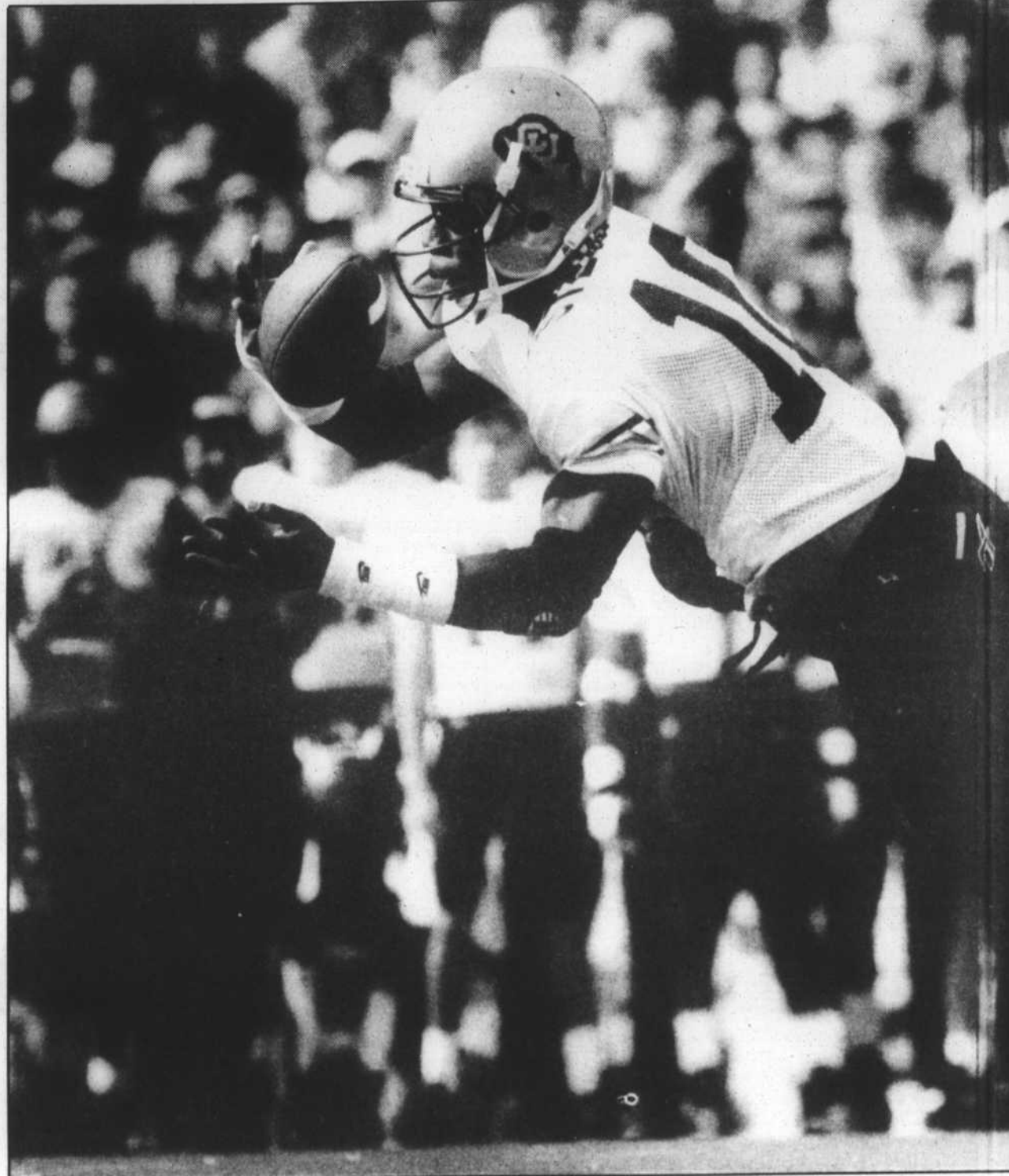




Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska tight end Mark Gilman catches a pass from Brook Berringer, as Colorado free safety T.J. Cunningham hits Gilman. Gilman caught four passes for 46 yards.



Nebraska linebacker Dwayne Harris sacks Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart on Saturday. Stewart had 150 yards. Harris had two tackles for losses.

Nebraska rolls over Buffaloes

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

The numbers that leap out in Nebraska's 24-7 victory over Colorado Saturday are 0 and 15.

That's what the Buffaloes were on third- and fourth-down conversions — 0 for 15. And it helped cost then-No. 2 Colorado a possible Big Eight and national championship in front of 76,131 fans at Memorial Stadium — the 200th consecutive sellout.

The Nebraska defense not only shut Colorado out on third and fourth downs but also pitched a first-half shutout against an offense that was averaging more than 40 points a game.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said the defense had stepped it up in the last four games, giving up a total of 23 points.

"The defense played great football," Osborne said. "I've been very pleased with them, particularly in the last four weeks. I thought the defense was a huge factor throughout the game."

Nebraska took its first possession 45 yards to the Colorado 30-yard line, but a bad snap sailed over quarterback Brook Berringer's head, and two plays later, the Huskers punted.

