

# Huskers upend Colorado's upset b

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

BOULDER, Colo.—As Colorado threatened to score and win the game in the fourth quarter of Saturday's matchup with Nebraska, Cornhusker linebacker Trev Alberts had visions of the Buffaloes' 27-12 comeback win in 1990.

But Alberts and the Huskers made sure the Buffaloes' fourth-quarter magic didn't work this time.

The Cornhuskers, on the strength of three interceptions and stingy defense, pulled out their first win at Colorado since 1987. The sixth-ranked Huskers beat the No. 20 Buffaloes 21-17 in front of a crowd of 52,277 at Folsom Field.

The win propelled the Huskers into the foreground as a contender for the national title, coach Tom Osborne said.

"The players want to win every game, and I think we have a chance for sure," he said. "They'll find a way to get it done somehow. This is a better team than we've had for a while."

Alberts said the Huskers, now 8-0 and 4-0 in the Big Eight, didn't want their hard work to end in a loss.

"My biggest fear was to play this well and then see them get lucky like they have in the past," he said.

And the Buffaloes, who fell to 4-3-1, almost did pull off some fourth-quarter magic.

Colorado stormed back from a 21-3 deficit to make it 21-17 with 2:54 left in the game. After forcing the Huskers to punt, Colorado got the ball at its own 47-yard line with 1:41 left.

After a 13-yard completion by Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart, Husker free safety John Reece intercepted a Stewart pass at the Nebraska 30-yard line to seal the win.

Alberts said he didn't know what happened on the play.

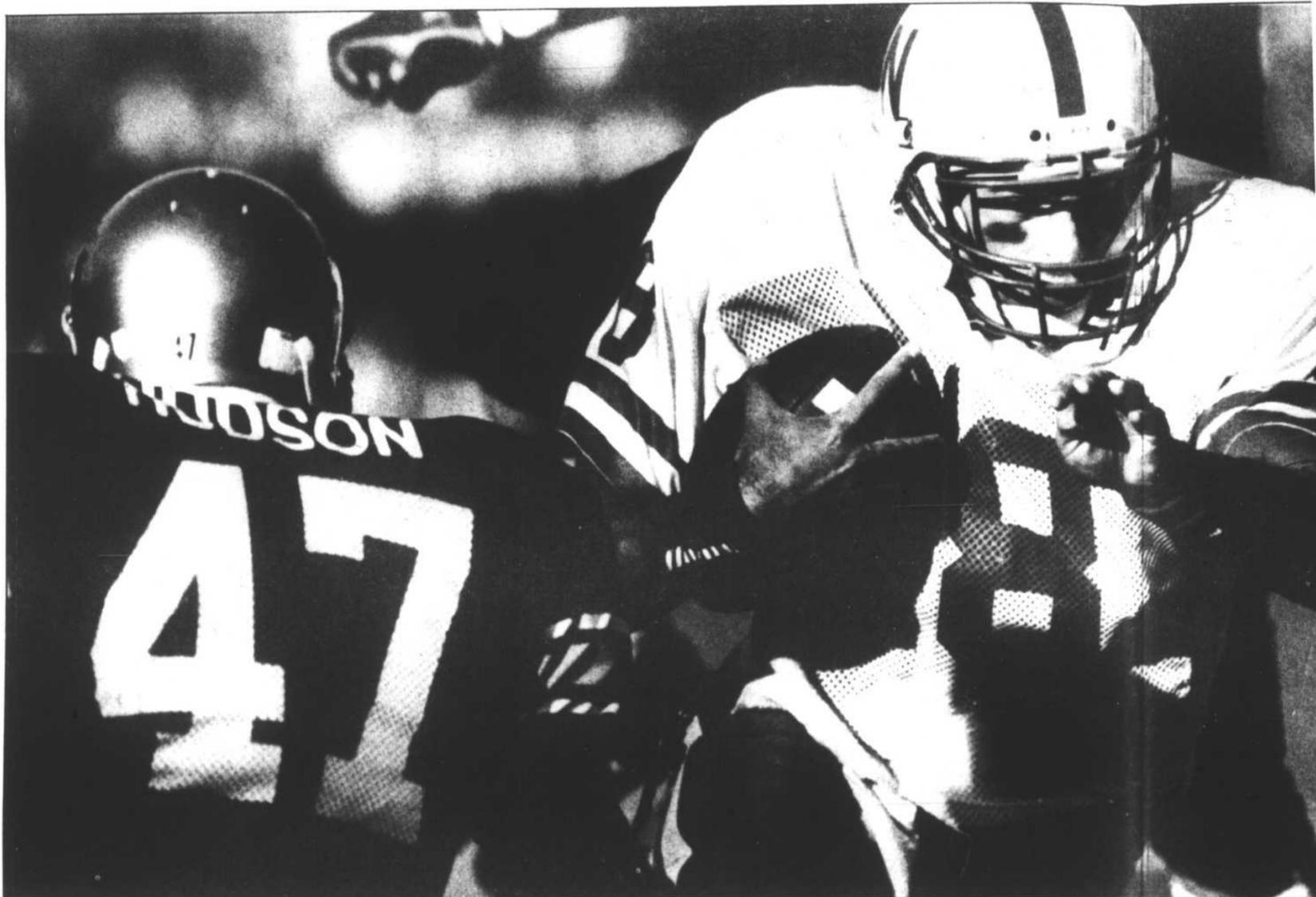
"I heard the Big Red fans go crazy, but I thought it was just an incomplete pass," he said.

