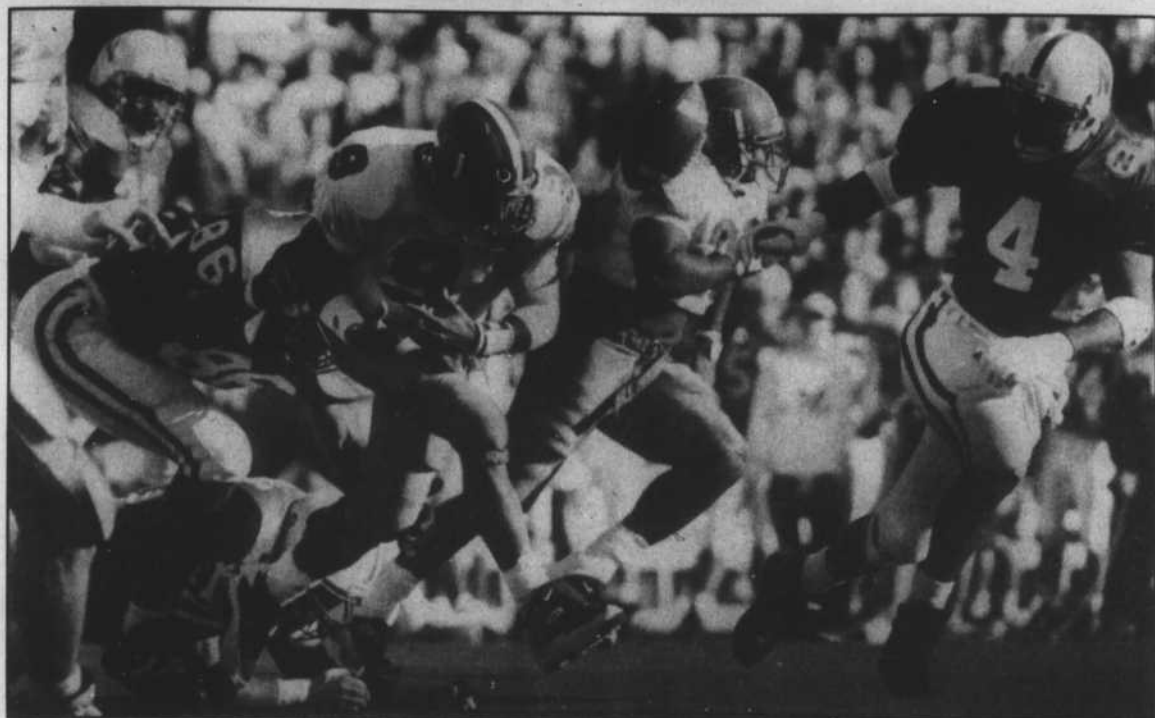


# SPORTS

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## Final farewell



Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska senior linebacker Dwayne Harris knocks the ball loose from Kansas' Asheld Preston while another Husker senior, Troy Dumas, goes after the ball. Dumas, Harris and 23 other seniors played their final home game Saturday.

## Seniors' last home game an emotional one

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Twenty-five Nebraska senior football players competed for the last time at Memorial Stadium in the Cornhuskers' 45-17 win over Kansas Saturday.

The victory brought the seniors one step closer to becoming one of the most memorable classes in Nebraska history, as the No. 1 Huskers improved to 10-0.

If Nebraska defeats Iowa State and Oklahoma in its final two regular season games, this year's senior class will have won the Big Eight championship during all four years at Nebraska.

"If we win the rest of our games, we'll be the four-time Big Eight champs," offensive guard Joel Wilks said. "We can't control the national championship, but we can control the Big Eight championship since we play all the teams."

"That's pretty important to us. This is a pretty good senior class, so we'll probably be remembered pretty well."

Playing their last game at Me-

morial Stadium meant more than just championships for many seniors.

"I guess it hasn't really set in yet because we still have two more games," linebacker Ed Stewart said. "But I'm really going to miss it. I've had some great times here."

