

SPORTS

Tuesday, October 11, 1994

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NU softball beats Mizzou, captures title

By Jeff Griesch
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team used two last-inning victories over Kansas and Missouri to end the fall season with a 15-1 record and the Big Eight Classic fall tournament championship Sunday in Independence, Mo.

Amy Offenbacher's single in the top of the ninth inning scored Rachel Dunham as the ball was misplayed by the Missouri centerfielder to give the Cornhuskers a 6-5 win over the Tigers.

The Huskers led 4-0 until the sixth inning, when Missouri stormed back with four runs to send the game to extra innings. Both teams scored a run in the eighth before Nebraska won in the ninth.

Nebraska coach Rhonda Revelle said winning the Big Eight's fall championship was a big step for the Huskers.

"It means we've turned a corner," Revelle said. "It means a tremendous amount. We've got a lot of new players, and right now they know they can get the job done."

In Revelle's first season at Nebraska, the Huskers struggled, posting a final record of 18-23.

See CLASSIC on 8

Wildcats coach commends NU, warns his team

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

This is not a normal week in Manhattan, Kan.

As Kansas State, which is ranked 11th by the coaches and 16th by the writers, prepares to host second-ranked Nebraska Saturday, excitement has reached new heights in the town formerly known as the home to the worst college football program in the country.

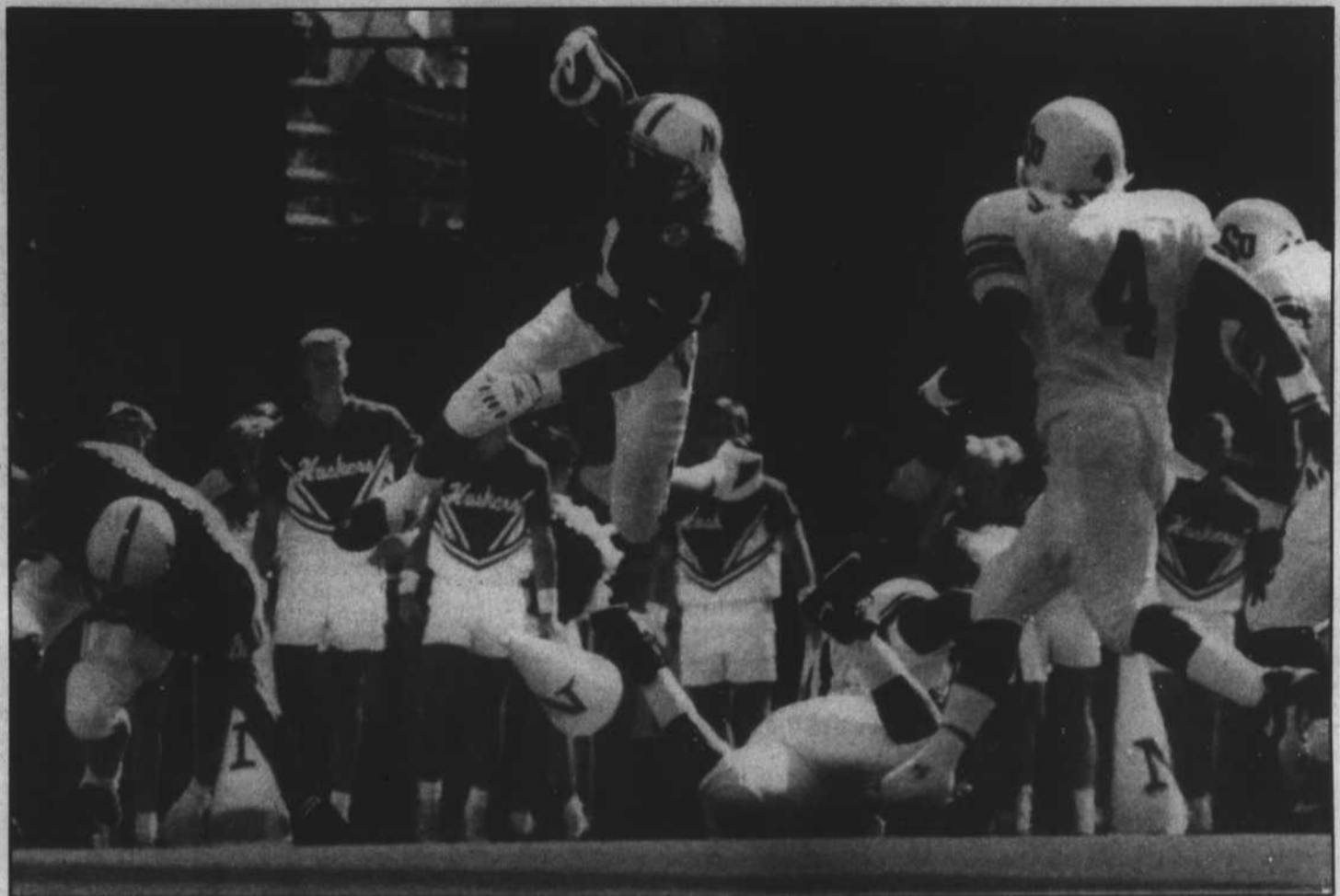
Undefeated Kansas State, which has not lost at home since Oct. 27, 1992, will be making its first national network television appearance in almost 12 years. Saturday's game will be broadcast regionally on ABC. Kickoff is scheduled for 11:08 a.m.

The Wildcats, ranked No. 1 in the New York Times Computer poll, are allowing only 111.5 yards per game rushing and 9.3 points per contest.

All signs point to a battle, but Wildcat coach Bill Snyder is warning that no time is a good time to face the Cornhuskers.

