

## SPORTS OPINION



**Mitch Sherman**

## Osborne, DN need to just bury hatchet

When I was 11 years old, I bought a copy of Tom Osborne's book, "More Than Winning." I read it in two days from cover to cover. Then I read it again.

A few years before that, Turner Gill — the Nebraska quarterback from 1981-83 — who is now a Cornhusker assistant coach, came to my hometown of Omaha to make an appearance at a grocery store. I still have an autographed picture of No. 12 with his hand on my shoulder, smiling.

Gill and Osborne don't smile when they see me anymore.

You've heard the story. A couple weeks ago, the Daily Nebraskan published two cartoons depicting Nebraska football players in a negative light.

Many people, Osborne and myself included, felt they were drawn in poor taste. Osborne told me I was no longer allowed to do my job. I couldn't come to practice, he said. A few days later, after consulting with UNL administrators and learning that his actions were against the law, the coach lifted his ban.

End of story? Wrong.

Each day at the end of practice, Osborne speaks individually to every reporter, except those representing the DN. We just stand there and watch.

Nothing has changed. Osborne is still upset. And I don't blame him one bit. I do, however, blame him for taking his frustrations out on the wrong people.

"The players come here to play football," Osborne said. "If people want to rip me, that's OK. That's what I get paid for. But I hate to see players take some of the stuff they have to take."

The members of the DN sports staff don't want to rip Osborne. We don't want to rip his players. We just want to cover his football team. And until he treats us as he treats every other reporter, that's not going to be possible.

I'm not here to defend the actions of my paper. That's been done. I work here, nothing more, and I have to support any decision made by the editors — whether I agree with them or not. Tom Osborne should understand that.

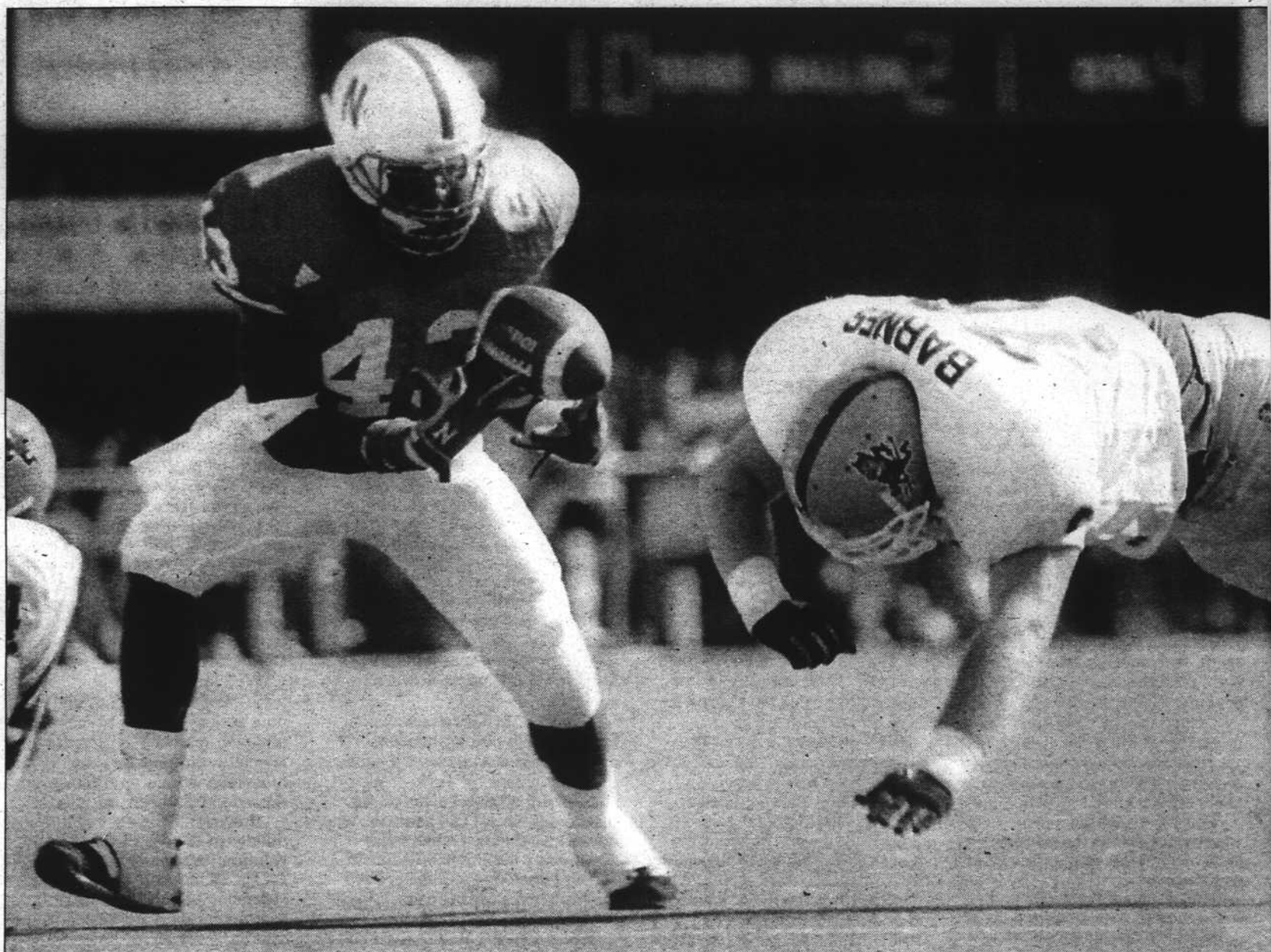
Those cartoons have received way too much press. They have hurled unnecessary and avoidable criticism toward the DN and Osborne.

