

Coach McCarney not surprised by dominating Cornhusker squad

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

When Iowa State trailed 14-0 with 6:05 to play in the first quarter, and its offense hadn't yet stepped on the field, Cyclone coach Dan McCarney knew it might be a long day.

And it was as top-ranked Nebraska routed Iowa State 73-14 Saturday in front of 75,505 fans at Memorial Stadium.

McCarney said he was amazed by the Cornhuskers.

"I've been in college football for 25 years as a player and a coach, and that's as fine of team as I've ever played against or coached against," McCarney said. "I've coached against teams that were No. 1 before, but (Nebraska) is just a totally dominating football team."

"They not only have outstanding players, but they do a great job as a coaching staff. This didn't surprise me at all. Obviously, the score got away from us, and I didn't think the score would get as bad as it did. But it was the men and the boys."

Nebraska took the opening drive 69 yards in eight plays and capped it with a 4-yard touchdown run by Tommie Frazier. On the kickoff, the wind held up the ball, and Nebraska's Eric Stokes recovered the 25-yard kick.

Eleven plays and 41 yards later, Ahman Green scored on a 6-yard pass from Frazier to put the Huskers up 14-0.

But McCarney said that even though two turnovers on kickoffs led to Nebraska touchdowns, he wouldn't use it as an excuse.

"We made some real critical errors," he said. "We fumbled two kickoffs, which is ridiculous and inexcusable. You don't stand a chance against

Top 25 teams

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

Associated Press

Rank	School	Record	Points	Pvs.
1	Nebraska (45)	9-0-0	1,530	1
2	Ohio St. (12)	9-0-0	1,470	4
3	Florida (5)	8-0-0	1,464	3
4	Tennessee	8-1-0	1,346	5
5	Northwestern	8-1-0	1,288	6
6	Florida St.	7-1-0	1,241	2
7	Kansas St.	8-1-0	1,165	9
8	Notre Dame	8-2-0	1,095	8
9	Colorado	7-2-0	954	10
10	Kansas	8-1-0	940	11
11	Texas	6-1-1	913	13
12	Southern Cal	7-1-1	836	14
13	Michigan	7-2-0	744	7
14	Virginia	7-3-0	698	24
15	Arkansas	7-2-0	679	18
16	Alabama	7-2-0	641	16
17	Oregon	7-2-0	619	19
18	Texas A&M	5-2-0	562	17
19	Penn St.	6-3-0	442	12
20	Auburn	6-3-0	419	21
21	Virginia Tech	7-2-0	378	--
22	Washington	5-3-1	227	15
23	Syracuse	6-2-0	85	20
24	Clemson	6-3-0	73	--
25	San Diego St.	7-2-0	62	--

USA Today/CNN Coaches Poll

Rank	School	Record	Points	Pvs.
1	Nebraska (52)	9-0-0	1,537	1
2	Ohio St. (9)	9-0-0	1,466	4
3	Florida (1)	8-0-0	1,461	3
4	Tennessee	8-1-0	1,339	5
5	Northwestern	8-1-0	1,292	6
6	Florida St.	7-1-0	1,202	2
7	Kansas St.	8-1-0	1,172	8
8	Texas	6-1-1	1,040	9
9	Notre Dame	8-2-0	949	10
10	(tie) Colorado	7-2-0	903	12
10	(tie) Southern Cal	7-1-1	903	11
12	Kansas	8-1-0	875	14
13	Virginia	7-3-0	719	20
14	Texas A&M	5-2-0	678	16
15	Michigan	7-2-0	677	7
16	Arkansas	7-2-0	653	18
17	Oregon	7-2-0	635	19
18	Alabama	7-2-0	486	22
19	Virginia Tech	7-2-0	418	--
20	Auburn	6-3-0	408	23
21	Penn St.	6-3-0	356	13
22	Syracuse	6-2-0	256	15
23	Washington	5-3-1	155	17
24	UCLA	6-3-0	111	21
25	Clemson	6-3-0	87	--

DN Graphic

a great team like Nebraska if you do that. But I give all the credit to them. They are just a magnificent football team."

Iowa State's Heisman Trophy candidate, running back Troy Davis, improved his nation-leading rushing total to 1,647 yards with 121 yards against Nebraska.

Davis said he showed he could put up big numbers against one of the best rushing defenses in the country.

"I rushed for over 100 yards," Davis said. "I think that I did good out there. The defense was going to key on me. I proved to people I could run on them anyway."

