

KU errors seal Husker victory

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Kansas football team learned Saturday that it's difficult to pass, run, block and catch after you shoot yourself in the foot.

Before a half-Husker partisan and half-frozen crowd of 50,300 fans at Memorial Stadium, No. 10 Kansas outplayed top-ranked Nebraska in the first half, but several costly mistakes cost the Jayhawks a chance to capture momentum. The Cornhuskers dominated the second half, cruising to a 41-3 win, which by nearly all accounts was much closer than the score indicated.

Kansas fell to 8-2 overall and 4-2 in the Big Eight. Nebraska improved to 10-0 and 6-0 in the conference.

"I thought at half time, it was anybody's game," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "We scored on a couple of fortunate situations in the first half, and we hadn't moved the ball as well as they had."

At the half, Nebraska had scored only one offensive touchdown, lost two fumbles, rushed for 79 yards and gained only five first downs. The Jayhawks, meanwhile, had 15 first downs and 185 yards passing, but only three points.

"I thought Kansas played really well early in the ball game," Osborne said. "They seemed to be a little more intense, a little more excited than we were. As the game went on, we got into it a little better and figured out what they were doing."

Kansas took the opening kickoff and marched 48 yards to the Husker 33-yard line before two Mark Williams

passes fell incomplete, turning the ball over to Nebraska on downs.

Williams, a 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior, nicked and dimed the Husker defense for 242 yards, completing 25 of 47 passes.

"They had a little more yards than we would have hoped they would have," Nebraska outside linebacker Jared Tomich said, "but when you keep the No. 10 team out of the end zone defensively, we did real well."

Nebraska gained 9 yards on its first three plays, but Kansas wide receiver Isaac Byrd bobbled Jesse Kosch's first punt in 14 days. The ball bounced 15 yards into the end zone, and Jon Vedral recovered it for a touchdown.

Later in the first quarter, Tomich drilled June Henley, forcing the Kansas tailback to fumble at the Jayhawk 30-yard line. Tony Veland fell on the ball, and two plays later, Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier ran 25 yards to the 1-yard line. Frazier scored on the next play to put the Huskers up 14-0.

For the day, the senior Heisman Trophy candidate ran for 99 yards and two scores on 10 carries and completed 10 of 15 passes for 86 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

On a third-quarter, 12-yard completion to Clester Johnson, Frazier passed Jerry Tagge to move into first place on the all-time Nebraska total offense charts. Frazier now has 5,314 total yards and 78 career touchdowns, both school records.

Kansas took its first possession of the second quarter 86 yards to the Nebraska 3-yard line, but tough Husker run support forced the Jayhawks to settle for a 19-yard Jeff McCord field goal that cut Nebraska's lead to 14-3 with 11:23 to play in the first half.

"It's always frustrating to give up the short passes," Nebraska linebacker Phil Ellis said. "But as long as we don't give up the deep ball, we can get to them. A team can only go so far throwing those short passes. We bent a little, but we didn't break."

Brook Berringer replaced Frazier — who spent five minutes in the locker room having his right leg retaped — on the next possession. On a second-down-and-one play from the Husker 49-yard line, Berringer attempted a lateral to Lawrence Phillips, but the ball fell short, and Kansas linebacker Dick Holt recovered the fumble, Nebraska's first turnover in 18 quarters.

Kansas went three plays and out, and Sean McDermott's long snap sailed well over Kansas punter Darrin Simmons' head to the Jayhawk 23-yard line. Nebraska, however, failed to capitalize, giving the ball back to Kansas after a 2-yard loss by Frazier on a fourth-down-and-two play from the Kansas 15-yard line.

The Jayhawks again threatened to score, but Williams' pass was deflected and picked off by Tyrone Williams at the Nebraska 11-yard line.

"I was very surprised because that very seldom ever happens to me," Williams said. "Everybody on the field gets some lucky interception except me."

But Nebraska, trying to mount a last-minute scoring drive, returned the favor to Kansas on an Ahman Green fumble recovered by Chris Jones at the Kansas 46-yard line.

Williams completed two passes, and Tomich was called for a 15-yard facemask penalty that gave the Jayhawks a first down at the Husker 22-yard line. McCord entered to attempt a 39-yard field goal, but time

