

# SPORTS WEEKEND

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## SPORTS OPINION



### Todd Walkenhorst Cats no match; criteria says NU can run up

Look out. Here they come again. It's the same story, different year. The Wildcats are back, and they seem to think they are a top 10 football program again. And again the Huskers are going to have to put them back in line.

ABC is going to be disappointed. The network thinks it's broadcasting a game between two top 10 teams. I guess ABC will find out soon enough.

K-State has played the weakest non-conference schedule in the nation. All four teams — Temple, Cincinnati, Akron, and Northern Illinois — were rated in the bottom 25 teams in Division I at the beginning of the season.

The Cats have played two games on the road — a 23-21 victory at Cincinnati, and last week, they rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat Oklahoma State 23-17. Yes, the same Cowboy team the Huskers defeated 64-21.

Another comparison, Kansas State defeated Missouri 30-0. The Huskers win 57-0 last week.

Bottom line. This game could get ugly.

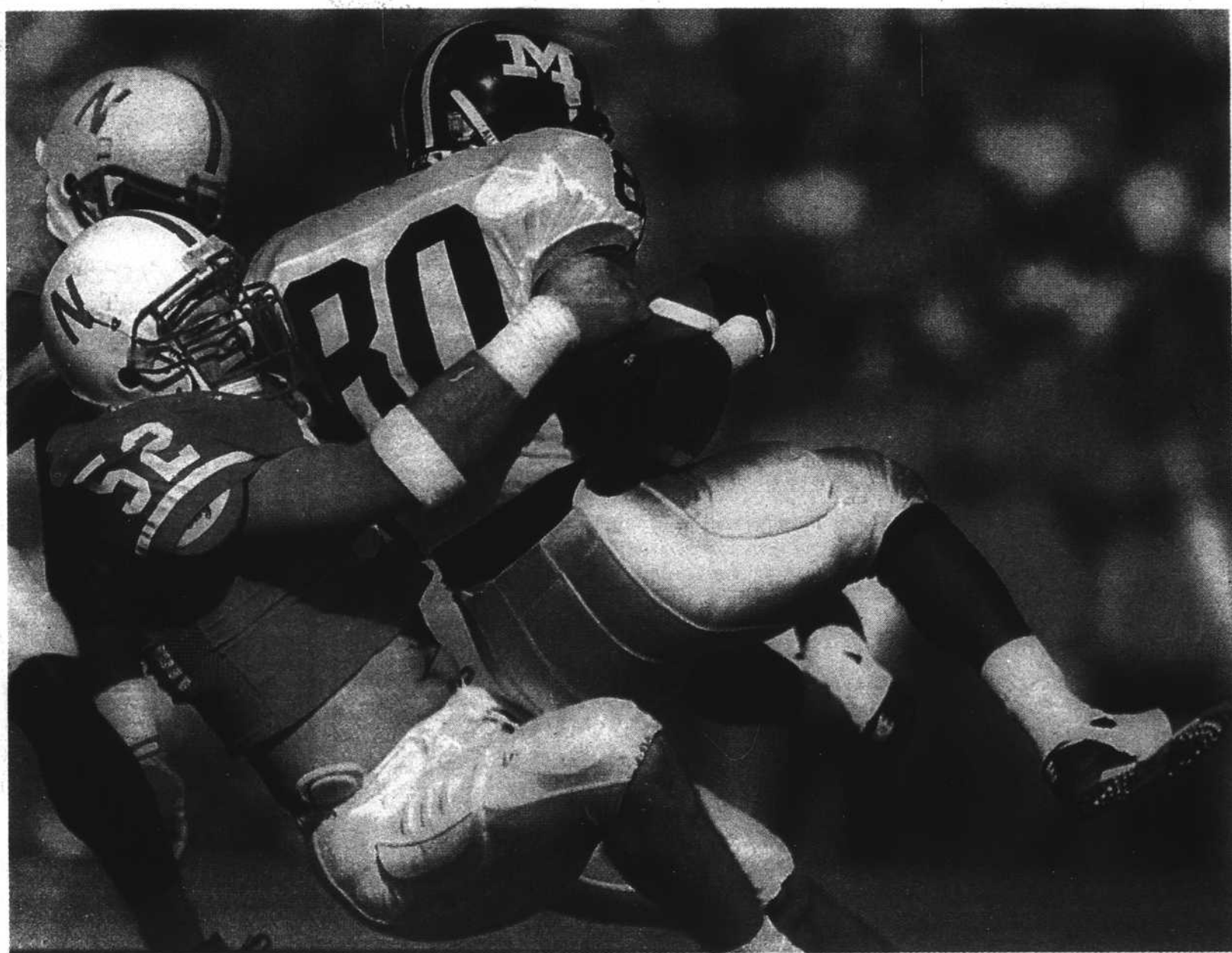
But the Huskers don't have to worry this week. They will not be accused of running up the score. Why? Because there is a list of criteria that can be used to determine when it is all right to run up the score, and we just happen to have a copy.

It is politically correct to run up the score against an opponent ...

