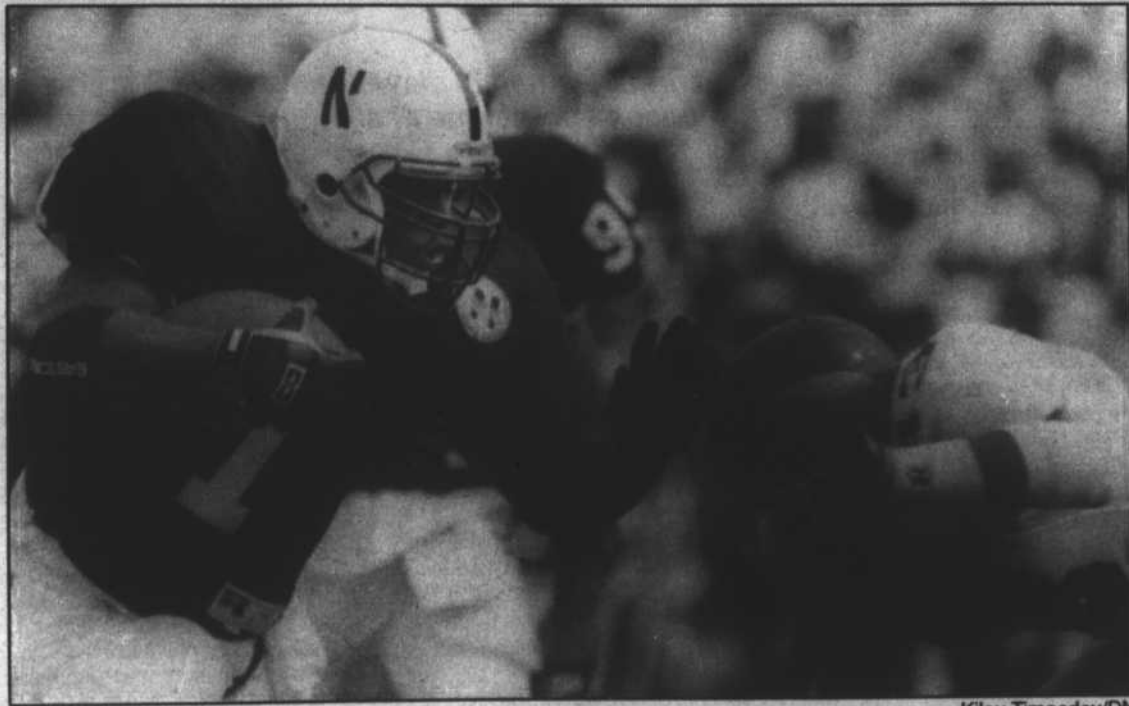


# Huskers to face league's toughest defense



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips, the Big Eight's leading rusher, tries to elude Colorado State's Scott Lynch during the Cornhuskers' win Sept. 25. With I-back Calvin Jones' return, Phillips may have a hard time holding on to his conference rushing lead.

## Jones says short week hurts

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Reporter

The extra week that Nebraska had to prepare for Oklahoma State could have a big impact Thursday night, Cowboys' coach Pat Jones said.

"I would have to give the upper hand to Nebraska with the week off," Jones said. "They are rested and they haven't been tested in their first four games, although they did get pressed a little bit against UCLA."

Because Jones' team has been involved in some close games early in the season, he said, he's concerned about the emotional level of his team.

"We had three fairly close ball games of an emotional nature and that does concern me a little bit," Jones said. "We have got to get

fresh and get our legs under us." The younger Oklahoma State players also do not get a chance to work on their fundamentals during a short week.

"We have a lot of young guys, especially on the offensive line, and the downside of this for us is probably the young guys need tough, fundamental work, which will probably get slighted this week," Jones said.

While Jones is concerned about Oklahoma State's inexperience on offense, the defense is the Cowboys' strength, he said.

Although Oklahoma State has the top-ranked defense in the Big Eight, Cowboys' defensive coordinator Bill Miller said he was worried that the Nebraska offense would be too potent.

"I have a list as long as a horse's leg about what I am worried about playing against Nebraska's offense," Miller said. "They have great backs; their offensive line completely overmatches us physically, and they are fresh."

Along with being concerned about Nebraska's offense, Miller said he also was worried about the play of his defense.