Defensive tackle Terry Connealy said announcing the seniors one by one before the game made it hard to concentrate on Kansas.

"It's real emotional, but to be honest, I really wasn't thinking about that before the game," Connealy said. "If you think about that, you're going to get upset. It is kind of weird walking onto that field for the last time. It hits you that there isn't going to be another time."

Not including any redshirt seasons that may be involved with some players, this Husker senior class has posted a 39-6-1 record — with three games remaining — in its four years at Nebraska.

It has also contributed to the nation's second-longest home winning streak at 23 games and a 25-

*"It is kind of weird walking onto that field for the last time. It hits you that there isn't going to be another time."*

### TERRY CONNEALY

Nebraska senior

I record at home in its four years.

Offensive tackle Zach Wiegert said it was sad to say goodbye to the Nebraska fans in Memorial Stadium Saturday.

"I wanted to have a good game for the last time I was playing in front of these fans," he said. "I was real depressed at the same time. Shaking a lot of the coaches' hands before going out onto that field for the last time was real emotional for me."

## Huskers to remain focused for season

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Even though the Nebraska football team faces winless Iowa State Saturday, quarterback coach Turner Gill said the Cornhuskers would remain focused.

Gill doesn't expect the Huskers to lose the focus they've had all season.

"That's been the No. 1 thing of staying focused, no matter who the opponent is, who you're playing and when you're playing them," Gill told the Extra Point Club Monday. "We're on a really good mission."

But the mission hasn't been easy for Gill, who has had to deal with numerous injuries at quarterback.

"It's been a good experience for all of us," Gill said. "It has made us better people."

Gill said everyone on the team had responded positively to the injury problems.

"You never know when you are going to be called upon, so you always have to be ready to play."

One reason why the team has kept its focus is the play of Brook Berringer.

Gill said Berringer's success hadn't been a surprise.

"I knew he always had the ability, always had the tools to play quarterback and do well in a game," Gill said. "I never knew for sure, but I always had the confidence he could."

Although Tommie Frazier is out for the season, Gill said the junior quarterback had been a big help on the sidelines.

Frazier has helped prepare Berringer and Matt Turman at quarterback.

"It's a little bit hard on him being around the football team," Gill said. "The aspect of seeing all the guys play and run and knowing he is physically OK but not able to do anything."

Gill said despite the injuries, this team could be better than the 1983 team he played on that lost to Miami in the Orange Bowl 31-30.

"This team is a better football team overall because of defense," Gill said. "No one has really complained. They just rise to the occasion and say, 'I'm getting the job done.'"

## Cyclone coach hurls criticism at officials

By Mitch Sherman

Senior Reporter

Jim Walden is taking advantage of his last few weeks as Iowa State coach to vent a little frustration on the Big Eight officials.

Walden criticized the officials who called the Cyclones' 38-20 loss to Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan., on Saturday.

The eighth-year coach, whose team is 0-8-1 this year despite returning 21 starters from last year's 3-8 team, announced last week that he would resign after this season.

In particular, Walden was upset with the crew for not calling a penalty on Wildcat defensive end Nile Wyren for slamming Iowa State quarterback Todd Doxson to the turf.

Walden said the missed call "about outdid anything I've ever seen."

"It was frightening not to see it get called," he said.

Some kind of action needs to be

taken, he said, to prevent officials from continuing to ignore obvious penalties.

"I'm getting fired because I'm not a very good coach," he said. "Why is it that I see the same people year after year making the same calls?"

He said the Big Eight needed to discipline, or even fire, officials who consistently made incorrect calls.

"I think somebody needs to explore what is going on," he said.

A possible cause of the poor officiating, he said, is the fact that officials are graded by their peers instead of a governing body.

"The guy that used to be their buddy is now their boss," he said.

After harping on the officials, Walden complimented Nebraska, his opponent in Ames, Iowa, this weekend.