"I don't think your chances against Nebraska are very good in any situation," Snyder said.

See SNYDER on 8



Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips leaps over an Oklahoma State defender. Phillips became the 19th Nebraska player to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season Saturday.

In a single bound

Phillips is the big gun in NU arsenal

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

After doctors said a blood clot would end quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Tommie Frazier's season, many Husker fans thought a shot at the national championship went down with the quarterback.

But Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips has shouldered the load, gaining a career-high 221 yards in the Cornhuskers' 32-3 win over Oklahoma State Saturday.

Phillips, who after Saturday's performance has been mentioned as a Heisman candidate, said running the ball is going to continue to be Nebraska's strength with or without Frazier.

"A lot of people thought that maybe the offense wouldn't be as explosive," he said. "I think they thought we'd still be able to run the ball, but not for as many yards without Tommie. We're still able to run the ball well."

"We're taking it all in strides, and we're doing it offensively and defensively. I guess everybody is stepping up and becoming a team. We feel like we can get it done."

Phillips accounted for 221 of Nebraska's

372 yards rushing Saturday to boost his season total to 1,006.

The 6-foot, 200-pound sophomore is the 19th Husker to break the 1,000-yard mark, but Phillips has accomplished it in only six games and is on schedule to be only the second Husker ever to break 2,000 yards in a season — Mike Rozier had 2,148 in 1983.

Phillips went over 1,000 yards on the fifth play of the fourth quarter with a 13-yard run to the Cowboys' 32-yard line.

Phillips, who is averaging 167.7 yards a game and 7.7 a carry, said he knew before the play that he was close to his first 1,000-yard season as a Husker.

"Coach (Frank) Solich called me on the phone and told me I was 19 yards away and that he'd put me in another series to try to go over," he said. "At the beginning of the season, I didn't know when or if I'd go over 1,000 yards, but I'm pretty happy I got 1,000 yards this early in the season."

But with Nebraska's injuries at quarterback, Phillips said the other running backs have had to step up their game some.

And that's exactly what Phillips, Clinton Childs and Damon Benning did against the

Moving Up

	Yds.-Td	Yds.-Td
Bobby Reynolds	1010-12	1342-19
Lawrence Phillips	1006-10	?????
Mike Rozier	905-11	2148-29
Mike Rozier	866-8	1689-15
Jarvis Redwine	859-8	1119-9

DN Graphic

Cowboys in what Phillips called the Huskers' best running game of the season.

"The backs — we made a lot of people miss," he said. "We got a lot of yards after

See LAWRENCE on 8

Despite limitations, quarterback fantasy may come true

I tell you, my vast readership, I've got dreams, big dreams.

I've dreamed of turtle surfing; I've dreamed of knitting a sweater with the world's largest ball of yarn; hey, I've even dreamed of wearing my own tennis shoes while bowling.

But all these fantasies pale in comparison to my newest dream: I'm the friggin' quarterback for the Cornhuggers.

I know, I know; you're saying, "Beau, you're probably the worst physical specimen we've ever seen, and you don't know a football from a hairball."

You may be right, oh illusory critics, but I've got something going for me that all you naysayers didn't realize: I bear a striking resemblance to Gerry Gdowski.

That's right, babies, I look exactly

like the ex-Hornhonker quarterback. This, of course, is a result of several plastic surgeries, but that doesn't mean anything.

The bottom line is that I look like the G-man, and so who is more qualified than myself to assume the role of quarterback for the Cornpoppers?

Oh, again I hear those nagging criticisms that just because I can't throw a ball more than five yards and because I have a phobia of being touched by 300-pound men, I cannot be a good field general.

Well, to those critics I say um, well, um, er: shut up, you jerks.

Hey, I'm faster, I mean, fast. I've, in fact, been clocked in the 40-yard dash in under 50 seconds, but this time is deceiving because I had to stop halfway through the sprint because there was this one guy standing right in



Beau Finley

front of the finish line with some donuts. And, well, they were jelly-filled and, you know, I REALLY like jelly.

I figured if I hadn't stopped running, I could definitely cut off 10 or 15 seconds from my time.

As far as my throwing ability goes, I figure if Tom Osborne can limit the pass routes of the Husker receivers to three or four yards, I can probably complete some passes. That still makes me a more dangerous thrower than Mickey Joseph.

Hey, this dream of mine isn't exactly out of the blue. I've been inter-

ested in being quarterback for a long time.

In fact, a boyhood friend of mine, Eric Wachter, used to tell me, back when we were kids, that I had the most talent of any kid on the playground.

Actually, now that I think about it, Eric said something more to the effect that if you don't give me back the football, I'm going to beat your butt. But I understood. That was always his way of paying someone a compliment.

However, there is a problem. If I was playing quarterback, then I would have to battle Matt Turman, who is currently the second-string quarterback for the Huckfinsters.

For those of you who missed my first couple columns, I referred jokingly to Mr. Turman as a "walk-on wussy" after he twisted his ankle early

in the season.

Since I would be teammates with Matt, I take all that stuff back. I really don't want to get beat up after practice every day.

Matt, you're a tough and talented quarterback and a wonderful human being. I don't know what I was thinking when I called you a wussy.

Beau's Confession: I think it's time I come clean with you, my vast readership. The real reason I want to play quarterback for the Cornchuckers is to impress my girlfriend, Melissa.

I don't want her to think I'm just another pretty law dork. I want her to know that I'm a pretty law dork who has no real athletic ability but can run away from fat guys with helmets on. That would be cool.

Finley is a second-year law student and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.