

Defense shuts off K-State

By Tim Pearson
Senior Editor

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State knew Matt Turman wasn't going to pass the ball much.

The Wildcats also knew Brook Berringer wasn't going to run the ball at all.

What they didn't know was that the Nebraska defense would shut down the Kansas State running game and contain the passing attack of Chad May in the Cornhuskers' 17-6 win on Saturday.

In front of a crowd of 42,817 at KSU Stadium/Wagner Field, the Huskers held the Wildcats to minus 7 yards rushing and 249 yards passing in a steady rain.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said the defense won the game for the Huskers.

"The defense played awfully well considering the firepower of Kansas State," he said.

The Huskers held May to 249 yards passing, a far cry from the 489 yards he had in last year's game. Nebraska also stopped May's Big Eight-record 148 consecutive passes without an interception when Husker linebacker Troy Dumas picked off a pass in the second quarter.

May said the rain affected his passing.

"I don't like to make excuses, but the rain was somewhat of a factor, especially on the long passes, it slipped a little bit," he said. "But I don't think it can be used as an excuse."

Osborne said the rain wasn't much of a factor in the game for the Huskers, who only tried 11 passes all day.

Instead, Husker I-back Lawrence Phillips shouldered the load, rushing for 117 yards.

Phillips scored the first touchdown of the game with 6:12 left in the first quarter to give the Huskers a 7-0 lead.

The 6-foot, 200-pounder carried the ball 31 times. In the 54 plays Phillips was in, he handled the ball 33 times. Phillips also got the ball in 19 of the Huskers' first 22 plays, which didn't bother him one bit.

"I figured we'd run right at them," he said. "I knew I'd get the ball a lot. They played a lot of people up on the line, and it was a lot tougher for us."

The Wildcats came back in the second quarter when May connected

Nebraska Drops After Win

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses.

Rank	School	Pts.	Rec.
1	Penn St. (19)	1,487	6-0-0
2	Colorado (15)	1,474	6-0-0
3	Nebraska (25)	1,463	7-0-0
4	Auburn (3)	1,402	7-0-0
5	Florida	1,196	5-1-0
6	Texas A&M	1,188	6-0-0
7	Miami (Fla.)	1,131	4-1-0
8	Alabama	1,130	7-0-0
9	Washington	1,128	5-1-0
10	Florida St.	1,021	4-1-0
11	Michigan	937	4-2-0
12	Colorado St.	826	7-0-0
13	Texas	817	4-1-0
14	Arizona	764	5-1-0
15	North Carolina	717	5-1-0
16	Syracuse	561	5-1-0
17	Virginia Tech	535	6-1-0
18	Utah	414	6-0-0
19	Kansas St.	391	4-1-0
20	Duke	316	6-0-0
21	Brigham Young	258	6-1-0
22	Boston College	227	3-2-0
23	Washington St.	209	4-2-0
24	Ohio St.	102	5-2-0
25	Virginia	95	5-1-0

The top 25 teams in the USA Today/CNN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses.

Rank	School	Pts.	Rec.
1	Penn St. (22)	1,504	6-0-0
2	Nebraska (31)	1,498	7-0-0
3	Colorado (9)	1,458	6-0-0
4	Miami (Fla.)	1,283	4-1-0
5	Alabama	1,271	7-0-0
6	Florida	1,254	5-1-0
7	Florida St.	1,188	4-1-0
8	Arizona	997	5-1-0
9	Texas	975	4-1-0
10	North Carolina	935	5-1-0
11	Colorado St.	927	7-0-0
12	Michigan	914	4-2-0
13	Virginia Tech	745	6-1-0
14	Syracuse	729	5-1-0
15	Utah	623	6-0-0
16	Kansas St.	559	4-1-0
17	Duke	543	6-0-0
18	Brigham Young	499	6-1-0
19	Ohio St.	424	5-2-0
20	Washington St.	328	4-2-0
21	North Carolina St.	321	5-1-0
22	Virginia	223	5-1-0
23	Boston College	191	3-2-0
24	Indiana	124	5-1-0
25	Illinois	123	4-2-0

DN graphic

with Mitch Running for a 29-yard touchdown pass with 14:55 left in the first half.

