



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska linebacker Luther Hardin celebrates after intercepting a Matt Miller shovel pass and returning it 3 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter.

Excitement cripples Wildcats' performance

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Kansas State was excited to play Nebraska.

But Wildcat coach Bill Snyder said it was that excitement that hurt Kansas State in its 49-25 loss to Nebraska Saturday.

"Our players were emotionally charged to play this football game," Snyder said. "I think we were probably too emotionally charged, and that's my responsibility. I think I put them in a position where maybe we were destined to fail. We just couldn't handle the emotion of the ballgame."

Snyder said when playing a team like Nebraska, it's important to keep the emotions in check.

"I've seen us play well when we were emotionally at a peak," he said. "But I think it wasn't the right thing for us at this point in time."

Kevin Lockett, a junior wide receiver, agreed that the Wildcats' performance was impaired by the emotion of the game.

"This was definitely the most excited that I've ever seen the team," Lockett said. "It kind of hurt us. Everyone got so caught up in the game that we forgot about our assignments. We just didn't play with our heads."

Kansas State receiver Mitch Running, who had 10 catches for 110 yards and a touchdown, said it was difficult to keep emotions at a minimum against No. 2 Nebraska.

"To a point, I think maybe we were a little too excited," Running said. "But everyone is going to be excited

about playing Nebraska. They're the defending national champions. We were emotional, but that wasn't the key to our loss. We just didn't execute."

Running said the atmosphere at Memorial Stadium was enough to get an opponent overly excited.

"Until you've played here, you don't know the feeling," Running said. "It's a sea of red. It's hard to describe what it's like to play here. You walk out on that field, and it's hard not to let emotions take over."

If Kansas State looks at the problems it had against the Cornhuskers on the field, it would be hard to look past the punishment that Wildcat quarterbacks Matt Miller and Brian Kavanagh received. Nebraska's defense had nine sacks for 82 yards.

"Those guys are good," Miller said. "I know they gave me a dizzy head and some bumps and bruises. I prepared well for them, I thought. I know the coaches prepared us well. I guess you just have those games some days."

But Snyder said the Wildcats were lacking in all phases of the game, as Nebraska got touchdowns from its offense, defense and special teams.

"We were not very good in any aspect," Snyder said. "We were not very good on defense, we were not very good on offense and our kicking game was not very good. You can't make some of the mistakes that we made against a team like Nebraska."

"If you do, I don't think anything can happen other than what did happen. I don't care who you are. They're just too good of a football team."

Saturday's game. Green rushed for 109 yards on the day and was the



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Frazier runs through the grasps of Wildcat linebacker Travis Ochs (No. 21). Frazier threw for four touchdowns.