Although the Cowboys' defense hasn't allowed a rushing touchdown this season, Miller said it did not play as well as he expected during Oklahoma State's 27-22 win over TCU on Saturday.

"I was disappointed with the way we executed," Miller said. "Our guys didn't do their jobs, and they better execute this week or we'll get run off the field."

## Osborne goes for 200th victory against Cowboys

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Reporter

When Nebraska and Oklahoma State go head-to-head on Thursday night, the Big Eight's best offense will be lining up against the conference's top defense.

Nebraska enters the game leading the Big Eight in every major offensive category besides passing.

Oklahoma State has the conference's best rushing defense, passing defense and total defense, and they have not allowed a rushing touchdown this season.

Because of the opposing strengths, anticipate a hard-hitting

game with the Cowboys, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

"Oklahoma State is the best defensive team we have faced all year," Osborne said. "I think it is going to be a real head-knocker."

Nebraska should be able to withstand a hard-hitting game better after a week's rest, Osborne said.

"The week off has been good," Osborne said. "Overall, we should be in better shape than at any time this season."

Tommie Frazier, Donta Jones, Bruce Moore, Abdul Muhammad and Corey Dixon will all be playing healthier than they have been the

See HUSKERS on 8

## Game day

Thursday, 7 p.m.  
TV: ESPN (channel 23)

Nebraska

Oklahoma St.



### OFFENSE

QB	15 Tommie Frazier	6-2	200	QB	9 Tone Jones	5-11	170
DT	40 Cory Schlesinger	6-0	220	FB	49 Marc Spatz	6-2	230
IB	44 Calvin Jones	5-11	215	TB	23 Daryl Johnson	5-7	195
SE	2 Corey Dixon	5-11	200	SE	3 Shannon Culver	5-10	160
WB	27 Abdul Muhammad	5-9	160	FL	22 Rafael Denson	5-8	180
RT	72 Zach Wiegart	6-5	300	RT	75 Mike Butler	6-2	295
LT	77 Lance Lundberg	6-4	300	LT	64 Derek Leinen	6-4	270
RG	66 Brenden Stal	6-4	300	RG	59 Alan Orts	6-3	292
LG	56 Rob Zatechka	6-5	300	LG	55 Anthony Greenlee	6-1	320
C	82 Ken Martin	6-0	275	C	56 Bryan Hope	6-4	260
TE	95 Gerald Armstrong	6-2	225	TE	88 Derek Jones	6-3	255
PK	13 Byron Bennett	6-1	180	PK	13 Lawson Vaughn	6-0	180

### DEFENSE

LOLB	90 Bruce Moore	6-6	245	LE	89 Jevon Langford	6-4	220
DT	67 Kevin Ramaekers	6-4	290	LT	98 Lorenzo Green	6-2	250
NT	99 Terry Connealy	6-5	275	RT	95 Tyler Williams	6-2	250
ROLB	34 Troy Albers	6-4	240	RE	83 Jason Gildon	6-4	240
SAM	23 Ernie Beler	5-11	200	SLB	44 Keith Burns	6-2	235
MIKE	46 Mike Anderson	6-2	230	MLB	40 Richie Ansley	6-2	235
WILL	32 Ed Stewart	6-1	215	WLB	57 Linc Harden	6-4	230
LCB	14 Barron Miles	5-8	160	LC	7 Delvin Myles	5-10	170
RCB	6 John Reece	6-0	200	SS	35 Charles Verner	6-1	205
ROV	3 Toby Wright	6-1	200	FS	36 Scott Harmon	5-8	190
FS	4 Troy Dumas	6-3	215	RC	8 Cleavon Williams	5-10	178
P	13 Byron Bennett	6-1	180	P	10 Scott Tyner	6-0	185

DN graphic

## Huskers will put Cowboy's numbers to test, coach says

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

Even though Oklahoma State is ranked first in the Big Eight in total defense through four games, Cowboy defensive coordinator Bill Miller isn't sure how good his defense really is.

He may find out tonight.

"I'm not sure how good we really are with the schedule we've played," he said.

The Cowboys are 3-1 on the season after last Saturday's 27-22 win over Texas Christian. The 22 points given up to the Horned Frogs were the most Oklahoma State has given up this season.