But Dumas blocked the extra-point attempt after holder Matt Miller bobbled the snap.

"I just jumped up and there was the ball," Dumas said.

On Kansas State's next drive, the Wildcats held the ball for almost six minutes, but Martin Gramatica missed a 37-yard field goal.

Dumas thwarted another Kansas State scoring attempt when he intercepted May after the Wildcats moved the ball to the Nebraska 21-yard line. Dumas returned it 54 yards to the Kansas State 29-yard line.

"I just saw (May's) arm," Dumas said. "I was thinking (touchdown). I knew I could come real close."

Berringer, suffering from a partially collapsed lung, then entered the game for Turman for the last drive of the half, but he couldn't lead the Huskers to a score. Kicker Darin Erstad missed a 35-yard field goal wide left.

"Offensively we were handicapped a little bit," Osborne said. "I think they knew that Matt Turman wasn't going to throw very much and that Brook Berringer wasn't going to run the option."

The Huskers used only about half of their plays in order to protect Berringer and Turman, who made his first career start on Saturday.

But the Huskers could have been handicapped more when Phillips left the game after injuring his thumb in the first half. He was taken to the hospital, but he came back in the second half.

"It's a sprain or something," he said. "They said if it was broken, I wouldn't come back."

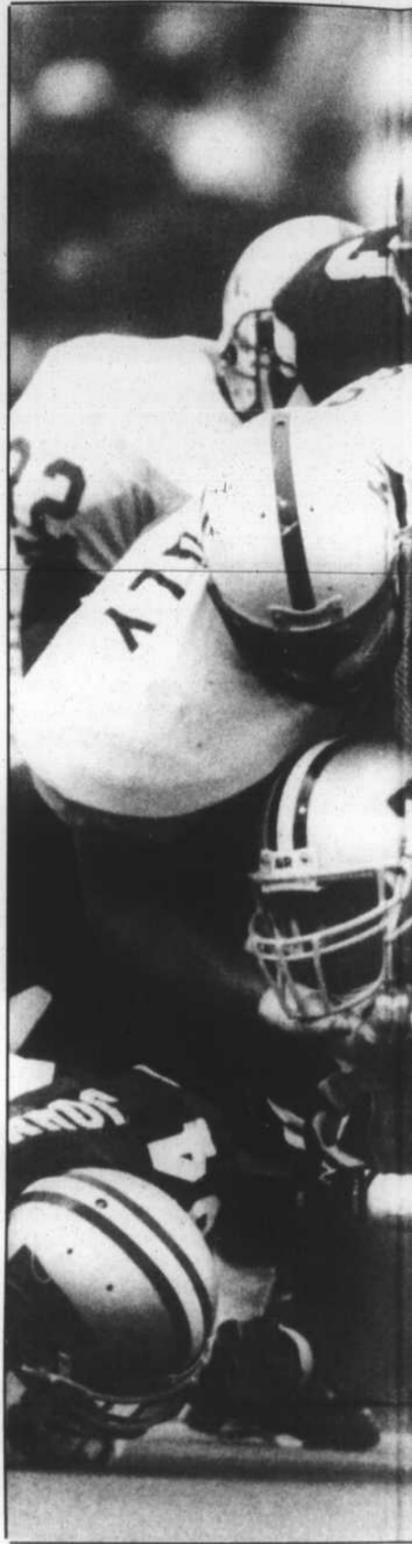
But Phillips did come back to run for 73 yards in the second half. He helped lead the Huskers to their second touchdown in the fourth quarter. He gained 42 yards on the Huskers' scoring drive, which was capped by fullback Jeff Makovicka's 15-yard touchdown run on a trap play with 11:01 left in the game.

"In the fourth quarter, they were getting a little tired," Phillips said. "They were playing the option so the trap was wide open."