But McCarney, who admitted Davis' Heisman chances were fading, spent the majority of his postgame press conference praising Nebraska.

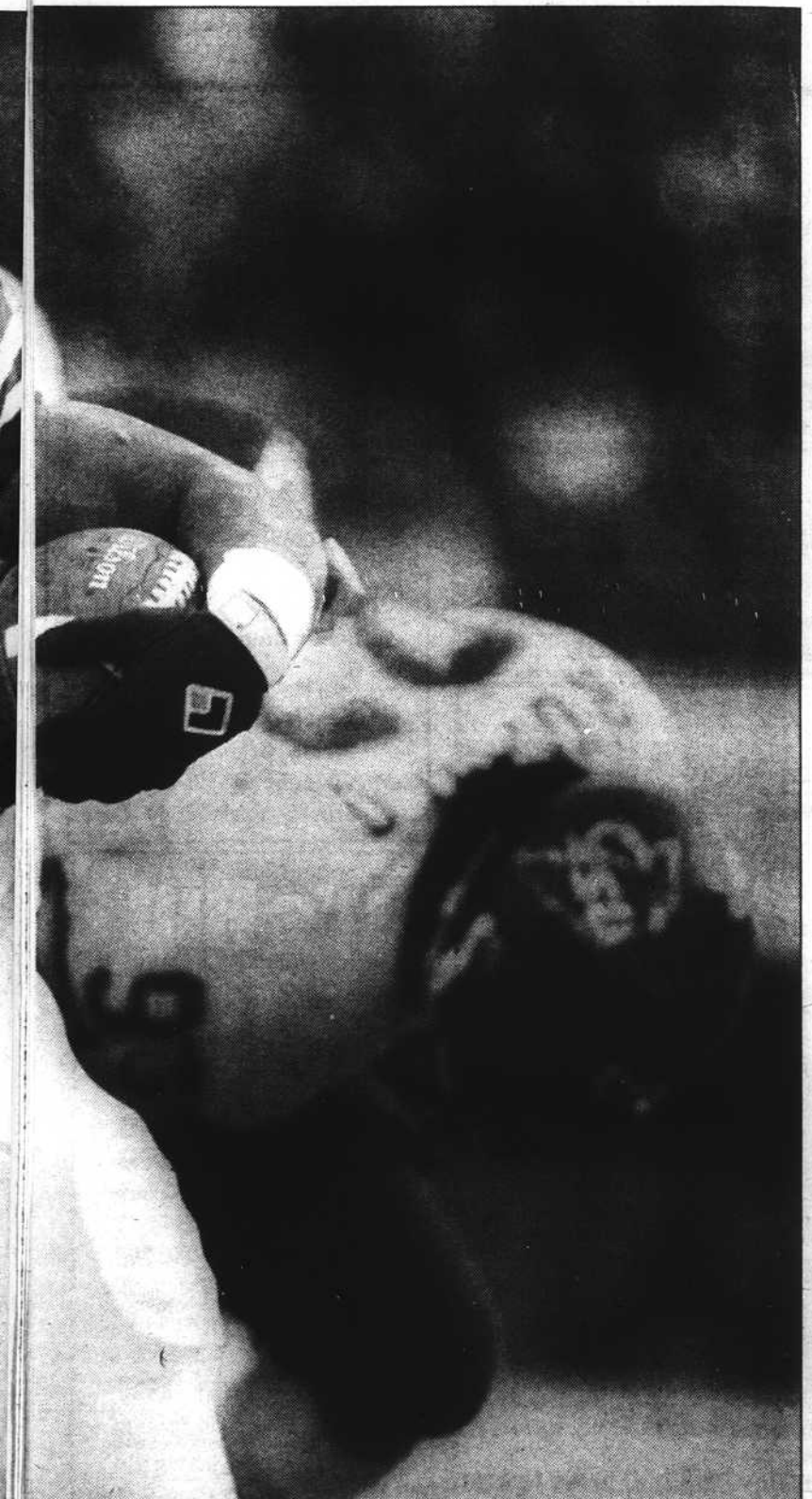
"They're as fine of a team physically that I've ever seen," he said.

McCarney said Davis' numbers could have been better, but Nebraska's defensive line was too strong.

"They didn't allow us to do the things we wanted to offensively," he said. "They have a physical front seven. I didn't see many times when we were knocking red jerseys back off the ball like we have in our other eight games. That's a credit to them. They are just physical, tough and had a great scheme."



