

NU powers over Pacific with 569 rushing yards

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Different team, same results. Even though Nebraska scored fewer points in its 49-7 win over Pacific Saturday, most everything else was just a replica of the Cornhuskers' previous three wins.

"We're glad to get this one behind us," Coach Tom Osborne said. "Our players responded about as well as they could under the circumstances. I don't think we were flat, but I don't think we were quite as excited as we have been or will be."

Nebraska continued running over its opponents, as it totaled 731 yards Saturday, with 569 of those coming on the ground. Going into the game, the Huskers were averaging 674 yards of total offense a game, including 486 yards rushing a game.

"We had a lot of yards—a lot more than the points would reflect," Osborne said. "I thought we moved the ball pretty well."

And like its previous three victories, Nebraska put its opponent away early.

The Huskers marched 80 yards on seven plays on its opening drive—capped by Damon Benning's 26-yard touchdown run.

After the Tigers went three plays and out, it took only one play for Benning to find the end zone again—this time on a 17-yard run.

Two possessions later, Benning broke loose for a 43-yard touchdown run, putting Nebraska up 21-0 at the end of the quarter.

Benning, who gained 98 yards on five carries for three touchdowns in the first quarter alone, said he still wasn't fully recovered from the hamstring injury that sidelined him the past two games.

"I didn't really let loose at all today," he said. "The offensive line did a good job of protecting me. I'm sure on paper, the numbers probably look pretty good, but I was probably only about 80 percent. I never actually went all-out."

The names changed in the second quarter for Nebraska; the efficiency didn't.

I-backs Ahman Green and James Sims each scored on runs in the second quarter to give Nebraska a 35-0 lead at halftime.

The Nebraska defense was the big-

Game Stats

		Scoring				Nebraska 49		Pacific 7	
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th				
Pacific		0	0	7	0				
Nebraska		21	14	14	0				
Neb- Benning 26yd run (Brown kick)						Neb- Frazier 5yd run (Brown kick)			
Neb- Benning 17yd run (Brown kick)						Neb- Green 13yd run (Brown kick)			
Neb- Benning 43yd run (Brown kick)						Pacific- Watley 12yd pass from Sellers (Fleener kick)			
Neb- Green 4yd run (Brown kick)						Attendance: 75,630			
Neb- Sims 9yd run (Brown kick)									
Nebraska Rushing			Pacific Rushing						
	Att.	Yds.		Att.	Yds.				
Benning	10	173	Reeder	1	36				
Green	15	112	Abdullah	13	25				
Frazier	7	62	Sellers	2	1				
Nebraska Passing			Pacific Passing						
	Comp-Att.	Int.	Yds.		Comp-Att.	Int.	Yds.		
Berringer	9-17	0	57	Sellers	13-25	0	132		
Frazier	6-14	1	90	Fotheringham	1-5	0	5		
Nebraska Receiving			Pacific Receiving						
	No.	Yds.		No.	Yds.				
Johnson	2	31	Atkins	3	63				
Baul	2	24	Watley	3	17				
Holbein	2	24	Abdullah	3	8				
Breakdown			Neb.			Pacific			
First Downs	36	7	Punts-avg.	1-33	7-43				
Rushes-yards	70-569	17-60	Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0				
Passing	162	137	Penalties-Yards	3-26	2-20				
Return Yards	146	55	Time of	39:44	20:16				
Comp-Att-Int	16-36-2	14-31-1	Possession						

DN graphic

gest story in the first half. Pacific gained only 73 yards in the first half, compared to 446 by Nebraska. The Tigers did not cross midfield until the third quarter, with 6:59 left.

"A lot of the young guys stepped up and played really well on defense," defensive tackle Christian Peter said. "I thought the defense, as a unit, stepped it up and played really well."

Nebraska turned the opening possession of the second half into points when Tommie Frazier finished a seven-play, 80-yard drive off with a 5-yard touchdown run.

Green scored his second touchdown of the game on Nebraska's next possession with a 13-yard run for a 49-0 lead.