Darin Erstad's punt was downed at the Buffaloes' 3-yard line, and the field position was set for the day.

"A factor that we really thought was going to be important was the kicking game," Osborne said. "We would probably estimate 10 to 14 points in the kicking game today. When you look at field position and what it did, the kicking game was tremendous today in our favor."

After Colorado ran three plays and punted, Nebraska cashed in on its second possession.

Fullback Cory Schlesinger finished off an eight-play, 51-yard drive with a 14-yard touchdown run.

Schlesinger, who finished with 65



Michelle Paulman/DN

Tommie Frazier, probably out for the season with a blood clot, chats with Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach before the game on Saturday. Frazier tossed the ball around in warm-ups, but he didn't suit up for the game.

yards rushing, said the offensive line was opening up big holes from the first play of the game.

"They (offensive linemen) just came off, and they exploded on the defense," Schlesinger said. "The biggest part is when you can drive them back two yards, the running backs are able to get at least three more yards off it. The offense just came out and took it to them."

Nebraska's 7-0 lead at the end of the first quarter came with a time-of-possession advantage of 11:30 to 3:30.

On the first possession of the second quarter, Nebraska drove inside the Colorado 10-yard line for a first down.

But Nebraska had to settle for a 24-yard Tom Sieler field goal after Colorado denied Berringer a touchdown on third down at the 1-yard line.

Colorado, which was held to 33 yards in the first quarter, looked as if it regained form after Sieler's field goal.

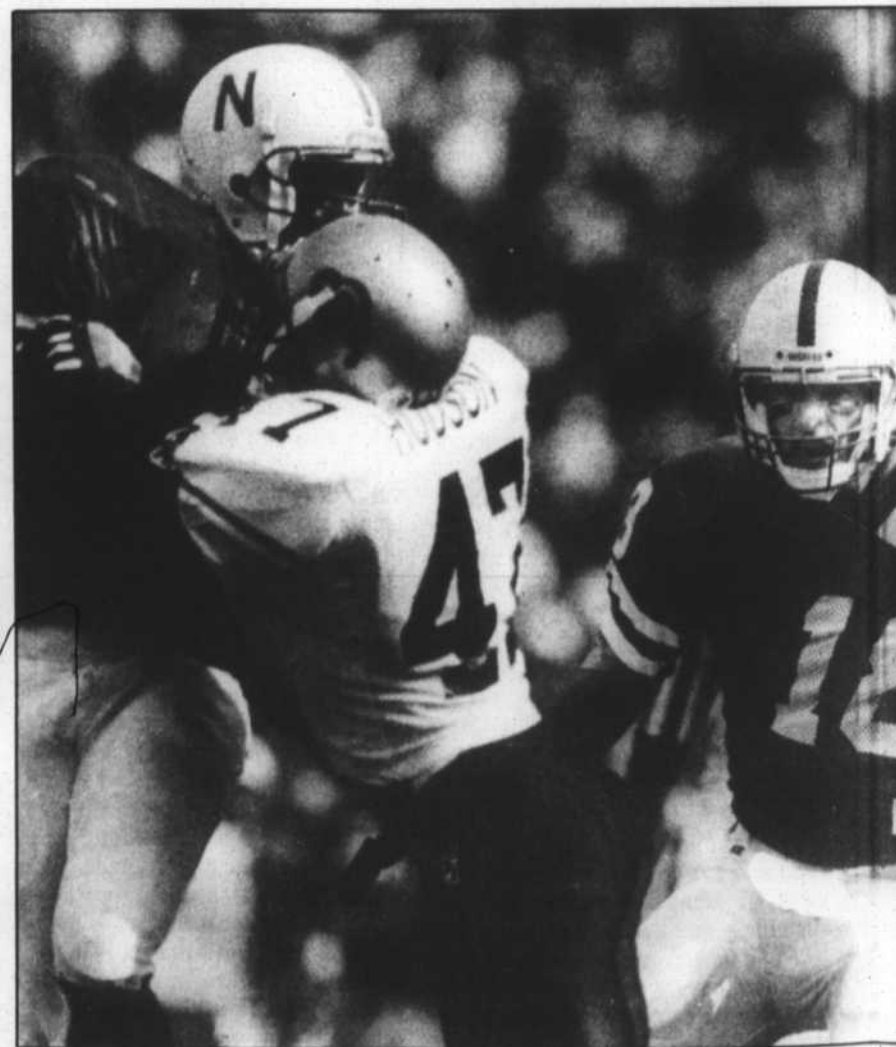
Rashaan Salaam, the nation's leading rusher, ran the ball six times for 28 yards on the following Colorado possession, which went 54 yards to the Nebraska 26.

However, the Huskers' defense forced Colorado into a field goal situation, and Neil Voskeritchian's 43-yard field goal attempt fell short.

Colorado coach Bill McCartney said his team's missed opportunities were a result of Nebraska's performance.

"We can speculate on any number of things, but what we ought to speculate on is that Nebraska just outplayed us," he said.

Nebraska got the ball back with



Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer tries to escape from the grasp of Colorado players and rushed for 19.

See COLORADO on 8