- if the opponent is undefeated after six games,
- if the opponent is rated in the top 10,
- if the opponent has a .500 winning percentage in the '90s and K-State is 41-21-1 (.661),
- if the opponent has shut out three opponents,
- if the opponent has run up the score against anyone else (67-0 over Akron, 44-0 over Northern Illinois),
- if you beat the team by fewer than 12 points the year before,
- if the game's televised on ABC,
- if the opposing team's public address announcer gets excited about every first down,
- if it's homecoming week,
- if the opponent has been to a bowl game for two consecutive years,
- if Chad May was your quarterback last year and talked too much about grabbing and poking,
- if at its stadium, the opponent plays that damn cat roar,
- if you need a tune up for a real team like Colorado next week,
- if you're still trying to avenge a 12-0 loss in 1968,
- or if the opponent is trying to impersonate the No. 8 team in the nation.

Yes, Kansas State. You too have the permission to run up the score on the Huskers on Saturday. Go for it.

Walkenhorst is an advertising and broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan sports reporter.



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska linebacker Aaron Penland takes down Missouri wide receiver Frank Jones during the Huskers' shutout last Saturday. This week against Kansas State, the Nebraska defense is hoping for the same results.

## NU, KSU aim for the takedown

### Husker players prepare to face Wildcat defense

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

For playing a team that hasn't beaten Nebraska since 1968, the Cornhusker players and coaches are showing a lot of respect for Kansas State, which visits Lincoln for a 2:30 p.m. kickoff Saturday.



Frazier

Maybe that's because the Wildcats are ranked No. 8 in the country.

Or maybe it's because the Huskers have beaten Kansas State by an average of only 12 points in the last four years.

But more likely, it is because the Wildcats have an awfully good defense. "They're one of the strongest defensive units we've played in the Big Eight Conference in many years," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "I would probably have to go back to some of the defenses Oklahoma had back in the '70s to find something that is maybe comparable."

Kansas State leads the nation in scoring defense (allowing only 7.5 points a game) and total defense (giving up 199.8 yards a game). The Wildcats, who have posted three shutouts already this season, rank second nationally in pass efficiency defense and eighth in rush defense.

"We're going to have our hands full offensively," quarterback Tommie Frazier said. "But we're going to prepare for them the best that we can. They proved it last year, and before that, that they are capable of coming in here and playing a great game defensively against us."

"You can't put them down because the teams they've played haven't been the best. They're still doing a job defensively."

Frazier said he was impressed with the quickness of the Wildcat defense.

"That whole defense is very quick," he said. "It's probably the quickest that we'll face the whole year. Every position is quick. Overall, it's probably one of the best defenses in the country."

The No. 8 ranking is the highest the 6-0 Wildcats ever have climbed in the Associated Press poll, although they did reach eighth in the USA Today/CNN coaches poll last season.

Osborne said that even though the Huskers were believers, Kansas State still had plenty of doubters.

"With Kansas State, I think it's been somewhat of an image problem," he said. "They had so many seasons where they hadn't won. Then to develop to the point where they're going to be in the position to win eight, nine, 10, 11 or 12 games this year, and maybe every year, is really a remarkable accomplishment."

"It took a great commitment on the part of people at Kansas State," Osborne said.

Last year, Nebraska third-string quarterback Matt Turman started for the Huskers, and helped lead them to a 17-6 win over then-undefeated Kansas State.

### Quarterback develops into offense leader

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — A win against Nebraska could finally allow Kansas State quarterback Matt Miller to emerge from former Wildcat Chad May's shadow.

But Miller says he's already out of May's shadow after leading the No. 8 Wildcats to a 6-0 record. The Wildcats come to Lincoln to play No. 2 Nebraska Saturday at 2:34 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

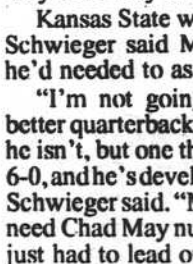
Miller said he didn't care what people said when comparing him to May, who had a record of 18-5-1 as a starter.

"I don't worry about the critics," he said. "It doesn't really bother me what they say about me and what they don't say about me."

Kansas State wide receiver Tyson Schwiager said Miller had done all he'd needed to as a quarterback.

"I'm not going to say Matt's a better quarterback than Chad because he isn't, but one thing Matt is, is he's 6-0, and he's developed into a leader," Schwiager said. "Matt knew he didn't need Chad May numbers; he knew he just had to lead our offense."

Miller has been booed, questioned and second-guessed at times, but he



Miller

has led Kansas State to a 6-0 record, something May never did in his two years as a Wildcat.

Miller ranks seventh in the nation in passing efficiency with a rating of 162.4. He also leads the Big Eight in total offense with 226.7 yards a game. May didn't have numbers like that after six games last season.

And now, he has a chance to beat Nebraska, something May couldn't do.

Miller said the key for the Wildcats' success would be a quick start against the Nebraska defense.

"It's very important for us to come out and put points on the board early," Miller said. "They're a great team, and if we don't put points on the board, we won't win. The earlier you put them on the board, the better you're going to be."

Miller also will be trying to fight off the fact that he used to be a huge Nebraska fan when he was younger.

The 6-foot-1 senior transfer from Texas A&M said he was a fan of Turner Gill, who is Nebraska's quarterbacks coach, and he cried for three days after Gill's two-point conversion failed in Nebraska's 31-30 loss to Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl.

His parents brought him to Lincoln to see the wars in the Nebraska-Oklahoma series in the early to mid-1980s.

"When I was a kid, I was dreaming that I would be Nebraska's quarterback at this time," Miller said. "They were my favorite team when I was little, but now I'm glad I'm the Kansas State quarterback because I love it here in Manhattan."

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