

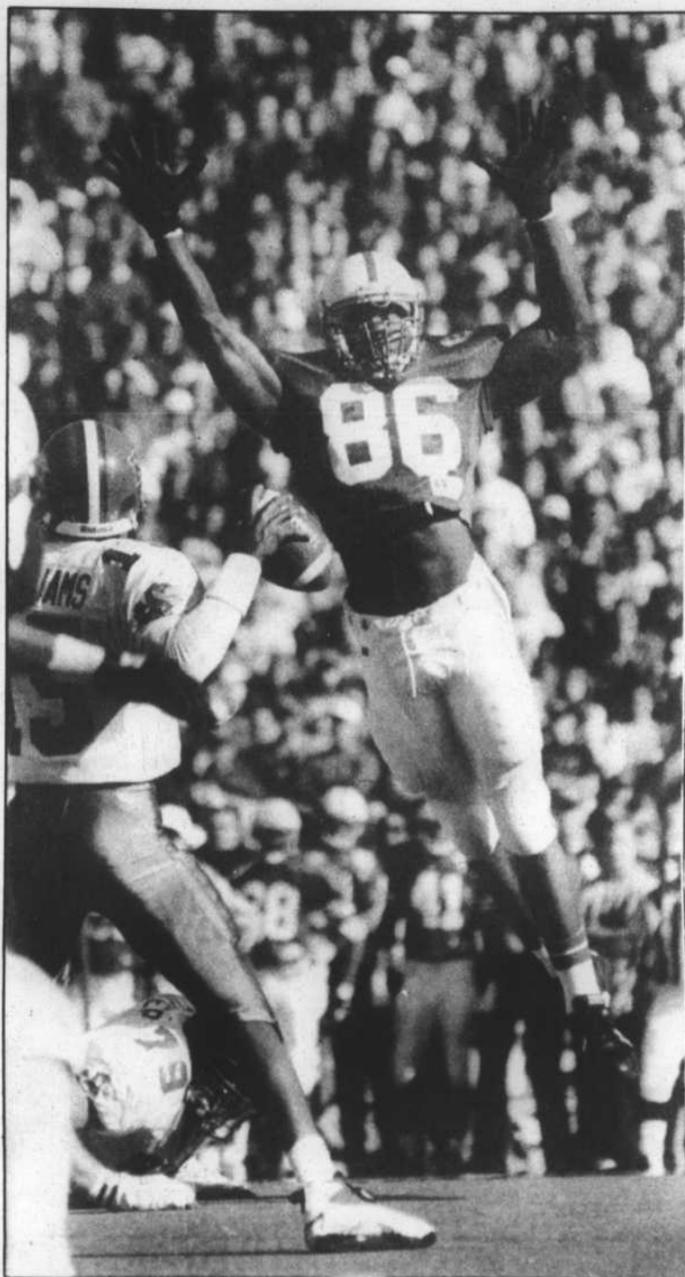
Travis Heying/DN

... Schuster, the No. 3 fullback, got to play late in the game and responded with 25 yards rushing.



Scott Bruhn/DN

...ker Donta Jones grabs Kansas quarterback Mark Williams. Jones had four tackles in his final home game.



Jay Calderon/DN

Outside linebacker Dwayne Harris applies pressure to Kansas quarterback Mark Williams. Harris had four tackles and caused one fumble.

Nebraska air attack frustrates Jayhawks

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Kansas coach Glen Mason may not be surprised that his Jayhawks gave up 336 yards rushing to Nebraska on Saturday in Memorial Stadium.

Nor, chances are, is he in total shock after the No. 1 team in the country beat Kansas 45-17.

But if someone would have told him before the game that his team would give up 267 yards and two touchdowns on a 13-of-18 passing performance, Mason probably would have checked the schedule again to see if it really was Nebraska he was going to play.

Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer had a career day, passing for 267 yards — only 30 yards short of Dave Humm's school record set against Wisconsin in 1973.

Mason said giving up passes that covered 64 and 51 yards would kill a defense against an offense like Nebraska's.

"I'm surprised they threw the ball that well," Mason said. "They hit some big plays. The kind of plays that you just can't give up. You just can't do that."

The big plays, Mason said, may be the result of the Jayhawks stacking a lot of players at the line of scrimmage to stop Nebraska's run.

"We gave up way too many plays, but obviously I knew coming in against a team rushing 370 yards a game that, boy, you've got to stack it up in there," he said. "To do that, you leave yourself vulnerable in some

other areas."

But Mason said it was a risk the Jayhawks had to take.

"If you don't do that, the running game is going to get you," he said. "It's something that you need to do. Just because you commit some extra people to their run doesn't mean you're stopping it. They're awfully good, and you know that as well as I do."

Bouncing back after giving up a big play against Nebraska isn't like coming back against some of the Jayhawks' previous opponents, Mason said.

"To have a chance to play with a great team like Nebraska, you've got to hang with them and not give up big plays," Mason said. "You can't give up big plays on the offensive side either. Obviously, we didn't do that early, and that's why we got beat handily."

Mason said Nebraska's need to rely on the pass was greater with quarterback Tommie Frazier out for the year. And Berringer was perfect for the situation.

"If you stop the run or slow down the run more than they like, they're going to go to Berringer throwing the ball," he said. "They used to go to Frazier running the option. I know that from experience. I think that Brook Berringer gives them that kind of dimension."

"He's not a rookie. He's been around here for quite a few years. He understands their offense, and he's directing it well. He's not making many mistakes."