

Scoring explosion

Osborne, Huskers analyze execution against Cyclones

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne got exactly what he was looking for out of Saturday's game against Iowa State — consistency and execution.

The No. 1 Cornhuskers consistently scored, scoring on their first 10 possessions and 11 of 13 possessions. Nebraska also did not commit a turnover for the fourth straight game.

The Nebraska defense executed well, holding the Cyclones' offense to only 264 yards.

Putting those two performances together, Nebraska improved to 9-0 overall and 5-0 in the Big Eight, rolling to a 73-14 win over Iowa State in front of a crowd of 75,505 fans at Memorial Stadium. The Cyclones dropped to 3-6 and 1-4 in the conference.

Osborne said he was worried that after playing two top 10 teams, Colorado and Kansas State, and looking ahead to a third, No. 10 Kansas this Saturday, Nebraska might not be in the game mentally.

"Sometimes there is a tendency to have an emotional letdown, and I didn't think we did that," Osborne said. "I don't think it was an inspired football game, but it was a solid football game."

Osborne's worries didn't last long. It took Nebraska only 3 minutes, 12 seconds to get on the scoreboard. The Huskers marched 69 yards on eight plays, and the drive was

capped off by quarterback Tommie Frazier's 4-yard touchdown run on an option-keeper.

Then it took Nebraska four seconds to get the ball back. On the ensuing kickoff, Kris Brown popped the ball up in the air, and all of the Iowa State players ran away from the live ball. Eric Stokes eventually covered the 24-yard kick at the Iowa State 41-yard line.

"It's just one of those crazy things that happens to the football where we ended up with the ball," Osborne said.

But Nebraska took 5:34 to score its next touchdown. The Huskers converted two fourth-down plays as I-back Lawrence Phillips returned to action.

Phillips, playing for the first time since being suspended Sept. 10, entered the game with 10:13 left in the first quarter and picked up 2 yards on his first carry. Phillips picked up a first down on one of the fourth-down plays.

On second-down-and-goal from the 6-yard line, Frazier threw a shovel pass from the shotgun to Ahman Green, who took it for a touchdown to give Nebraska a 14-0 lead.

The Cyclones' offense didn't even take the field until 6:10 remained in the first quarter.

After Iowa State punted, the Huskers increased their lead to 20-0 in 2:38. Nebraska drove 80 yards in seven plays, and the drive ended with a 17-yard run by Green.

The Cyclones did manage to cut the lead to 20-7 when Ed Williams scored on a 15-yard reception from Todd Bandhauer.

After that, the Nebraska offense seemed to score at will.

"We had a good idea we could score every time we'd touch the ball," Frazier said. "We just went out there and executed really well, and that's all that Coach Osborne asked of us."

Nebraska scored again on its next possession. It took Nebraska nine plays to move 82 yards and jump to a 28-7 lead after Green's 26-yard run and Frazier's two-point conversion.

Frazier said he was battling a sore leg that bothered him Friday and early Saturday morning. He said he knew he would play, but he just

didn't know how much.

On Nebraska's next drive, it was Frazier's arm that did the damage. He connected with Reggie Baul on a 36-yard strike to give Nebraska a 35-7 lead.

Green, who rushed for 176 yards on 12 carries, said the offense needed this game to polish its attack. Nebraska had 624 yards rushing and 776 yards of total offense.

In the meantime, the Nebraska defense held Troy Davis to 121 yards on 28 carries, well below his average of 190.8 yards a game.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said he knew the Cyclones would have trouble at Memorial Stadium since they had scored only 17 points in their two previous road games this season.

Brown added a 38-yard field goal 27 seconds before the half to give the Huskers a 38-7 lead.

To start the second half, Iowa State again had trouble with the kickoff as Preston Rheaumy coughed up the ball, and Tyrone Williams recovered it at the Iowa State 23-yard line. A 16-yard shovel pass to Green set up a fourth-down-and-goal from the 1-yard line, and Frazier scored with 12:39 remaining.

After a Cyclone punt, Nebraska had its seventh one-play drive of the season when Green turned around the left corner and raced 64 yards for a touchdown.