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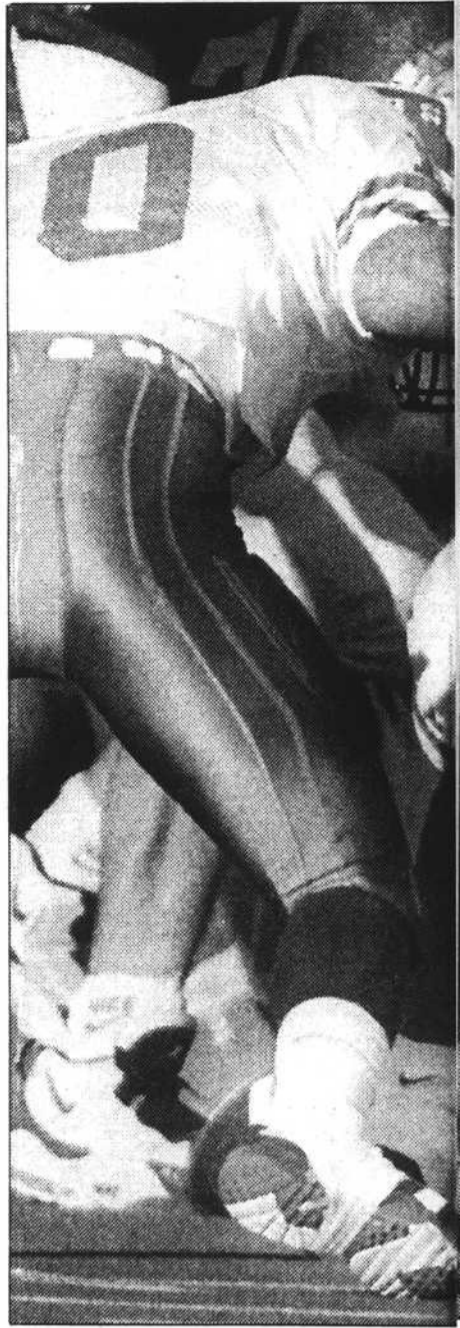
ran out before Kansas could snap the ball.

Nebraska scored on three of its first four possessions of the second half, the first touchdown coming on a 1-yard pass from Frazier to tight end Vershan Jackson.

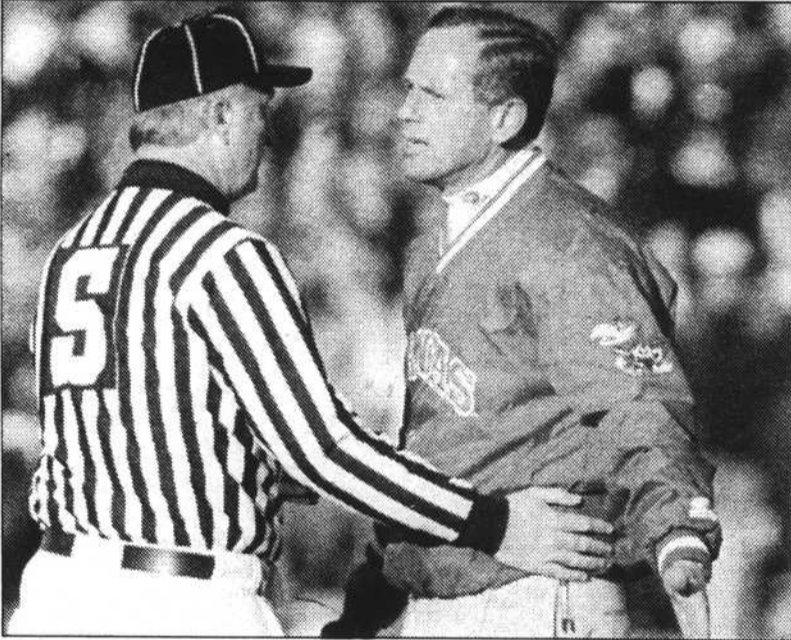
Phillips, in his second game back after serving a six-game suspension, was Nebraska's second-leading rusher, gaining 47 yards on 10 attempts. The junior from West Covina, Calif., carried the load on Nebraska's second touchdown of the third quarter. He ran three times for 23 yards, the final six yards resulting in a touchdown that gave Nebraska a commanding 28-3 lead with 4:04 to play in the third quarter.

Frazier added a 5-yard scoring plunge, and cornerback Mike Fullman intercepted a Ben Rutz pass late in the game and raced 86 yards for a touchdown to close the scoring with 6:46 to play in the game.

"KU played really good in the first half and made us buckle down," Frazier said. "We got set on what we had to do and stayed focused. My team came out and got the victory, and that's all I care about."



Nebraska's Mike Minter, left, and...



Jon Waller/DN

Kansas coach Glen Mason argues with officials at the end of the first half. The Jayhawks weren't able to set up to kick a field goal because the clock had started and expired.