"I just hope they don't stomp us to death," he said. "I don't want to see my guys get killed. The smart people of the world do not play Nebraska."

## NU flag line is the most valuable sight for football fan

Oh, baby — the sweetness of reconciliation.

For the three of you that read this column, you know that my gerbil, Mookie, and I had a small fight, which forced him to subsequently move out of my room.

The exact reason for this tiff has escaped me for the moment but it's moot anyway — that's behind us.

Mook and I have resolved our differences and have resumed the stellar friendship we had once shared.

Well anyway, we thought it would be pretty groovy if we attended the final Nebraska Cornhuggers' home football game.

For those of you who didn't go to the tilt with the Kansas Jaywalkers, the 'Skers won big. Oh, it was something like 152-15. I'm not sure of the exact friggin' score. Mook and I spent most of the time trying to start the wave, so we really weren't paying too much attention to the score.

What's with the wave anyway?

Mook and I tried to start the sucker at least 500 times, and it never worked. The dudes sitting in front of us thought

we were trying to fan them.

I mean, we'd jump out of our seats, arms raised high in the air (OK — Mook lifted his legs because he has no arms), and screamed, "yeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeehhhhhhhhhhh."

Then the chica seated adjacent to me would look at me and say, "Why don't you and your rat sit your goofy butts back down." We heard this repeatedly throughout the game.

I, of course, would wittily retort back, "Um, um, um — shut up, you big bad lady."

Oh, the peppy banter that makes student camaraderie at Memorial Stadium so delightful.

But back to my point. It took until the third quarter for the wave to get going. And Mookie and I didn't even start it.

By the third quarter, the Delta Gammas had stolen Mookie and were playing catch with him. This wasn't too bad until one DG came out of nowhere yelling, "I'm Barron Miles, I'm Barron Miles" and batted Mookie away from the intended receiver.

I didn't find Mook until midway



Beau Finley

through the fourth quarter when I spotted him at the bottom of some band guy's tuba.

After I fished Mook out of the tuba, he was pretty frazzled.

But Mook returned to his gregarious self when the flag line returned to the field following the game.

I mean, Brook Berringer's bombs were cool and Lawrence "my name is not Larry" Phillips' running pretty much ruled, but for my football money, them flag babes are worth the higher ticket prices.

Obviously, this isn't the consensus view since most people leave immediately after the game and don't stick around for the postgame show. But Mook and I dig the flag line.

The way they blend their grace and rhythm into a gorgeous pink,

blue and gold mosaic; the way they melodically maneuver all over the artificial turf. I tell you, it's a slice of something special.

I tell ya, Nebraska is to flag dancing what Jan Stoney is to dirty politics. Translation: Nebraska is pretty good.

Next year, Mook and I want to be the ones who run out and pick up the flags when the dancers are done with them. That would be cool.

But that's next year.

For now, I must depend upon the memories forged this season.

Sometimes they were a little rough (like sandpaper rubbing upon my heiny), but all in all, this has been a lovely home season of Cornthumper football.

I just hope I don't have to sit next to that anti-wave, spirit-killing fascist next year. Um — Go Big Red.

NU volleyball update: The Huskah slappers, rated No. 2 at the time of this writing, won this weekend against the ranked Texas Longhorns.

And guess what? Top-ranked Stanford lost.

So when asked if his team was the best in the country, Husker coach Terry Pettit said something to the effect that the Corntrumpeters were a good team, but not a great team.

When asked again, he allegedly said, "Um, like whatever Tom Osborne said."

Now I truly admire this type of modesty but, Terry, you're taking it a bit far. You clearly have a great team, and you're clearly No. 1.

The Cornhumper volleyball team has something like a 250-match winning streak and has hardly been pushed all year. No other team can claim such an unblemished record.

Come on Terry, face it: you guys rule.

There's nobody that can contend that they should be ranked higher than you right now.

Well I mean, as long as Lee Corso is not a pollster.

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