

Gameday Notebook

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said he wasn't trying to run up the score when he called a pass play with 12 minutes remaining in the game and Nebraska leading 45-0.

Quarterback Scott Frost found Jeff Lake for a 51-yard touchdown, giving the Cornhuskers a 52-0 lead. The catch was Lake's first for a touchdown this season and was a season best for both Lake and Frost. It was also Frost's last play of the game.

"The reason we didn't take Scott out at that time was that Oklahoma had come back so well in the fourth quarter," Osborne said. "We weren't trying to embarrass them or anything. We didn't throw any long passes after that one and it certainly wasn't our intent. I hope people don't read that into it."

"Maybe it's something I shouldn't have done. If so I apologize."

OU Coach John Blake didn't think Osborne was trying to run up the score. "Coach Osborne is a nice person. I always have thought a lot about Coach Osborne, and I've always respected him. I never thought about him running up the score."

The 21 points given up by the NU defense in the fourth quarter were the most points any opponent has scored on the Huskers this season. Arizona State scored 19 points in Sept. 21 win over NU.

Since the loss to the Sun Devils, Nebraska has out-scored its opponents 313-50. In NU's first four conference games, it had allowed just 20 points.

The 73-21 win Saturday was Nebraska's sixth-straight victory over the Sooners, tying a school record for the longest winning streak against Oklahoma.

Nebraska won its 28th-straight conference game, and the victory assured the Huskers of 35-consecutive winning seasons, a streak that leads the nation and is third all-time among Division I teams.

Saturday's game was the fourth loss at home this season for the Sooners, the first time OU has ever lost four times at home in one season. In addition, the 73 points scored by Nebraska were the most ever given up by a Sooner team.

Injury report: I-back Ahman Green, who did not play in the second half and had just 9 yards Saturday, has been bothered by a turf toe injury since Nebraska's Oct. 5 win over Kansas State.

I-back Damon Benning (thigh bruise) may not practice today; wingback Shevin Wiggins (thigh bruise) will not practice today; offensive linemen Adam Treu, Eric Anderson and Rob Zatechka suffered minor ankle injuries; and fullback Billy Legate pulled a hamstring.

Notebook compiled by senior reporters Mike Kluck and Trevor Parks.

Husker offense awakens to slaughter Oklahoma

NU hands Oklahoma its worst loss ever after failing to score in the first quarter.

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — The words amazing, astonishing and astounding all could be understatement to describe the Nebraska football team's 73-21 victory over Oklahoma on Saturday.

What else could describe a game in which the Cornhusker offense punted the first six times it had the ball, but didn't kick the ball away for the rest of the game?

What other way is there to depict an intimidating Husker defense, which gave up zero points and only 89 yards through the first three quarters, but then allowed 186 yards and 21 points in the final period?

And what can be said for a Sooner team that won the national championship just 12 seasons ago but Saturday suffered its worst defeat ever, giving up the most points in school history before a sellout crowd of 75,004 at Memorial Stadium?

With the victory, fifth-ranked Nebraska (7-1 overall and 5-0 in the Big 12) secured its 35th-straight winning season, and OU (2-6 and 2-3) is now assured of its first losing season since 1965.

"In some ways it wasn't our best game, and in some ways if you look at the final score, it was kind of amazing," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "I guess when you win 70-some to 21, you say the key to the game was defense."

"It doesn't make a lot of sense, but obviously we played very well defensively."

The NU defense — through the game's first 50 minutes — was consistent and helped compensate for the Nebraska offense, which struggled early.

"Nebraska is the quickest defensive team we have faced," Oklahoma Coach John Blake said. "We got beat by an outstanding football team, but this game just showed us what we have to do to get better."