Game Stats

Nebraska 41
Kansas 3

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Nebraska	14	0	14	13
Kansas	0	3	0	0

Neb- Vedral fumble recovery in end zone (Brown kick)
Neb- Frazier 1yd run (Brown kick)
KU- FG McCord 19yd
Neb- V. Jackson 1yd pass from Frazier (Brown kick)
Neb- Phillips 6yd run (Brown kick)
Neb- Frazier 5yd run (Brown kick)
Neb- Fullman 86yd int. return (kick failed)

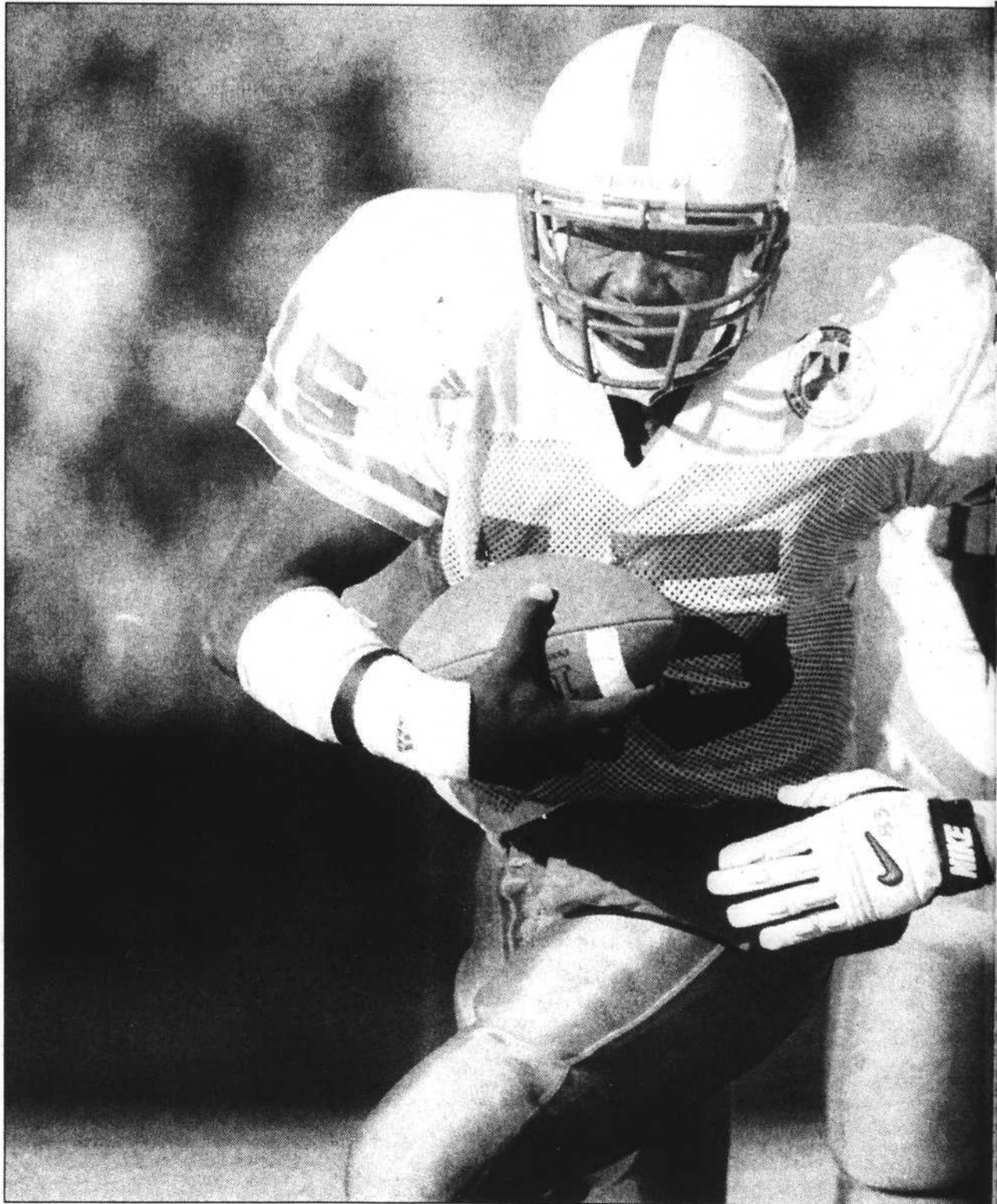
Nebraska Rushing			Kansas Rushing		
	Att.	Yds.		Att.	Yds.
Frazier	10	99	Levine	13	47
Phillips	10	47	Henley	7	14
Green	10	45	Williams	3	7

Nebraska Passing				Kansas Passing					
	Comp.	Att.	Int.	Yds.		Comp.	Att.	Int.	Yds.
Frazier	10	15	1	86	Williams	27	45	2	243
					Rutz	3	5	1	31

Nebraska Receiving			Kansas Receiving		
	No.	Yds.		No.	Yds.
Johnson	4	50	Levine	9	51
S. Jackson	2	13	Byrd	6	71
Holbein	1	14	Smith	6	48

Breakdown		Neb.	KU			Neb.	KU
First Downs		20	25	Punts-avg.		3-42	4-33
Rushes-yards		51-289	32-72	Fumbles-Lost		3-2	3-2
Passing yards		86	273	Penalties-Yards		2-20	5-42
Return Yards		166	106	Time of Possession		28:36	31:24

DN graphic



Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier breaks free from the grasp of Kansas defensive tackle Dewey Jerry Tagge.