The Cowboy defense leads the Big Eight in rushing defense, pass efficiency defense and total defense. The Cowboys also are ranked 13th in the country in total defense, giving up 287.3 yards per game.

But Miller said the Cowboys weren't

concerned with those statistics right now.

"At the end of the year it would be nice to be up there," he said. "But it doesn't mean anything now."

"We spend absolutely no time looking at that."

Miller said this year's Cowboy defense could be the best he's had in his five years at Oklahoma State.

"I think we have the chance to be one of the best here," he said. "When I coached a

couple of years after I got out of school, we had a couple of fair defenses.

"But it remains to be seen. This defense has the opportunity to be a good defense."

Oklahoma State hasn't allowed a rushing touchdown this season, but Miller said it would be tough to keep that streak alive against Nebraska.

With running back Calvin Jones healthy

See COWBOYS on 8

## Jordan's retirement is giant loss for game of basketball

The "American Dream" has vanished.

After the teary farewells of Nolan Ryan and George Brett, the most shocking retirement of all took place Wednesday.

Michael Jordan announced his retirement before a huge media contingent in Deerfield, Ill.

Jordan may have been the best basketball player who ever played the game.

The loss of Jordan is sort of like a loss in the family.

Ever since Jordan came into the league, he has been viewed as an idol by many.

Just start naming off all of the commercials you've seen him in. Nike, Gatorade, Hanes and a whole slew of others come to mind.

Basketball fans had never seen a player like Michael Jordan.

Here was a man who led his team to three consecutive National Basketball Association championships. A man who won seven straight scoring titles. A man who could perform de-

fyng dunks in mid-air.

But most of all, Jordan was a man who almost everyone around the world admires and idolizes.

Kids all over the world are saying "I want to be like Mike."

Remember those pick-up games you used to play. You always picked a player in the NBA.

"I'm Magic Johnson."

"No I want to be Magic!"

"I'll be Larry Bird."

And then there was always the most popular pick.

"I want to be like Mike."

The most likely pick for me was Jordan. Just thinking I was Michael Jordan made me play better. It just made me feel special out there on the court.

I didn't have anywhere near the moves that Michael did, but I think I had the better imagination.

I remember shooting on a Nerf hoop in my room, just trying to be like Mike.

"Pearson dribbles through his legs, bursts through traffic and slams down



Tim  
Pearson

a thunderous 360 dunk. The crowd is going berserk."

Sorry, I was just daydreaming.

At 10:04 a.m. yesterday, with Jordan's wife to his left and Chicago Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf to his right, Jordan announced his retirement. It was then that my heart sank.

Even though I despised the Bulls, I admired Michael Jordan.

Here was a man who gets hounded by fans and press everywhere he goes. People follow his every step but he still maintains his integrity despite the constant pressure.

But then Reinsdorf announced the one thing I didn't want to hear.

Michael was definitely retiring. What a loss it will be for the Bulls. What a loss it will be for the NBA. And

most of all, what a loss it will be for the fans who love and adore Jordan.

Jordan had been through a lot over the last year. The Bulls had won their third straight championship. Jordan was involved in a gambling scandal with Richard Esquinas. Then came the clincher.

James Jordan, Michael's dad, was kidnapped and killed this summer.

Michael said his dad's death wasn't the reason for his retirement.

But he did hit the thousands of people watching with his most emotional reason behind his retirement.

Jordan said the biggest positive out of his retirement after his dad's death was that his dad "saw my last basketball game."

It's sort of fitting. Jordan and his father were very close. Not everyone would make an underwear commercial with their father.

Unfortunately, Jordan wouldn't be able to prove anything to his dad anymore. And he just didn't have anything else to prove to the basketball world. Look at what he has accomplished.

He was by far the best basketball player to walk the earth.

He's done everything that's been asked of him.

"I don't have anything else to prove," he said. "The desire was not there."

For now, golf and pick-up games are at the top of Jordan's list of endeavors.

Somehow, it's hard for me to imagine seeing Air Jordan playing a pick-up game on a cement court with no nets on the baskets.

But then again, Jordan loves the game, and I'm sure the game will never leave him.

Jordan left open the opportunity that he may come back to basketball later.

Jordan said he would miss the game. The game will most certainly miss Jordan.

Pearson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.