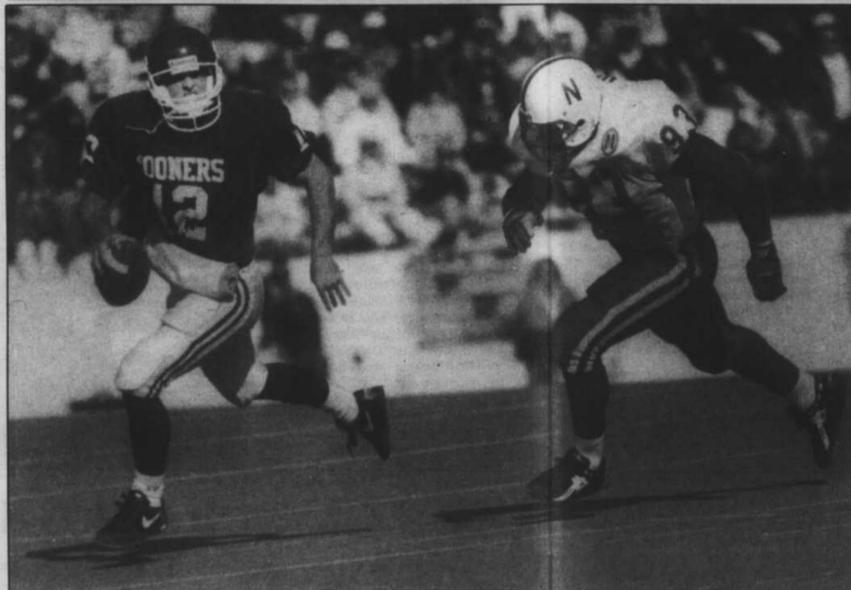
The Nebraska offense received a blow in the third quarter when I-back Derek Brown was lost for the Kansas State game with a separated shoulder. Brown injured the shoulder after being tackled at the end of a 43-yard run that put him over the 1,000-yard mark for the season. Jones also cleared 1,000 yards in the game.

Now the Huskers can win the Big Eight and a spot in the Orange Bowl by beating Kansas State in Tokyo Saturday. But Husker fans shouldn't make hotel reservations in Miami yet, Osborne said.

"We in no way have the Big Eight locked up," he said. "We've got to play well a week from now. It'll be very strange circumstances, going that far, that much time change."

But Osborne said he thought the win over Oklahoma did much to show that Nebraska has earned a trip to the Orange Bowl.

"I think at least that we've shown today that we're a good football team and certainly deserve to win the Big Eight if we beat Kansas State."



# Sooners finish season amidst boos from fans

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla.—As Oklahoma quarterback Cale Gundy came to the Sooner huddle midway through the third quarter of last Friday's game, he heard boos.

Most of the 69,770 fans at Owen Field didn't want Gundy calling Oklahoma's signals, and the Sooners were well on their way to being trounced 33-9 by Nebraska.

In addition, Oklahoma was about to finish with a 5-4-2 record, its worst season since the Sooners posted a 3-5 mark in 1965.

Several of the Sooner players said they could understand the crowd's disappointment in Oklahoma's play, but they didn't think the blame should be put on one person.

"The quarterback shouldn't take all the heat for the offense not performing or the team not performing — he's a team player just like us," said Oklahoma split end Albert Hall, who had six receptions in the game. "Cale's our quarterback and we're going to go with him regardless of what the fans think."

Backup Sooner quarterback Steve Collins finally entered the game in the fourth quarter, but Oklahoma was already down by 24 points with less than four minutes to play.

Collins said even though he appreciated knowing the crowd wanted him in the game, he didn't like the way they treated Gundy.

"When things don't go our way, fans are going to get on the quarterback because it's such a high-profile position," Collins said. "You can't

really boo a person in that situation because it's a team game."

Gundy finished the game by completing 9 of 20 passes for 98 yards and two interceptions.

He declined to talk to the media after the game.