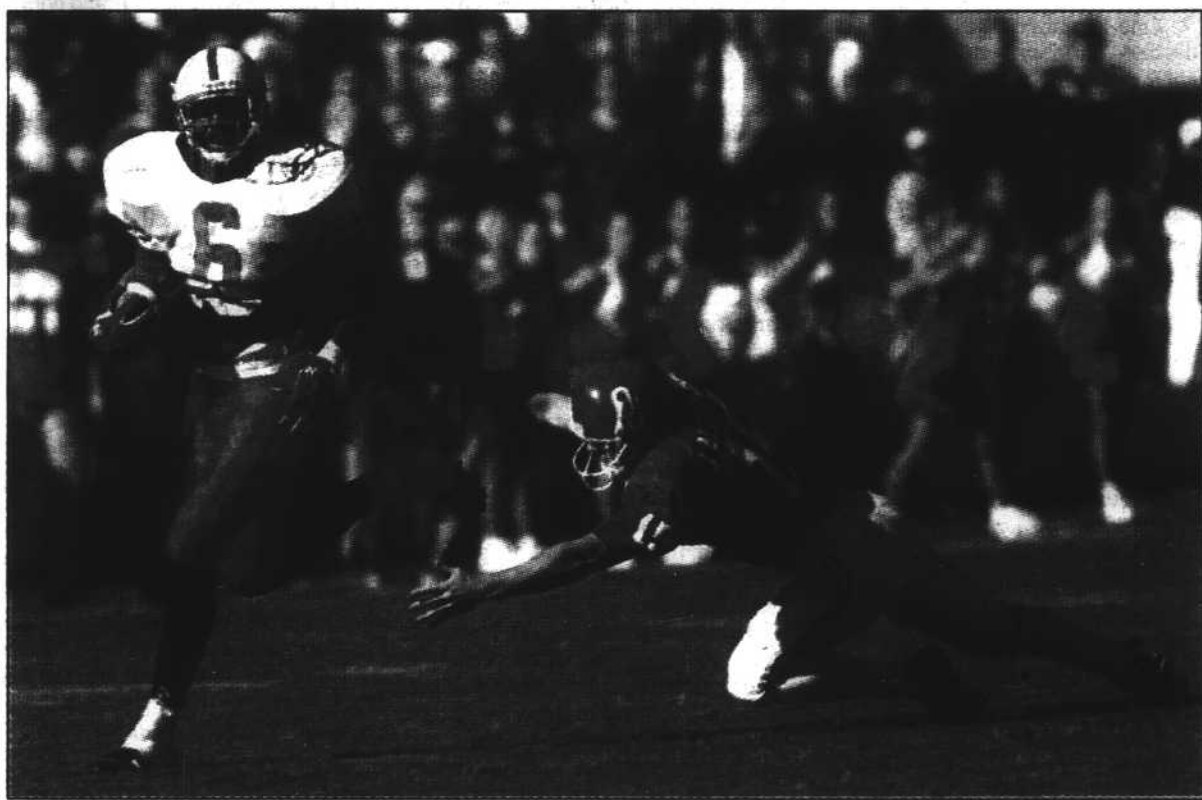
Oklahoma moved 11 yards backwards on first offensive possession, in part because of a seven-yard sack of Sooner quarterback Justin Fuente by Nebraska tackle Jason Peter. On second down, rush end Jared Tomich stopped OU running back James Allen for a 4-yard loss.

"Everybody knows about our defense," said Peter, who led the Nebraska defense with six tackles while playing with his right hand in a cast.

"When an offense has in their heads that (they) can't move the ball on (us), then we come out and tackle or sack them for a loss. They start thinking to themselves that maybe they can't move the ball. It plays a big part."

But when the NU offense took over, it didn't do much either. The Huskers went three downs and out on five of their first six possessions.

In the first quarter, Nebraska ran 15 offensive plays for seven yards, and the two teams combined for 26 yards and zero points.



Nebraska	73
Oklahoma	21

"Oklahoma came out and didn't play the standard 4-3 that we have seen," Osborne said. "I'm not sure that I adjusted very well myself. We were kind of searching."

"I don't think I did a very good job at the first part of the game, but then again it was so different from what we have seen them do. We really had to kind of re-organize ourselves."

However, on Jesse Kosch's sixth punt of the afternoon, NU received a break when Sooner freshman Jarraill Jackson fumbled the kick and Chad Kelsay recovered at the Oklahoma 17-yard line.

