

Huskers jump on KSU early

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

The Kansas State football team proved one thing Saturday. It can play with Nebraska's second team.

Unfortunately, however, for the Wildcats, the Cornhuskers' first-team units proved that while Kansas State may have improved a great deal over the past half-decade, Nebraska remains well out of the Wildcats' grasp.

Playing before a season-high crowd of 76,072 fans at Memorial Stadium, No. 2 Nebraska pounced on Kansas State early and often, clawing its way to a 42-6 fourth-quarter lead and eventually winning 49-25.

The Huskers improved to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the Big Eight. Kansas State, which fell from No. 8 to No. 14 after the loss, dropped to 6-1 and 2-1 in conference play.

"Anytime you win by three touchdowns over Kansas State, you have to feel pretty good about the effort," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "But we probably backed off a little bit too early. We probably shouldn't have substituted defensively quite as quickly as we did."

Leading by 36 points, Osborne inserted the Husker backups into the game early in the fourth quarter. Kansas State exploited Nebraska's lack of a pass rush and secondary coverage to score 19 points — six of which came on a blocked punt returned for a score — in a seven-minute span.

"We had to put some guys back in at a point we didn't want to put them back in," Osborne said.

Quarterback Tommie Frazier replaced Matt Turman, and I-back Ahman Green returned for one final drive. The first team picked up right where it left off, going 44 yards in 2:13, scoring on a 12-yard shovel pass from Frazier to Green, which iced the win.

Despite Kansas State's fourth-quarter outburst, the Nebraska defense, aided by nine sacks and 14 tackles behind the line of scrimmage, held the Wildcats to minus-19 yards rushing, the fourth straight game in which a Husker opponent has been held to fewer than 75 yards on the ground.

"When the Blackshirts were in there, we held them to six points," MIKE linebacker Doug Colman said. "I think people will remember that when looking at this game."

Nebraska cornerback Mike Fullman delivered an early knockout punch to the Wildcats, returning James

Garcia's first punt of the day 79 yards for a touchdown with 10:29 to play in the first quarter.

Kansas State answered on its next possession, looking to wide receiver Kevin Lockett, who scored on an 18-yard pass from Matt Miller with 7:23 left in the opening quarter. Martin Gramatica's extra point sailed wide left.

Nebraska responded by driving 73 yards in 7:13, three times converting on third-down-and-long plays. Green, who ran for 109 yards on 22 attempts and caught three passes for 41 yards and two touchdowns, contributed the two biggest plays of the drive.

On third-down-and-14 from the Nebraska 30-yard line, he caught a screen pass from Frazier and ran 19 yards for a first down. Two plays later, the true freshman ran for 33 yards to the Kansas State 16-yard line before being relieved by Clinton Childs.

On second-down-and-goal from the 2-yard line, Childs fumbled a pitch from Frazier into the end zone. But wingback Jon Vedral, who later caught a 32-yard touchdown pass, recovered the fumble for a touchdown to put Nebraska up 14-6 at the end of the first quarter.

The Huskers scored again on their next possession, this time on an 11-yard strike from Frazier to tight end Sheldon Jackson. Frazier, who completed 10 of 16 passes for 148 yards and ran for 36 yards, threw a career-high four touchdown passes.

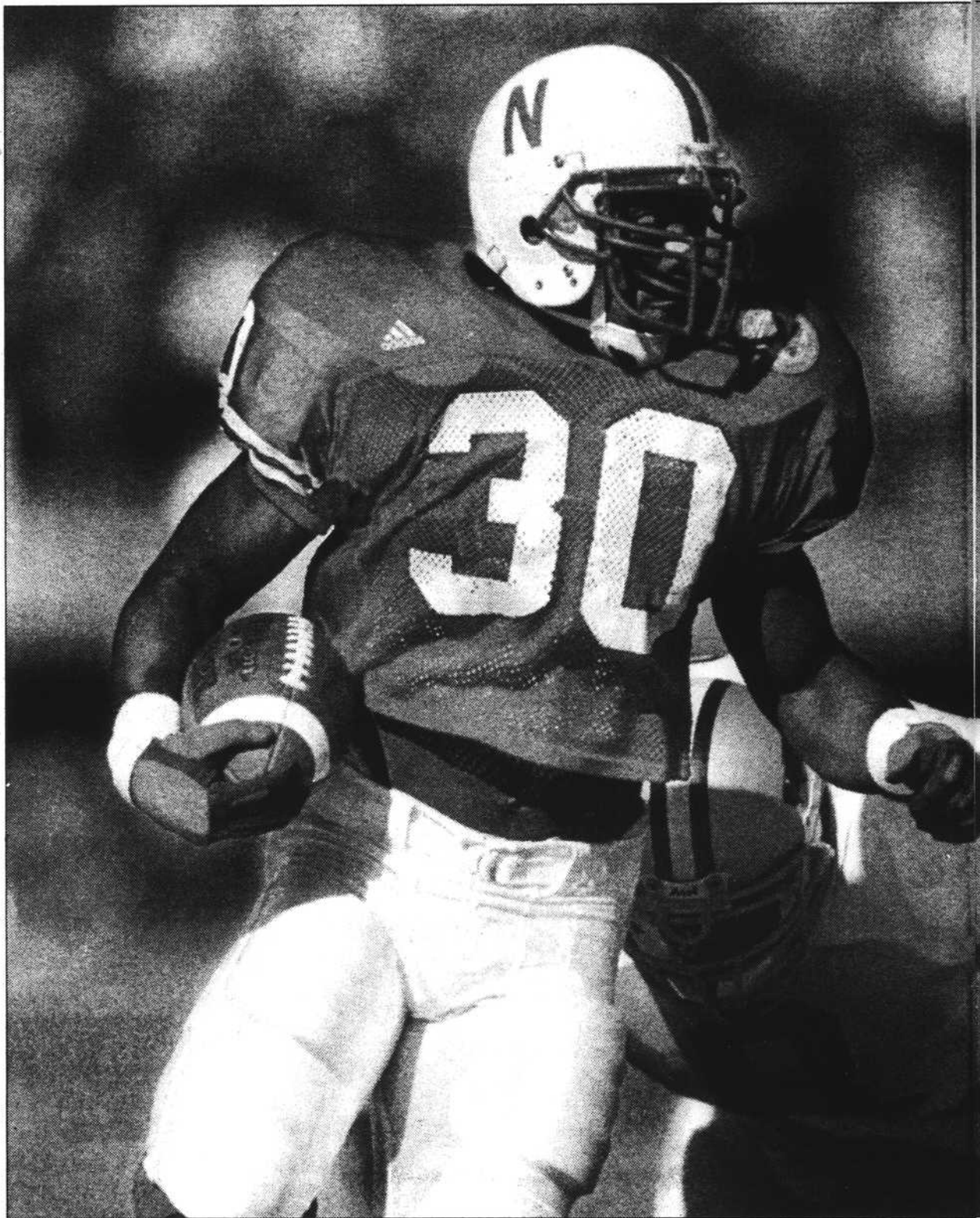
Nebraska scored again less than five minutes later on a 10-yard shovel pass from Frazier to Green that increased the lead to 28-6. On the Wildcats' first play after the ensuing kickoff, true freshman outside linebacker Chad Kelsay batted a Miller shovel pass to senior Luther Hardin, who returned the interception for a touchdown with 5:09 to play in the half.

