



back Duane Thomas on his 74-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

Scott Bruhn/DN

Second string shines in spotlight, starters sit

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

For the 75,273 fans in attendance for Nebraska's 70-21 drubbing of Pacific Saturday, they were probably wondering one thing.

Who are these guys?
And they probably weren't talking about Pacific.

All 110 players that suited up saw action Saturday, and most of them saw plenty of it.

Quarterback Tommie Frazier played for only nine plays, while starting I-back Lawrence Phillips carried the ball only nine times (and got 138 yards).

Much of the starting defense and offense, especially the lines, only played for three series.

Offensive tackle Zach Wiegert said the game itself didn't do Nebraska much good, but preparing for it did.

"It was a benefit because we worked so hard in practice," Wiegert said. "We might not have benefitted much from the game, but we did so much work in practice, and that's going to help us a lot down the road."

That preparation enabled the game to be such a rout and also let the younger players get the playing time, Wiegert said.

"It showed that we worked hard all week," he said. "It showed that we didn't slack off or take a week off of practice just because of our opponent. We went out there and played like we would against anybody else."

Nebraska's third-string quarterback, Matt Turman, replaced Brook Berringer for the last series of the first half, while the second-, third- and

fourth-string defenses played against the top Pacific offense for most of the game.

Berringer, who finished with a team-high 120 yards passing, shared the signal-calling duties with Turman in the second half.

Linebacker Troy Dumas played in Pacific's first three possession and then took the rest of the game off.

"I wanted to be in there for a couple more series, but they had to get the younger guys ready to play," Dumas said. "That was their time to shine today."

Offensive guard Brenden Stai said it didn't matter what unit was in the game for Nebraska to improve as a team.

"Each week I think we improve, and I think practice really does that for us," Stai said. "As far as playing that game out there, I think we improved as a team because we got a lot more experience with the second- and third-stringers."

"I had fun watching the guys out there. It felt kind of strange just sitting there the whole game. I haven't done that for a couple years."

But for the many fans that stuck it out, searching through their program for the unfamiliar names and numbers, their patience didn't go unnoticed.

"The only thing I can say is that I really appreciated the fans showing up and selling the place out," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "I looked up there in the middle of the fourth quarter, and there were still most of them (fans) up there. It's unbelievable that people are that faithful."



ng down Pacific wide receiver



Nebraska fullback Jeff Mackovicka runs away from the pack. Offensive guard Bryan Pruitt races to block for him. Mackovicka rushed for 59 yards.

Travis Heying/DN

| Game Stats | | Nebraska 70 | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | Pacific 21 | |
| Scoring | 1st 2nd 3rd 4th | | |
| Nebraska | 28 21 14 7 | | |
| Pacific | 0 0 14 7 | | |
| Neb- Damon Benning 1yd. run (Tom Sieler kick) Neb- Lawrence Phillips 74yd. run (Sieler kick) Neb- Cory Schlesinger 8yd. run (Sieler kick) Neb- Schlesinger 39yd. run (Sieler kick) Neb- Brook Berringer 6yd. run (Sieler kick) Neb- Clester Johnson 15yd. pass from Berringer (Darin Erstad kick) Neb- Eric Alford 46yd. pass from Berringer (Erstad kick) Neb- Abdul Muhammad 18yd. pass from Berringer (Erstad kick) Pac- Joe Abdullah 17yd. pass from Craig Whelihan (Roger Fleenor kick) Neb- Clinton Childs 1yd. run (Ted Retzlaff kick) Pac- Abdullah 2 yd. run (Fleenor kick) Neb- Jeff Lake 24yd. pass from Matt Turman (Retzlaff kick) Pac- Damon Bowers 9yd. pass from Nick Sellers (Fleenor Kick) | | | |
| Rushing | Att. Yds. | Rushing | Att. Yds. |
| Phillips | 9 138 | Reeder | 4 34 |
| Benning | 10 87 | Abdullah | 6 20 |
| Childs | 10 64 | Green | 4 17 |
| Makovicka | 3 59 | Edwards | 2 9 |
| Passing | Comp-Att. Int. Yds. | Passing | Comp-Att. Int. Yds. |
| Berringer | 8-15 0 120 | Whelihan | 2-4 0 279 |
| Turman | 3-4 0 43 | Sellers | 2-2 0 11 |
| Receiving | No. Yds. | Receiving | No. Yds. |
| Baul | 2 26 | Watley | 7 126 |
| Alford | 1 46 | Brown | 4 28 |
| Childs | 1 26 | Atkins | 4 29 |
| Lake | 1 24 | Green | 3 26 |
| Breakdown | Neb. Pacific | | |
| First Downs | 32 20 | | |
| Rushes-yards | 59-510 25-84 | | |
| Passing | 189 290 | | |
| Return-Yards | 94 -2 | | |
| Comp-Att-Int | 12-22-0 27-51-2 | | |
| Punts-avg. | 1-45 7-29 | | |
| Fumbles-Lost | 2-1 1-0 | | |
| Penalties-Yards | 8-90 5-37 | | |
| Time of Possession | 31:38 28:22 | | |

NU's MVP /ook /erringer

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