

NU, Frost catch fire; burn Jayhawks 63-7

Husker quarterback nears NU record with 254 yards passing.

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Under a full moon and a stadium filled with artificial light Saturday night, the Nebraska football team shined the brightest.

The fifth-ranked Cornhuskers, who struggled to score only 24 points and committed five turnovers last week at Texas Tech, exploded for a 63-7 win over Kansas before 75,158 fans in Memorial Stadium's first night game since 1992.

The win, NU's 34th straight at home, improved Nebraska to 6-1 overall and 4-0 in the Big 12, keeping the Huskers in a first-place tie with Colorado in North Division.

NU Coach Tom Osborne was in a much better mood after the turnover-free offensive effort against Jayhawks than he was one week earlier.

"I was struggling a little bit trying to figure out if we were solid on both sides of the ball or not," Osborne said. "We seemed to be more sure of what we wanted to do — and that's be a great football team."

After going three downs and out on its opening offensive series, the Nebraska offense looked better than it had all season, scoring touchdowns on seven straight possessions.

A major reason was quarterback Scott Frost.

Frost, a junior transfer from Stanford, had his best game as a Husker. In the first half, he completed 11 of 15 passes for 220 yards. Two of his incompletions were made in an effort to stop the clock on NU's final drive of the half.

"It felt good to get out there and throw quite a few passes," Frost said. "We threw a lot more in the first half than we have in the first half of a lot of games."

"When you get a chance to throw that many, you get into a rhythm."

He finished the game with a season-best 254 yards passing — just 43 yards shy of David Humm's school record set in 1973 — completing 12 of 16 passes for three touchdowns.

"We all understand now how well we can perform and what level we can play at," Frost said.

Said Osborne: "He threw the ball well, ran the ball well, ran the team well. There is no question if you looked at that game, that he's got the skills to be an outstanding player."

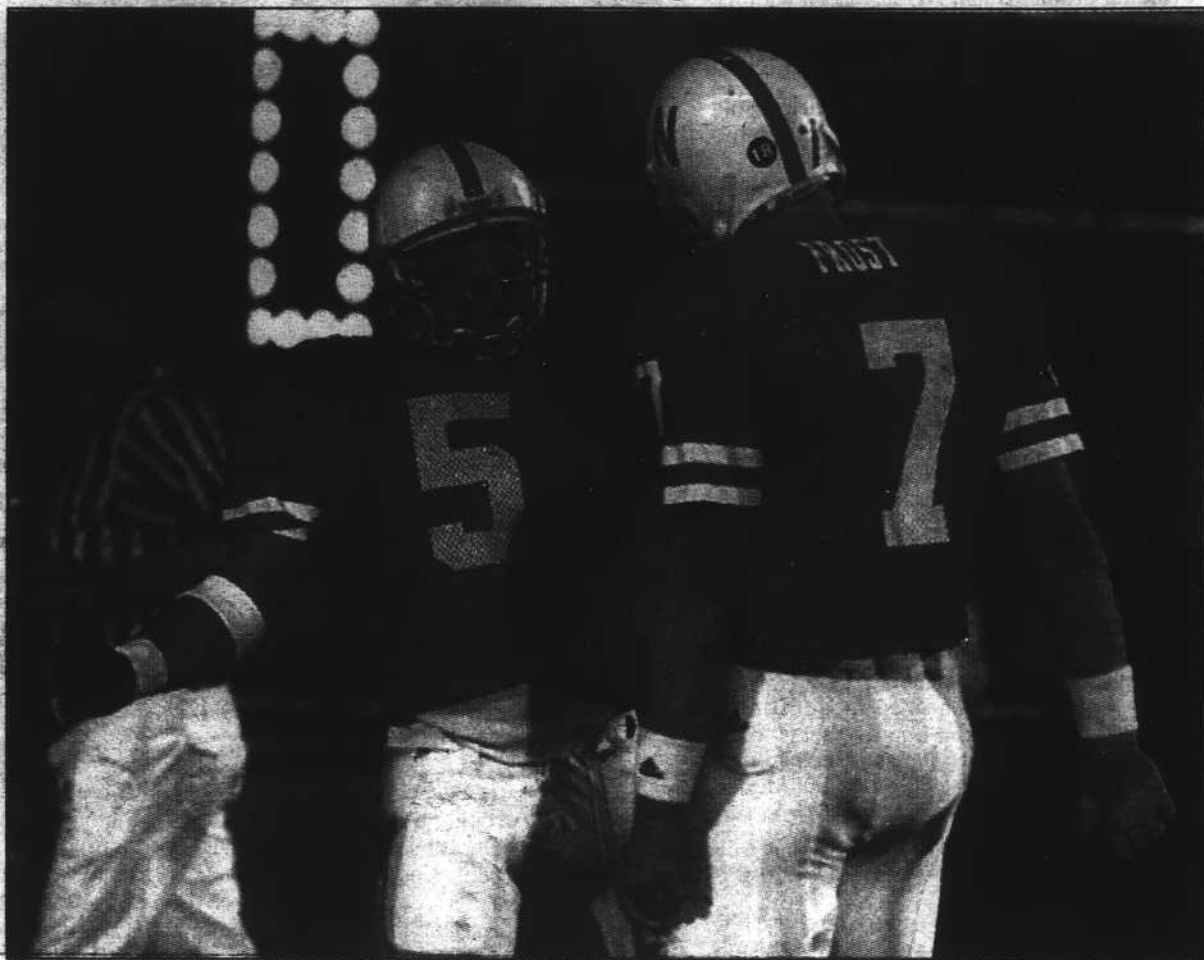
"We're very pleased with him and really have been generally satisfied with him all year."