Osborne said his team was glad to get out of Boulder with a win and their perfect record still intact.

"I was pleased with the win," Osborne said. "It was more of a nailbiter than it should have been."

Injuries to quarterback Tommie Frazier and I-back Calvin Jones made the game closer than it should have been, Osborne said.

Despite suffering a sprained shoulder in the third quarter, Frazier threw for 167 yards and rushed for a team-



high 69 yards.

"Jones had leg cramps and probably didn't play half the game," Osborne said. "Frazier said his shoulder was hurting so bad that he couldn't run the option."

"Not having Tommie hurt us at times."

Alberts said the Huskers were still confident they could win without Frazier and Jones.

"They've been down earlier in the year," he said. "We just find a way to win."

"That's our motto. Coach Osborne said we will find a way to win." But when the Huskers did have

Frazier and Jones, the offense clicked.

After stopping the Buffaloes on their first possession, split end Corey Dixon returned Mitch Berger's punt 68 yards to the Colorado 4-yard line.

Then Jones, who finished with only 31 yards rushing, went four yards over the middle for the touchdown to give the Huskers a quick lead 1:43 into the game.

After a Colorado field goal, Nebraska scored again on a Jones' 10-yard run.

The Huskers forced Colorado to punt and then Frazier hit Dixon with a 60-yard touchdown pass to put the Huskers up 21-3.

After Colorado running back Rashaan Salaam, who rushed for 165 yards, scored on a 15-yard run to make it 21-10, Nebraska had chances to increase its lead, but misfired on at least four possessions.

Placekicker Byron Bennett missed three field goals and Frazier threw an interception in the end zone to end the Huskers' scoring threat in the third quarter.

In the third quarter, the Huskers, with Brook Berringer at quarterback for the injured Frazier, had the ball at the Colorado 1-yard line, but the Buffs held them and forced a Bennett field-goal attempt that sailed wide left.

"Their goal-line stand put them in a position to win the game," Osborne said. "I thought we could get up by 14 points."

Colorado then drove 80 yards and scored on a Salaam 1-yard dive to make it 21-17.

After Nebraska was forced to punt with 1:43 left, it was up to the Blackshirts.

Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride told his players that it was their job to win the game.

"I told them you can't win championships without defense. Defense wins championships. Period."

Clockwise from above: Nebraska quarterback Brock Huard (right) eludes Colorado defensive end Bruce Moore and Mike Andersen. Nebraska's Kordell Stewart flies past Colorado's Matt Russell on a punt return.

Photos by Travis

## Game stats Nebraska 21 Colorado 17

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Nebraska	21	0	0	0	21
Colorado	3	7	0	7	17

SCORING BY QUARTER			Time left
Nebraska	Colorado		
7	3	Calvin Jones 4-yard run	13:17
		Mitch Berger 22-yard field goal	9:41
14		Jones 10-yard run	4:58
21		Tommie Frazier-Corey Dixon 60-yard pass	1:00
	10	Rashaan Salaam 15-yard run	10:46
	17	Salaam 1-yard run	2:54



RUSHING LEADERS					RUSHING LEADERS						
	ATT	Net yards	Ave. gain	Long	TD		ATT	Net yards	Ave. gain	Long	TD
T. Frazier	15	69	4.6	26	0	R. Salaam	25	165	6.6	36	2
L. Phillips	16	58	3.6	17	0	L. Warren	3	16	5.3	9	0
C. Jones	12	31	2.6	10	2	TOTAL	40	189	4.7		2
TOTAL	55	190	3.5		2						

PASSING					PASSING				
	Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD		Comp.-Att.	Pct.	Yds.	TD
T. Frazier	7-17	.41	167	1	K. Stewart	8-28	.29	115	0

PASS RECEIVING				PASS RECEIVING			
	No.	Yards	TD		No.	Yards	TD
A. Muhammad	4	80	0	C. Johnson	4	65	0
C. Dixon	1	60	1	R. Salaam	3	37	0

TACKLES				TACKLES			
	Total	Unassisted	Assists		Total	Unassisted	Assists
Toby Wright	10	6	4	Ted Johnson	12	8	4
Ed Stewart	9	2	7	Matt Russell	11	3	8
Trev Alberts	8	6	2				



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