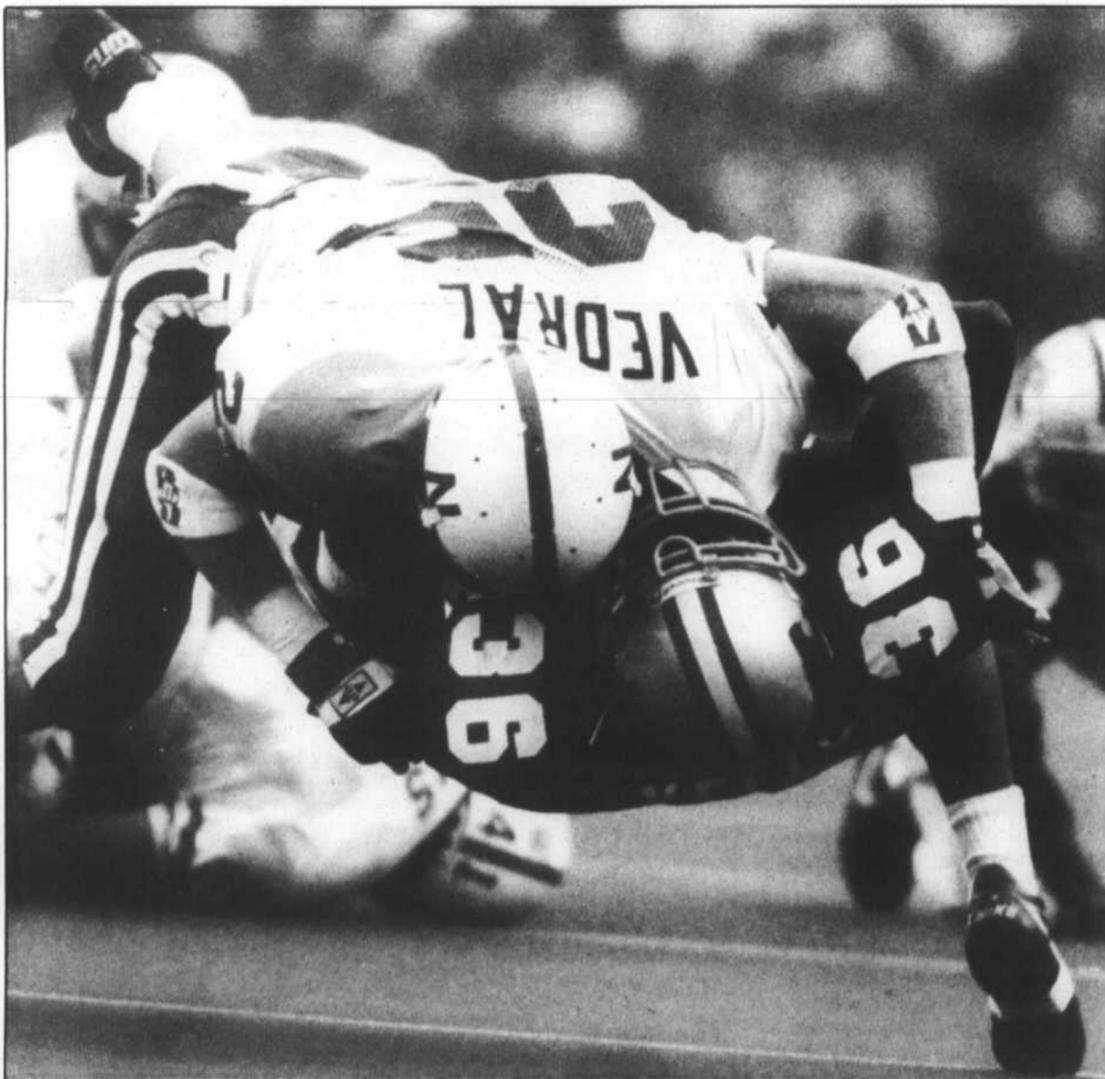
Osborne said the Wildcats probably weren't expecting the trap play up the middle.

"They were obviously putting a lot of attention on Lawrence Phillips,"

See WIN on 8



Nebraska's Terry Connealy and the Wildcats. Smith was held to...



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska's Jon Vedral hits Kansas State fullback Dederick Kelly on the kickoff after Jeff Makovicka's touchdown that put the Huskers up 14-6.



Kansas State's Chuck Marlowe and Chris Chanty tackle Nebraska's Lawrence Phillips during the Cornhuskers' win. Phillips rushed for 117 yards in the game, the longest consecutive game in which Phillips has rushed for more than 100 yards.