It should be a dead issue. It shouldn't matter anymore. And it should be forgotten. Osborne made his point loud and clear. Simply put, Tom Osborne should bury the hatchet — not at the end of the season, not next spring — today.

"Nobody is perfect," Osborne said Saturday, after his team won by 51 points. "I make a lot of mistakes, too."

Well put, coach. I hope you really believe that.

Sherman is a junior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan assistant sports editor.



Terrell Farley intercepts a pass during the fourth quarter while Arizona State lineman Mike Barnes stretches out to make the play.

## Huskies stun Sun Devils scoring 63 in first half

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Editor

Maybe the Nebraska football team shouldn't speak to the press every week before a game.

The tight-lipped Cornhuskers, who hadn't talked publicly in a week, spoke loudly Saturday afternoon before the 75,418 crowd at Memorial Stadium, steamrolling Arizona State 77-14.

Nebraska's statement included several school records, most notably the 63 points and 508 yards amassed by the upstart Huskers in the first half alone.

In burying the 1-2 Sun Devils, second-ranked Nebraska, 3-0, scored on seven straight possessions to open the game and on nine of 10 drives in the first half.

The Huskers tied a school record with 35 points in the first quarter, passed for 290 yards, the most since 1973, and recorded 681 total yards, the tenth-best output in school history.

Nebraska's 77 points — the same number scored Saturday by No. 1 Florida State in a win over North Carolina State — was the second highest Nebraska total since 1917 and most points scored by the Huskers since an 84-13 win over Minnesota in 1983.

"I thought we came out and played very well in the first part of the game," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "When things get out of hand, you tend to lose your focus a little bit. It seems like we did. We didn't play with the same intensity throughout the game."

It took the Huskers only 11 seconds to reach the end zone for the first time. I-back Clinton Childs, filling in for suspended Lawrence Phillips, took a sweep around the left end and raced untouched for a 65-yard score.

Childs, a senior from Omaha, finished his first career start with 143

yards and two touchdowns on 12 attempts.

"I proved a lot of things to myself," Childs said. "I felt I had a lot of things to prove, and I did most of it today. But I still have more things to prove."

Childs, who began the season as a fullback after playing I-back for the past three seasons, said he had spoken with Phillips every day this week.

Phillips was indefinitely suspended by Osborne early in the week after being arrested on suspicion of assaulting his ex-girlfriend.

"He's in pretty good spirits," Childs said. "We inspire each other a lot. I didn't have him out here this week, so I had to go off what he was talking about all week long. He's really lifted me up a lot."

After Childs' quick strike, the Husker defense held the Sun Devils, and Nebraska marched 64 yards in nine plays, taking a two-touchdown lead on Ahman Green's 33-yard score with 9:53 to play in the opening quarter.

"Clinton knew that he had to take on some of the burden that Lawrence left us," said quarterback Tommie Frazier, who directed Nebraska to its 15th straight victory.

"He did what the coaches asked him and came in and played hard. Ahman came in and played hard. James Sims came in and played hard. The depth that we got from those three guys, you just can't ask for anything else."

Playing second at I-back in place of injured Damon Benning, Green ran for 111 yards and two touchdowns on 13 attempts. The true freshman from Omaha has gained 237 yards in three games this season.

A little more than two minutes after Green's touchdown, Frazier ran 15 yards — in the process flattening a Sun Devil defensive back — and trotted into the end zone, giving the Hus-

kers a 21-0 lead less than eight minutes into the game.

"Everything we did was working," Frazier said. "We weren't worrying about them trying to put 11 guys up to try to stop the run. We were going to try to run like we always did and see if they could stop us. In the first half, they couldn't do it."

In just over two quarters of action, Frazier completed seven of 10 passes for 191 yards and two touchdowns. The senior from Bradenton, Fla., also ran for two scores and 35 yards on five attempts.

Following Frazier's first score, Arizona State again was forced to punt, and after two 5-yard runs by Childs, the I-back took a pitch from Frazier and threw a 34-yard pass to wingback Clester Johnson.

"He did good," said Johnson, a former quarterback, who caught four passes for 129 yards and a touchdown. "At first, I didn't know if he was going to throw it to me, because I didn't know if he saw me behind the guy."

On the next play, Frazier hit wingback Jon Vedral for a 27-yard touchdown pass, increasing the Huskers' lead to 28-0 with 5:38 to play in the first quarter.

Sun Devil quarterback Jake Plummer hit wide receiver Keith Poole for a 66-yard gain to the Husker 2-yard line, and the duo connected again three plays later for a touchdown, Arizona State's first score of the day.

Plummer and Poole continued to connect, burning Nebraska cornerbacks Leslie Dennis twice and Tyrone Williams once. Poole caught six passes for 200 yards, including an 80-yard bomb in the second quarter that cut Nebraska's lead to 35-14.

"We never want to give up big plays," Husker secondary coach



Nebraska I-back Ahman Green runs. Green had 111 yards rushing.

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