

NU offense comes to life

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

After three weeks of spring football, the Nebraska offense has finally caught up to the defense.

At Saturday afternoon's two-hour scrimmage, the offense scored five touchdowns, two of which came against the first-team defense. Before Saturday, the Blackshirts had not given up a touchdown all spring.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride wasn't surprised with the offense's improvement.

"Usually early in the spring the defense is more dominant," McBride said, "and as the spring goes on, the offense starts getting their act together. It's always kind of been that way."

No. 1 quarterback Scott Frost was a major factor in the three scores against the top defense. The No. 1 offense's first points of the day came on Kris Brown's 32-yard field goal.

Leading the No. 2 offense, Frost then took an option keeper around the left side and ran back across the field for a 29-yard touchdown run.

Frost led the top offense for most of a 10-play, 70-yard drive later in the scrimmage. He ran for 16 yards, including five on a fourth-down-and-4. After completing a 19-yard pass to Shevin Wiggins to the 15-yard line, Frost was replaced by Matt Turman.

Turman handed the ball to Ahman Green twice, and on his second carry, Green scored from 14 yards out.

Frost, a junior-to-be, said the offense was starting to come together going into the final week of spring drills.

"The execution was definitely better, and I think we've got a little more confidence," Frost said. "I think that happens every spring. The defense tends to come out and dominate in the beginning."

The transfer from Stanford showed his running ability in the scrimmage, running for 101 yards and one touchdown on 10 carries.

For the second straight week, Frost showed that he was the top quarterback, Coach Tom Osborne said.

"He's a durable guy and an excellent runner," Osborne said. "We think he's capable of being a good quarterback, and he almost has to play like an I-back."

Looking like an I-back, Frost had success executing the quarterback trap and draw. Frost ran those plays twice from the shotgun for a combined 26 yards. He ran it another time from under center for 5 yards.

Before Saturday, Frost said, he had run that play only once this spring.



Matt Miller/DN
Ahman Green races for 40 yards during the first play of Saturday's scrimmage at Memorial Stadium. Green ran for 101 yards and one score on 12 carries.

"If you get the linebackers spread out, you can run that quarterback draw pretty easy," Frost said. "You've got to like it if you're getting 10 to 15 yards each time."

Green ran for 101 yards and one touchdown on 12 carries. He opened the scrimmage with a 40-yard burst against the third-team defense.

In the air, Frost was 3 of 7 for 35 yards, but he did connect on a 14-yard touchdown pass to Lance Brown on the scrimmage's first drive.

For the second straight scrimmage, Jeff Perino led all quarterbacks by completing 12 of 17 passes for a spring-

high 178 yards. Turman was 7 of 10 for 105 yards, and Monte Christo completed 6 of 8 passes for 74 yards before leaving the scrimmage with a right shoulder strain.

The successful passing, however, may be the result of a banged-up secondary.

In addition to No. 1 rover Mike Minter, cornerbacks Mike Fullman, Leslie Dennis, Jerome Peterson and Michael Booker all missed the scrimmage because of injuries.

"The thing that's good about it," McBride said, "is that in the spring you get a lot of repetition for those guys who are backups."

NU tied for Big 12 lead after weekend

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

For the second time in the last two weeks, Nebraska shortstop Ali Viola hit a game-winning home run in a Big 12 Conference softball game.

On April 3 against Iowa State, Viola hit a two-run blast over the center-field wall in the bottom of the 10th inning to propel the Huskers to a 9-7 victory.

On Sunday, against Texas A&M, with two outs in the top of the 10th inning, Viola came through again.

This time her home run over the right-field fence in the 10th inning scored three runs and led the 17th-ranked Huskers to a 4-1 victory.

Nebraska, 29-13 overall and 5-2 in the Big 12, improved its record in extra-inning games to 5-0. The Aggies fell to 28-12 overall and 4-6 in the conference.

The Huskers, who are tied for first in the Big 12, won the weekend series against the 12th-ranked Aggies 2-1. After losing the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday 3-0, the Huskers responded with a 4-1 victory in the second game.

In the 10th inning on Sunday, Husker junior catcher Rachel Dunham was placed on second base because of the tie-breaker rule in softball. An error by Aggie first

baseman Mya Truelove on Karla Knicely's bunt gave the Huskers runners at first and second with no outs.

Nebraska's Gloria Von Rentzell then grounded out, and Tobin Echo-Hawk made it to first on a fielder's choice, giving the Huskers runners on first and third before Viola came to the plate.

In her three previous at-bats on Sunday, Viola didn't have a hit. Throughout the weekend, Viola had three hits in 10 plate appearances, including a double.

Husker sophomore pitcher Angela Blackwood improved her record to 12-4, pitching 5 2/3 innings while giving up one run on six hits. Senior pitcher Stacie Stafford started the game and pitched 4 1/3 innings. Stafford allowed one run and one hit before being relieved by Blackwood.

Second baseman Heather Hanselmann finished the game 2 for 3. She was the only Husker to record more than one hit Sunday. Catcher Jenny Smith, Viola and Echo-Hawk also had base hits and Knicely scored two runs.

In Saturday's second game, Stafford improved her record to 13-8 by pitching a complete game, allowing only one run on three hits and striking out two Aggies.

Throwers lead NU at invite

From Staff Reports

Nebraska sophomore Dorcen Heldt and senior Greg Armitage posted NCAA provisional qualifying marks in the hammer throw at the UTEP Invite in El Paso, Texas, Saturday.

Heldt won the hammer throw with a 157-foot-10-inch toss, while Armitage finished sixth. Armitage's throw of 207-2 set both a Nebraska and a Big Eight Conference record.

Junior Angee Henry won the long jump with a wind-aided leap of 21-5.

Other Cornhusker winners in El Paso included: Shane Lavy in the high jump, Balazs Tolgyesi in the 800-meter run, Jonah Kiptarus in the 1,500-meter run, Willie Hibler in the 110-meter hurdles and the 4 x 400-meter relay team of Frank Mensah, Miklos Roth, Hibler and Charles Reid.

In Des Moines, Iowa, at the Jim Duncan Invite, Husker winners included: Heather Burns (100-meter hurdles), Colleen McKinney (400-meter hurdles), Brady Bonsall (1,500-meter run), Joe Erdkamp (discus), Melissa Wilson, Nora Shepherd, Christina Blackmer and Sherri Elwood (4 x 1,500-meter relay) and Shepherd, Elwood, Heather McMahon and Blackmer (distance relay).

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