Nebraska scored three more rushing touchdowns in the game, including one by Phillips. Phillips scored on a 13-yard run with 5:37 left in the third.

Frazier said Nebraska was now on pace to make it to Tempe, Ariz., to play in the Fiesta Bowl.

"We had to go out there and win," Frazier said. "We know if we go out there and stumble a bit, we won't be playing for the championship."

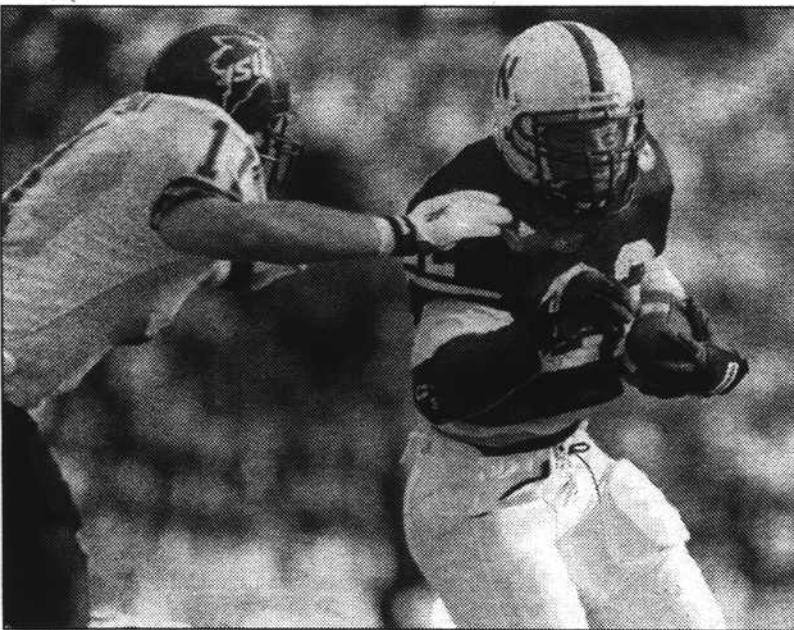
"We put ourselves in a position now where we have two games to go, and if we win next week, we have one win to go, and that's all we're doing is taking them one game at a time."



Nebraska rover Mike Minter intercepts a Tommie Frazier pass. The interception led to a Kris Brown field goal.



Green



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska fullback Jeff Makovicka runs past Iowa State's Matt Straight. Makovicka ran for 39 yards on five carries.

Game Stats

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Nebraska	Iowa State
Iowa State	0	7	0	7	73	14
Nebraska	20	18	28	7		

Neb- Frazier 4yd run (Brown kick)
Neb- Green 6yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick)
Neb- Green 17yd run (kick failed)
ISU- Williams 15yd pass from Bandhauer (Kohl kick)
Neb- Green 26yd run (Frazier run)
Neb- Baul 36yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick)
Neb- FG Brown 38yd

Neb- Frazier 1yd run (Brown kick)
Neb- Green 64yd run (Brown kick)
Neb- Phillips 13yd run (Retzlaff kick)
Neb- Childs 13yd run (Retzlaff kick)
ISU- Norris 6yd run (Kohl kick)
Neb- Joel Makovicka 18yd run (Retzlaff kick)
Attendance: 75,505