The Huskers moved only nine yards in seven plays and had to settle for a 25-yard Kris Brown field goal, which gave NU a 3-0 lead with 7 minutes, 57 seconds remaining in the half.

The Nebraska defense took over again on the Sooners' next possession. On third and 13 from the OU 17-yard line, Mike linebacker Jay Foreman picked off a Fuente pass with one hand, giving NU the ball at the OU 19.

"It was behind me and I just wanted to get my hand on it because I didn't want him to catch it," Foreman said of his first career interception.

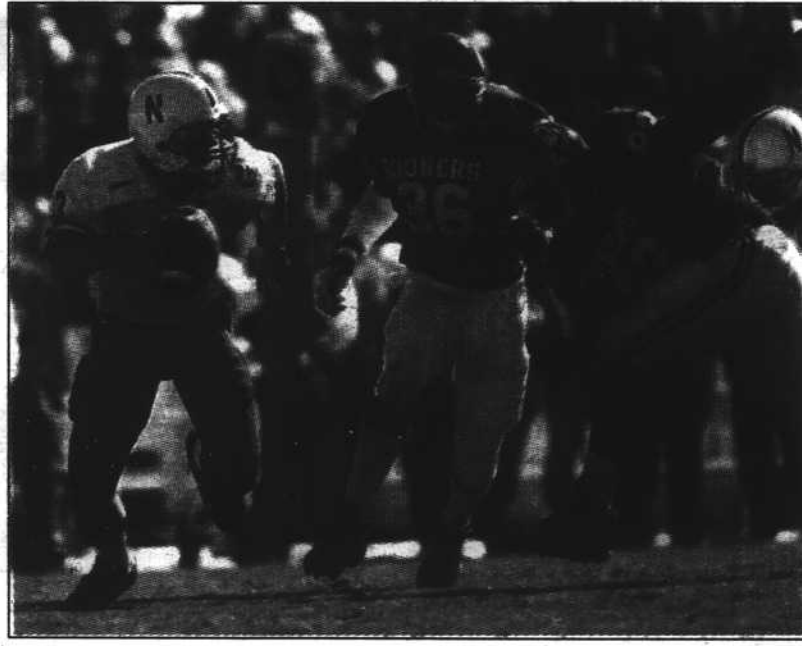
After Foreman's interception, Nebraska needed three plays to go 19 yards, scoring on a 1-yard run by freshman I-back DeAngelo Evans. Ahman Green added a 4-yard scoring run with 2:14 left in the half to give Nebraska a 17-0 halftime lead.

In the third quarter Oklahoma quarterbacks threw three-consecutive interceptions, all of which Nebraska converted into Husker touchdowns.

Freshman cornerback Ralph Brown picked off an Eric Moore pass and returned it 83 yards for a touchdown. Minutes later, Mike Minter intercepted Fuente at the OU 30, setting up a 10-yard touchdown strike from Scott Frost to Jon Vedral.

On the first play of the next Sooner possession, Eric Warfield intercepted Fuente after Peter tipped the ball. Four plays later, Evans scored from seven yards out to put NU on top 45-0.

"I've got to give all the credit to the defense," Frost said. "We had 31 points off turnovers. That's amazing. When they keep getting turnovers like that, it makes it a lot easier on the of-



Nebraska Players		Oklahoma Players	
Player	Att. Yds. TDs	Player	Att. Yds. TDs
4 DeAngelo Evans	13 42 2	25 James Allen	15 32 0
89 Jeff Lake	2 58 1	18 Maurice Little	1 27 0
Player	Att/Cmp/Int Yds. TDs	Player	Att/Cmp/Int Yds. TDs
11 Matt Turman	2/2/0 0 0	1 Eric Moore	7/2/1 18 0
Neb. Okla.		Neb. Okla.	
First downs	20 16	Fumbles / returns	3/2 2/1
Rushing yards	208 189	Penalties / yards	6/80 9/53
Passing completions	12 8	Kickoff returns / yards	2/94 10/108
Total plays	76 63	Third-down conversion	7 of 16 1 of 15
Average yards per play	5.1 4.4	Sacks / yards	5/23 1/6

Please see OU on 11