Jon Waller/DN
Bandhauer pass in the second field goal to put the Huskers up

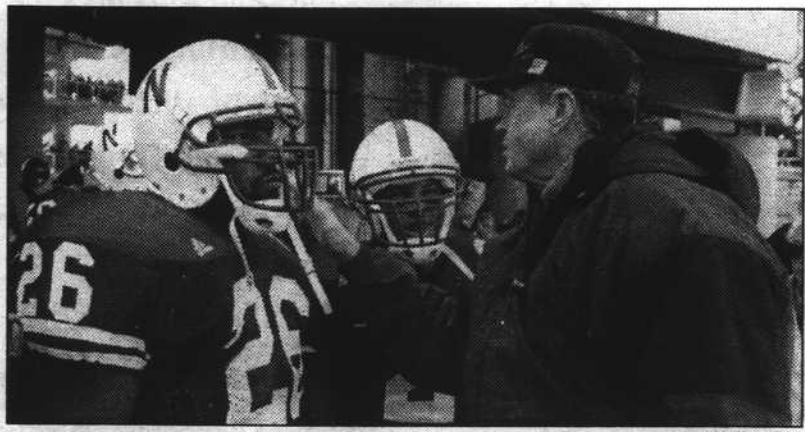


Jon Waller/DN
on 12 carries after coming back from a six-game suspension.



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska I-back Ahman Green celebrates after one of his three touchdowns on the day. Green ran for 176 yards on 12 carries.



Jon Waller/DN
Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, along with I-backs Clinton Childs and Damon Benning, gets ready to run on to the field before the game Saturday.

Game Day notebook

Nebraska Iowa St.
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● After Florida State's 33-28 loss at Virginia Thursday night, Nebraska took a commanding lead in both football polls. In the CNN/USA Today coaches poll, Nebraska now has 52 first-place votes, compared to 28 last week. Ohio State moved ahead of Florida for second. In the Associated Press poll, Nebraska has 45 first-place votes, and Ohio State is second with 12. Last week, the Cornhuskers had 23 first-place votes.

● By winning their ninth game of the season, the Huskers kept alive their NCAA-record streak of 27 seasons with at least nine wins.

● Nebraska I-back Ahman Green broke Calvin Jones' record for rushing yards as a freshman. Green, who had his fifth 100-yard game of the season, has rushed for 997 yards, including a 176-yard, three-touchdown performance Saturday. Jones ran for 900 yards in 1991. Green is just 131 yards shy of the Big Eight freshman record of 1,127 set by Kansas' June Henley in 1993.

● Tommie Frazier tied David Humm's school record for touchdown passes in a career, throwing his record-tying 41st to Reggie Baul in the second quarter. Overall in his career, Frazier has 75 touchdowns, an ongoing Nebraska record. Frazier passed Humm for second in all-time total offensive yards with 5,128, and he needs only 156 yards to pass Jerry Tagge for the record. Frazier also set the school record for wins by a starting quarterback with his 30th.

● The 73 points the Huskers scored against Iowa State were the most ever scored against a Cyclone team, topping Nebraska's 72 points against the Cyclones in 1983. The margin of 59 points was the largest in the series. The Huskers' 624 yards rushing was the second highest in school history and the most Iowa State had ever allowed. Nebraska's 776 yards of total offense was also the most the Cyclones had ever allowed.

● Iowa State coach Dan McCarney said he hoped people wouldn't think Nebraska ran up the score.

"Never at one time did I think they were trying to run it up," McCarney said. "They were just in another league. They substituted early in the second half, and we couldn't stop any of them. (Nebraska coach Tom Osborne) said he was sorry the score got away. I said, 'That's not your fault, coach; that's our fault.'"

● Nebraska did not have a punt against Iowa State, marking the first time the Huskers haven't punted in a game since their 71-14 win over Colorado State in 1991.

● In Osborne's 23-year career at Nebraska, the Huskers have scored 10,017 points, while the opposition has scored just 4,293.

● The Huskers have had one-play scoring drives in six of nine games this season and seven one-play drives overall. Nebraska's one-play score came on Green's 64-yard touchdown run with 10 minutes remaining in the third quarter.

● Injury Report: Offensive tackle Eric Anderson sprained an ankle against Iowa State and will miss practice Monday. Fullback Brian Schuster also will miss practice Monday.

Notes compiled by Senior Reporters Trevor Parks and Derek Samson.