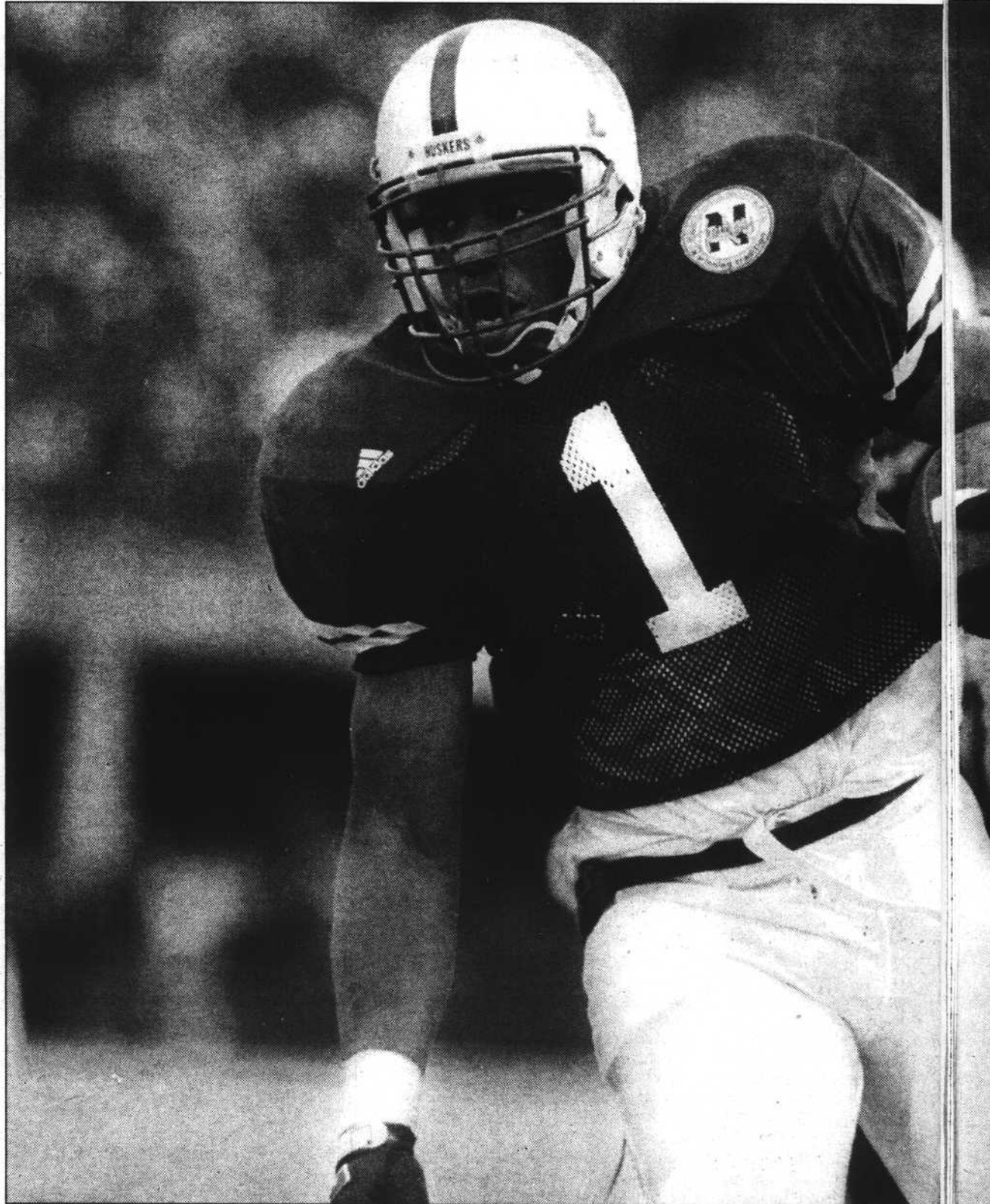
Nebraska Rushing				Iowa State Rushing			
	Att.	Yds.		Att.	Yds.		Att.
Green	12	176	Davis	28	121		
Phillips	12	68	Norris	1	6		
Frazier	8	62	Bandhauer	3	-6		

Nebraska Passing				Iowa State Passing			
	Comp.	Att.	Int.	Yds.		Comp.	Att.
Frazier	10	15	0	118	Bandhauer	11	24

Nebraska Receiving			Iowa State Receiving		
	No.	Yds.		No.	Yds.
Baul	4	48	Horacek	5	66
Vedral	2	35	Williams	4	45
Green	2	22	Guggenheim	1	19

Breakdown		Neb.		ISU	
First Downs	37	15	Punts-avg.	0-0	6-36
Rushes-yards	68-624	32-121	Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Passing yards	152	143	Penalties-Yards	8-89	4-36
Return Yards	73	133	Time of Possession	35:59	24:01

DN graphic



Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips breaks through the Iowa State defense. Phillips ran for 68 yards on 12 carries.