KU Coach Glen Mason, who is 0-9 against NU, said he underestimated Frost's ability.

"Bill Walsh recruited him to Stanford as a passer and he's in the Hall of Fame," said Mason, whose team fell to 3-4 and 1-2 after losing its third straight game. "And I'm riding the bus home eating a bologna sandwich."

Against the Jayhawks, the NU passing game was not as bland as bologna. The Nebraska offense finished the game with 322 yards rushing and 273 yards passing. Entering the game, NU had the 104th-ranked passing offense in the country, averaging 114.3 yards per game.

"I think the perception out there is that we can't throw it or catch it,"



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

Kansas	7
Nebraska	63

"We all understand now how well we can perform and what level we can play at."

SCOTT FROST
NU quarterback

Osborne said: "I've been seeing things in practice that lead me to believe that we can."

Whatever Osborne saw in practice worked in the first half.

Frost's second pass of the game was a 41-yard toss to tight end Vershan Jackson, giving NU a first down at the KU 25-yard line. Five plays later, Frost hit tight end Sheldon Jackson for a 8-yard touchdown strike in the back of the end zone with 2 minutes, 56 seconds left in the first quarter.

The Husker barrage continued in the second quarter, when Nebraska scored 14 points in a 21-second span.

Ahman Green — who led Nebraska with 65 yards rushing on 12 attempts — took a pitch from Frost around the left side for an 11-yard touchdown to put NU on top by two touchdowns.

Eric Warfield then stripped the ball from KU running back Eric Vann — who started in place of a suspended June Henley — and Jared Tomich recovered at the KU 20.

On NU's first play after the turnover, Frost threw a screen pass to Brendan Holbein, who bolted 20 yards to score with 14:08 left in the half.

The only dim point of the night for Nebraska came when KU wide receiver Isaac Byrd beat freshman Ralph Brown for a 77-yard touchdown pass from Matt Johner, pulling the

Gameday

Nebraska 63
Kansas 7

Nebraska Players				Kansas Players			
Player	Att.	Yds.	TDs	Player	Att.	Yds.	TDs
21 Damon Benning	9	54	1	34 Mark Sanders	5	8	0
Receiving				Receiving			
Player	Rec.	Yds.	TDs	Player	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
34 Vershan Jackson	2	65	0	25 Eric Vann	3	35	0
Passing				Passing			
Player	Att/Cmp/Int	Yds.	TDs	Player	Att/Cmp/Int	Yds.	TDs
11 Matt Turman	2/1/19	0	0	18 Matt Johner	9/5/0	94	1
Team Totals				Team Totals			
First downs	34	9	Fumbles / returns	0/0	0/0		
Rushing yards	322	55	Penalties / yards	2/15	6/34		
Passing completions	13	14	Kickoff returns / yards	0/0	4/75		
Total plays	81	57	Third-down conversion	8 of 14	3 of 13		
Average yards per play	7.3	3.7	Sacks / yards	3/18	0/0		

NU Coach Tom Osborne credited the fans after Nebraska won its school-record 34th-straight home game Saturday night over Kansas. The previous mark of 33 was set from 1901 through 1906.

"I really do believe that we have gotten more of a home-field advantage in recent years," Osborne said. "It seems like the crowd has gotten into a lot more and shown more enthusiasm."

At many stadiums, he said, fans would not stay to watch the end of a 63-7 blowout. "Most of the people would have been gone by the end of the third quarter," Osborne said, "but it's nice to have that kind of support for people to stay around and see the last substitution."

The Cornhuskers' last home defeat was a 36-21 loss to Washington, Sept. 21, 1991.

Kansas tailback June Henley did not make the trip to Lincoln after being ticketed for suspicion of driving while intoxicated last week. KU Coach Glen Mason defended his decision to suspend the seventh-ranked rusher in the nation.

"Any time any of my guys act inappropriately, I don't like it," Mason said. "I take full responsibility for it. I dealt with it and I talked to him."

Mason said he was unsure if Henley would return Saturday, when the Jayhawks travel to Iowa State.

Nebraska's victory Saturday was its 27th-straight conference win and its 28th-consecutive win over Kansas. The NU defense also extended its streak of games with at least one quarterback sack to 35.

Injury report: Rush end Jared Tomich (deep thigh bruise) may not practice today; fullback Brian Schuster (partially separated shoulder) did not play Saturday; I-back Ahman Green (reaggravated turf toe) will practice today. Cornerbacks Mike Fullman (bruised ankle), Michael Booker (bruised ankle), Chad Blahak (sore shoulder), linebacker Terrell Farley (sore shoulder) and rover Octavious McFarlin (sore hamstring) were also treated for injuries. None appeared serious.

Previously unbeaten Alabama and West Virginia lost Saturday. The Tide lost 20-13 to Tennessee and Miami beat the Mountaineers 10-7, leaving just No. 1 Florida, No. 2 Florida State, No. 3 Ohio State, No. 4 Arizona State and No. 17 Wyoming with perfect records. Nebraska remained fifth in both major polls Sunday.

Before the game, former Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier's jersey was retired. Frazier put on his red No. 15 one last time before the game and threw a 20-yard pass to former NU wingback Clester Johnson.

Notebook compiled by senior reporter Trevor Parks and staff reporter David Wilson.