"I was kind of surprised at Luther," said outside linebacker Jared Tomich. "He doesn't have the best hands in the world in practice. But he did a good job. We'll see if Grant (Wistrom) can tip one to me next week."

Tomich took over on Kansas State's final possession of the half. The junior from St. John, Ind., twice sacked Miller, the second time on fourth-down-and-11 to thwart the Wildcats' best scoring chance of the second quarter.

"Kansas State was the No. 1 defense in the nation," said Wistrom.

See KSU on 8

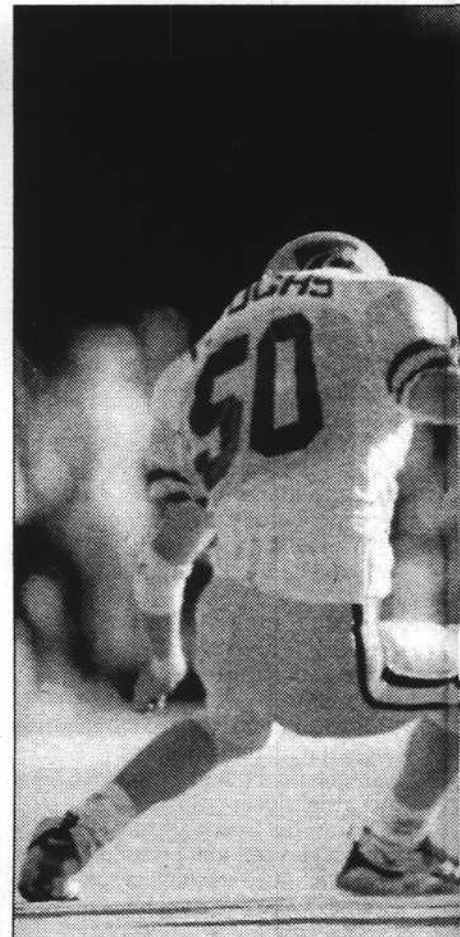


Nebraska I-back Ahman Green breaks away from Kansas State linebacker DeShawn Fogle during Saturday's game. Green is the leading rusher.



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska linebacker Jared Tomich throws Kansas State quarterback Matt Miller to the turf in the first quarter. Tomich helped anchor the Husker defense, which had nine sacks against the Wildcats.



Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier (50) and free safety Chuck Marlowe (50) during the game.

Game Stats

				Nebraska	49
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Kansas St.
Kansas St.	6	0	0	19	25
Nebraska	14	21	7	7	
Neb- Fullman 79yd punt return (Brown kick) KSU- Lockett 18yd pass from Miller (kick failed) Neb- Vedral fumble recovery (Brown kick) Neb- S. Jackson 18yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick) Neb- Green 10yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick) Neb- Hardin 3yd interception return (Brown kick)					
Neb- Vedral 32yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick) KSU- Running 7yd pass from Kavanagh (pass failed) KSU- Lockett 10yd pass Kavanagh (Gramatica kick) KSU- Johnson 6yd blocked punt return (pass failed) Neb- Green 12yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick)					
Nebraska Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Kansas St. Rushing		
Green	22	109	Hickson	6	26
Frazier	6	36	Lawrence	6	15
Makovicka	6	21	Miller	12	-38
Passing	Comp-Att.	Int.	Yds.	Passing	
Frazier	10-16	0	148	Miller	10-24 2 109
Turman	0-1	0	0	Kavanagh	12-21 0 136
Receiving	No.	Yds.	Receiving		
Green	3	41	Running	10	110
Jackson	2	18	Schwieger	4	58
Vedral	1	32	Lockett	4	54
Breakdown	Neb.	KSU	Neb.	KSU	
First Downs	19	17	Punts-avg.	4-23	6-44
Rushes-yards	46-190	26(-19)	Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Passing yards	148	275	Penalties-Yards	7-64	14-113
Return Yards	148	129	Time of	30:53	29:07
Comp-Att-Int	10-17-0	24-47-2	Possession		

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