

SPORTS

Monday, August 29, 1994

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Huskers kick off season with shutout win

Game Stats

**Nebraska 31
West Virginia 0**

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Nebraska	3	21	0	7
West Virginia	0	0	0	0

Neb- FG Tom Sieler
Neb- Tommie Frazier 25yd run (Sieler kick)
Neb- Reggie Baul 12yd pass from Frazier (Sieler kick)
Neb- Frazier 27yd run (Sieler kick)
Neb- Frazier 42yd run (Sieler kick)

Rushing				Rushing			
	Att.	Yds.		Att.	Yds.		Att.
Frazier	12	130	Walker	12	46		
Phillips	24	126	Barber	6	23		
Schlesinger	8	31	Gary	2	4		

Passing				Passing			
	Comp.	Att.	Int.	Yds.		Comp.	Att.
Frazier	8	16	2	100	Boykin	4	13
Phillips	0	1	0	0	Johnston	2	6

Receiving		Receiving			
No.	Yds.	No.	Yds.		
Baul	3	46	Vanterpool	3	50
Phillips	2	17	Purnell	2	36
Muhammad	1	23	Gary	1	-5
Gilman	1	7			
Holbein	1	7			

NU's MVP Tommie Frazier



Breakdown	Neb.	WVU
First Downs	28	9
Rushes-yards	60-368	38-8
Passing	100	81
Return Yards	152	10
Comp-Att-Int	8-17-2	6-19-2
Punts-avg.	3-48	9-60
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	4-1
Penalties-Yards	6-41	5-44
Time of Possession	33:52	26:08

DN graphic

Blackshirts rack up first shutout since '92

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Nebraska's offense controlled the ball and the defense took advantage of West Virginia's offense, combining forces to shut down the Mountaineers in the Kickoff Classic.

The No. 3 Cornhuskers defeated No. 24 West Virginia 31-0 at the 12th annual Kickoff Classic before a crowd of 58,223 at Giants Stadium.

The game's most valuable player, Tommie Frazier, who rushed for 130 yards on 12 carries and had eight completions for 100 yards, said the Nebraska offense simply wore down the Mountaineers as the game went on.

"They had a great defense," Frazier said. "I guess they got fatigued or tired. Once their defense got tired, there was no way they were going to keep up with our offense."

West Virginia coach Don Nehlen agreed, and said the experience Frazier had over his own quarterbacks—Chad Johnston and Eric Boykin—was a big difference.

"Our quarterbacks didn't have a chance," Nehlen said. "We have a lot of work to do everywhere. That was never more evident than in the first half."

The Husker offense controlled the ball for 18:17 of the first half, and used that to take a 24-0 halftime lead. Husker running back Lawrence Phillips spearheaded the attack with 94 first-half rushing yards. He finished the day

with 126 yards on 24 carries.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne was pleased with the first-half performance, however, he said the Huskers could have scored more than they did.

Turnovers plagued the Huskers all day. Nebraska had two first-half turnovers and three in the second half. Frazier threw two interceptions on the day.

"We had some chances," Osborne said. "The sad thing is that we probably should have scored one more time in the first half."

The Nebraska scoring began with a 32-yard field goal by Tom Sieler with 34 seconds remaining in the first quarter. The field goal was Sieler's first-ever field goal at Nebraska.

Frazier then gave Nebraska a 10-0 lead after a 25-yard touchdown run with 10:49 left in the second quarter.

The Nebraska defense set up the Huskers' next score.

Nebraska linebacker Doug Colman, who hails from Ventnor, N.J., forced and recovered a fumble by West Virginia's Boykin, who entered the game in the second quarter after Johnston started the game.

The fumble recovery gave the Huskers the ball on the West Virginia 12-yard line.

Nebraska took advantage, and two plays later, Frazier hit Reggie Baul, who made a diving catch in the end zone to extend the lead to 17-0.

A key West Virginia penalty aided Nebraska on its final score of the half.

Punter Darin Erstad, who also plays baseball for Nebraska, was roughed on a fourth down and eight as he punted from the Nebraska 46-yard line. The roughing the kicker penalty on Mountaineer Vann Washington gave Nebraska a first down. Two plays later, Frazier scored on a 27-yard run.

"In the second quarter we noticed they were tired," Phillips said. "It was an opportunity... It made us get from the huddle a little quicker."

While the offense built its lead by wearing down the Mountaineer defense, the Nebraska defense allowed just four net yards and two first downs in the first half.

Linebacker Ed Stewart said the defense stuck with its game plan and said speed was a major reason for the team's first shutout since it blanked Oklahoma State 55-0 on Oct. 10, 1992.

"It looked like we were quicker today," Stewart said. "It was important to get well as a unit."

Frazier took Stewart's words a step further.

"Defensively we are a lot better than last year," he said.

In the second half, the Husker defense continued to dominate the Mountaineers.

Nebraska didn't allow West Virginia to cross midfield until a Cory Schlesinger fumble gave the Mountaineers the ball at the Nebraska 44-yard line with 13:05 left in the fourth quarter.

But West Virginia couldn't put the ball in the end zone.

Frazier finished off the scoring for Nebraska with a 42-yard run with 7:27 remaining in the game.

The Nebraska defense stopped West Virginia's final attempts to avoid the shutout when cornerback Sedric Collins intercepted a Boykin pass in the end zone with 2:12 remaining.

Osborne said although the offense did well, the defense deserved a lot of the credit.

"To have a great football team, you need a great defense," Osborne said. "We did a good job of mixing things up."

Volleyball team sweeps up in match against alumnae

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team made short order of a group of 10 former Cornhusker stars at the NU Coliseum Saturday night.

Behind the play of All Big-Eight middle blocker Allison Weston, the current Huskers won the exhibition match 15-4, 15-12, 15-10 and 15-7 before a crowd of 1,583. Weston led Nebraska with 19 kills.

The 6-foot junior from Papillion said Nebraska showed signs of playing to its potential, but it still needed work before this weekend's season-opening Purdue Invitational.

"We have got a lot of things to work on these next few days," Weston said. "We can see them in a game like this."

Junior setter Christy Johnson also played a key role in Nebraska's victory, leading all players with 57 sets.

Despite being swept, the former Huskers held their own for much of the match.

Former Nebraska three-time All-American Stephanie Thater contributed a match-high 20 kills and 13 digs for the alumnae.

Husker assistant coach Val Novak, a two-time All-American, led the alumnae with a .526 hitting percentage.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers performed well, considering it was their first match of the season.

"It gave us the opportunity to look at a lot of situations," Pettit said. "We looked at a lot of different things, and the longer we did them, the more comfortable we got with some of them. I thought it was a very good start for us."

However, the alumnae stayed with the Huskers during the opening moments of the first game.

With the score 6-4 in favor of Nebraska, Weston notched her first kill of the match. The



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska outside hitter Kelly Aspegren blasts a shot in two Nebraska alumnae players during the annual Nebraska alumni game Saturday night at the NU Coliseum.

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