Top 25 teams

This week's polls are shown with first-place votes in parentheses

Associated Press					USA Today/CNN Coaches Poll				
Rank	School	Record	Points	Pos.	Rank	School	Record	Points	Pos.
1	Florida St. (34)	7-0-0	1,512	1	1	Florida St. (34)	7-0-0	1,510	1
2	Nebraska (20)	7-0-0	1,495	2	2	Nebraska (24)	7-0-0	1,499	2
3	Florida (3)	6-0-0	1,421	3	3	Florida (1)	6-0-0	1,420	3
4	Ohio St. (5)	7-0-0	1,400	4	4	Ohio St. (4)	7-0-0	1,398	4
5	Tennessee	6-1-0	1,273	6	5	Tennessee	6-1-0	1,237	6
6	Kansas	6-1-0	1,244	7	6	Kansas	6-1-0	1,236	7
7	Colorado	6-1-0	1,143	9	7	Colorado	6-1-0	1,179	9
8	Northwestern	6-1-0	1,087	11	8	Northwestern	6-1-0	1,066	11
9	Michigan	6-1-0	1,035	10	9	Michigan	6-1-0	1,052	10
10	Oregon	6-1-0	941	12	10	Southern Cal	6-1-0	907	5
11	Auburn	5-2-0	889	13	11	Auburn	5-2-0	865	13
12	Notre Dame	6-2-0	846	17	12	Oregon	6-1-0	854	12
13	Southern Cal	6-1-0	828	5	13	Texas	5-1-1	757	16
14	Kansas St.	6-1-0	700	8	14	Kansas St.	6-1-0	639	8
15	Texas	5-1-1	695	16	15	Notre Dame	6-2-0	638	22
16	Penn St.	5-2-0	636	19	16	Penn St.	5-2-0	618	18
17	Washington	5-2-0	512	20	17	Syracuse	6-1-0	543	20
18	Alabama	5-2-0	446	21	18	Texas A&M	4-2-0	476	19
19	Texas A&M	4-2-0	390	22	19	Washington	5-2-0	420	23
20	Virginia	6-3-0	288	14	20	Virginia	6-3-0	314	15
21	Syracuse	6-1-0	255	--	21	Oklahoma	4-2-1	289	14
22	Texas Tech	4-2-0	237	25	22	Alabama	5-2-0	285	24
23	Oklahoma	4-2-1	231	15	23	Iowa	5-1-0	268	17
24	UCLA	5-2-0	219	--	24	UCLA	5-2-0	239	--
25	Iowa	5-1-0	212	18	25	Texas Tech	4-2-0	154	--

DN Graphic

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● Nebraska cornerback Mike Fullman was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct for high-stepping the final 10 yards of his 79-yard punt return for a touchdown in the first quarter. It was the second time this season that a Nebraska player had been a victim of the NCAA's tighter rules on player celebration. Reggie Baul was penalized in Nebraska's season-opening 64-21 win over Oklahoma State.

"It's very difficult to show any kind of enthusiasm out on the field anymore," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "I don't know quite what you do."

● Fullman's run was the first punt returned for a touchdown by Nebraska since Morgan Gregory ran 64 yards for a score against Kansas on Oct. 8, 1988, and the longest punt return since Irving Fryar went 82 yards against Florida State on Sept. 19, 1981.

Fullman was sprung free because of a crushing block to Wildcat cornerback Joe Gordon courtesy of Nebraska's Mike Rucker. Gordon's helmet was sent flying 10 yards on to the Nebraska sidelines after he was hit by the freshman outside linebacker.

"I was just doing my job," Rucker said. "It was nothing personal or anything like that."

● Kansas State's minus-19 yards rushing were the fewest number of yards gained by a Cornhusker opponent since Nebraska held Oregon State to minus-36 yards on Sept. 30, 1987. Saturday's game, which was the fifth-best performance ever by the Nebraska rushing defense, was the second straight year Kansas State had been held to negative yardage on the ground against Nebraska, which has allowed 20 yards rushing in its last two games. The Huskers now are allowing 73.1 yards a game rushing, which ranks second in the nation behind Georgia Tech.

● Osborne said after the game that backup quarterback Brook Berringer, who missed the past two games with a knee injury, probably would be able to play next week against Colorado. Berringer was in uniform Saturday, but did not see action.

"Brook warmed up a lot better today than I had seen him move," Osborne said. "He had a lot of trouble moving around before. That will be kind of a relief to have him back."

● Nebraska's 190 yards rushing were the fewest yards gained by the Huskers this season, and the lowest total since last season against Oklahoma, when Nebraska ran for 136 yards. I-back Ahman Green's 109 yards raised his season total to 724 yards. He is now only 164 yards shy of Calvin Jones' Husker freshman rushing record.

● **Injury report:** Green sprained his left ankle on a fourth-quarter touchdown reception. Green may miss practice today. Other injuries included: guard Jon Zatechka (hamstring), split end Brendan Holbein (jammed neck), tight end Sheldon Jackson (hip pointer), tight end Tim Carpenter (sore knees), outside linebacker Grant Wistrom (right knee), tackle Chris Dishman (knee/thigh bruise) and rover Mike Minter (left knee). No players are expected to miss more than one day of practice.

Notes compiled by assistant sports editor Mitch Sherman.