The Tigers bounced back when Tyrone Watley hauled in a pass from Nick Sellers for a 12-yard touchdown reception.

Even though Watley's touchdown ended the scoring for the day, leaving Nebraska 15 points under its average, Pacific coach Chuck Shelton said he

was amazed by the Huskers' offense.

"I think they've taken their kind of offensive football to another level," Shelton said. "They've improved it to a point where it's very difficult to deal with. Even if you match up physically, it's difficult to deal with. Certainly we didn't even match up physically."

Benning finished with a career-high 173 yards on 10 carries, while Green tallied up 113 yards. Frazier ran for 68 yards, and completed six of 14 passes for 90 yards.

But Osborne said that, despite the huge offensive numbers, the offense was far from error-free.

He said he was disappointed with the passing game, which resulted in 162 yards and two interceptions on a 16-of-36 performance.

"I wanted to work on it a little bit today," Osborne said. "I didn't think our throwing game was really that good. Some of that was the wind. But it was unsatisfactory, being under 50 percent."

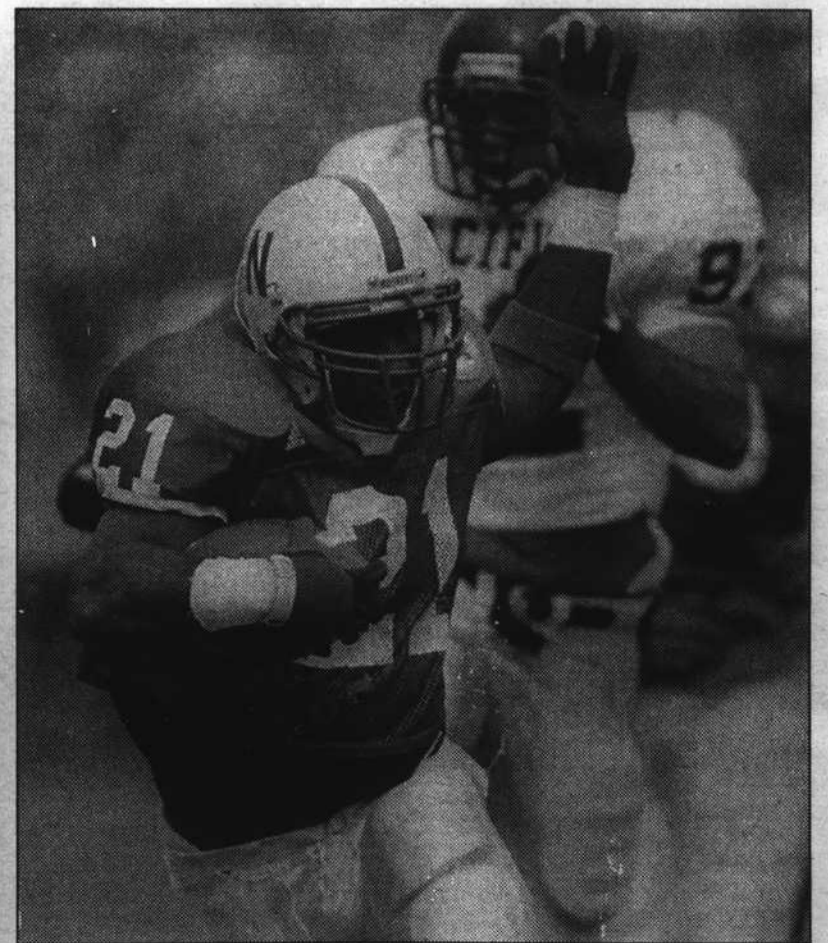


Nebraska I-back James Sims runs the ball in for a third...



Jeff Haller/DN

Pacific defensive back Ryan McGinnis grabs the face mask of Brendan Holbein to bring him to the ground in first-quarter action Saturday at Memorial Stadium. Holbein caught two passes for 24 yards.



Travis Heying/DN

Starting I-back Damon Benning eludes tacklers during a first-quarter touchdown Saturday against Pacific. Benning rushed for a career-high 173 yards and three touchdowns.