The Sooners' senior co-captains, Kenyon Rasheed and Reggie Barnes, said they wished they could have heard a few more cheers during their final football game at Oklahoma.

"Fans will be fans — when you win they're behind you 100 percent," Rasheed said. "You've got to put up with that at Oklahoma or any other big-time university that's used to winning."

Barnes said the disgruntled fans might have been reacting more toward the season as a whole. The Sooners finished in fourth place in the Big Eight.

"Sometimes, just like in the season, we didn't get the breaks we needed. Things happened to us amid adversity and sometimes we didn't live up to our potential," Barnes said.

The loss kept Oklahoma from finishing in third place and earning a trip to the Aloha Bowl on Christmas Day.

Kansas, which finished at 7-4, will go to Honolulu as the Big Eight's third-place team and will play Brigham Young.

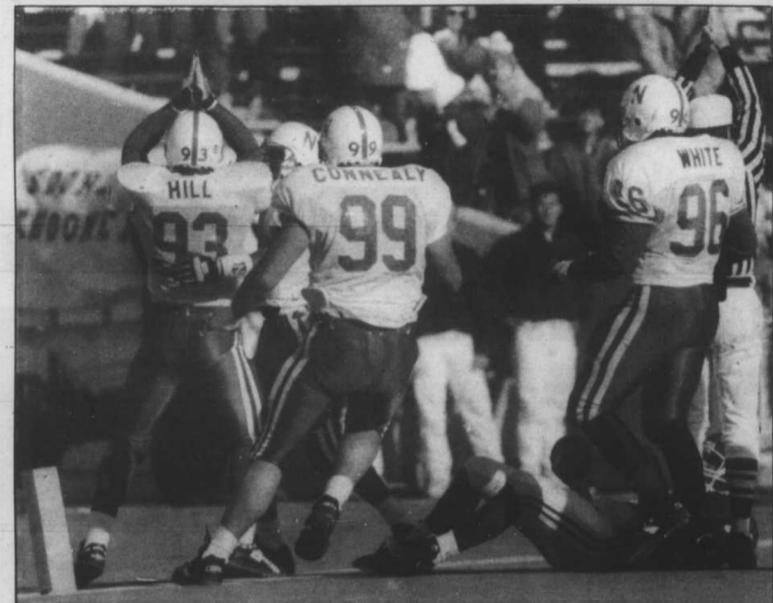
Oklahoma coach Gary Gibbs said not being able to compete in a bowl game this year represented the Sooners' season-long disappointments.

"We wanted to win and we wanted to go to Hawaii," Gibbs said. "We've had some frustrating games throughout the season. When you have disappointments, frustration mounts."

## Nebraska-Oklahoma Scoring Summary

| Points by quarters |   |   |   |    |     |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|-----|
| Nebraska           | 7 | 3 | 9 | 14 | —33 |
| Oklahoma           | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0  | —9  |

- Scoring stats**
- 1 CU—Blanton, 33 yd. field goal  
NU—Stewart, 50 yd. interception return (Bennett kick)
  - 2 CU—Blanton, 22 yd. field goal  
CU—Blanton, 42 yd. field goal  
NU—Bennett, 33 yd. field goal
  - 3 NU—Armstrong, 24 yd. pass from Frazier (Bennett kick)  
NU—Hill, sacks Gundy for safety
  - 4 NU—Jones, 14 yd. run (Bennett kick)  
NU—Jones, 2 yd. run (Bennett kick)



Top: Tommie Frazier keeps the ball on an option in the Cornhuskers' 33-9 win at Oklahoma. Above: Sooner quarterback Cale Gundy avoids the rush of outside linebacker Travis Hill. Gundy threw two interceptions and was sacked for a safety in the game. Left: Hill celebrates a third quarter safety after sacking Gundy to put Nebraska up 19-9. Right: Husker I-Back Derek Brown is tackled by William Shankle. Brown left the game in the third quarter with a separated shoulder and will miss the Huskers' final regular season game against Kansas State.

Photos by: Erik Unger