



Photos by Jay Calderon

Clockwise from left:

JARED TOMICH (No. 93) leads the charge to stop Oklahoma quarterback Justin Fuente. Fuente completed 5 of 16 passes for 68 yards.

DAMON BENNING burst through a pack of defenders as OU cornerback Ramon Burroughs attempts to tackle the Nebraska I-back.

SCOTT FROST tries to elude Sooner defenders Travian Smith (No. 36) and Martin Chase. Frost threw for 163 yards and ran for 14.

KENNY CHEATHAM is chased by OU's Ryan Fisher during Cheatham's 85-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

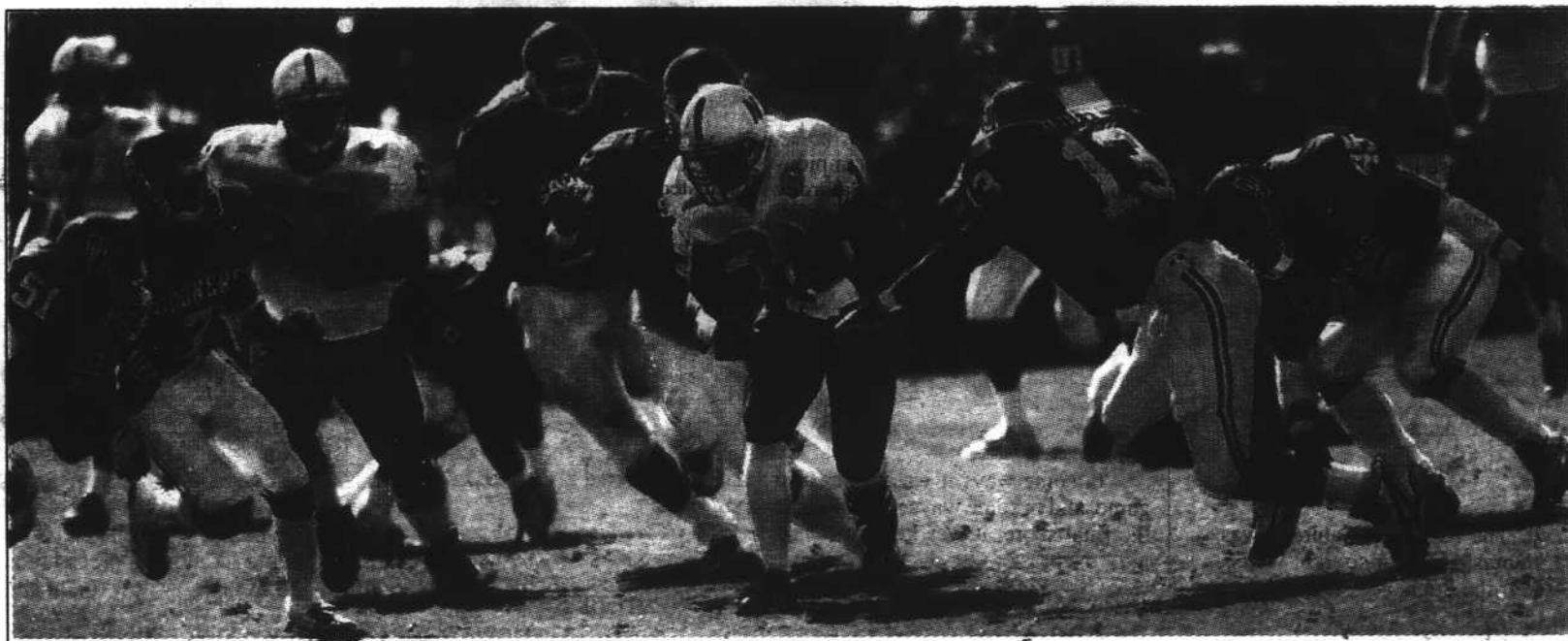
Football Polls

Associated Press Poll

Team	Record	Prev.
1. Florida St. (9)	8-0	1
2. Ohio St. (5)	8-0	2
3. Florida St. (8)	7-0	3
4. Arizona St. (1)	9-0	4
5. Nebraska	7-1	5
6. Tennessee	6-1	6
7. Colorado	7-1	7
8. North Carolina	7-1	8
9. LSU	7-1	9
10. Alabama	7-1	10
11. Michigan	7-1	11
12. Brigham Young	9-1	13
13. Texas	7-1	14
14. Penn St.	8-2	15
15. Washington	7-1	16
16. Wyoming	9-0	17
17. Iowa	7-1	18
18. Northwestern	7-2	11
19. Texas Tech	7-1	19
20. Southern Miss.	8-1	23
21. Miami	7-1	20
22. Auburn	6-2	24
23. Oregon	7-1	21
24. Syracuse	6-2	25

Coaches' Poll

Team	Record	Prev.
1. Florida St. (5)	7-0	2
2. Florida St. (8)	7-0	3
3. Florida St. (9)	7-0	4
4. Arizona St.	9-0	4
5. Nebraska	7-1	5
6. Tennessee	6-1	6
7. Colorado	7-1	7
8. North Carolina	7-1	8
9. LSU	7-1	9
10. Alabama	7-1	11
11. Michigan	7-1	10
12. Brigham Young	9-1	14
13. Texas	7-1	13
14. Penn St.	8-2	15
15. Washington	7-1	16
16. Virginia	6-2	18
17. Northwestern	7-2	11
18. Texas Tech	7-1	19
19. Miami	7-1	20
20. Washington	6-2	23
21. Southern Miss.	8-1	24
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Sooners search for answers

OU Coach Blake says momentum of game swayed on one call

By **TREVOR PARKS**
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — In the 77-game football series between Nebraska and Oklahoma, there have been many plays that almost single-handedly changed the outcome of the game.

And although losing 73-21 Saturday — in a game in which neither team scored until midway through the second quarter — Oklahoma pointed to one play that ended any chance it had to upset fifth-ranked Nebraska.

The Sooners will remember a non-fumble by NU tight end Vershan Jackson at the OU 1-yard line. Jackson appeared to lose the football trying to fight his way into the end zone with Nebraska leading 3-0 in the second quarter.

OU linebacker Dale Allen recovered the ball in the end zone. Sooner players and fans celebrated, thinking their defense had stopped a drive set up when Nebraska's Jay Foreman intercepted a Justin Fuente pass at the Sooner 19.

But the back judge emphatically pointed to the ground, ruling that

Jackson's knee was down before the ball popped loose. Replays showed Jackson was not down.

On the next play, DeAngelo Evans scored to give the Cornhuskers a 10-0 lead, and things snowballed from there.

"They said he was down," OU linebacker Tyrell Peters said, "and we all saw he was going for extra yardage when he lost the ball."

First-year Sooner Coach John Blake said, "That play turned this game around. They are too good, and we're not good enough to give up opportunities like that."

"We got beat up by an outstanding football team. The fumble was a big turning point of this football game for a momentum purpose. Against a team like Nebraska, any breaks you create, you have to take advantage of."

If Nebraska didn't score that touchdown, Blake said, "It's a different



Blake

"You can't play Nebraska like we did."

JOHN BLAKE
OU football coach

game."

"If we hold them to a field goal, make them fumble the ball, or play good defense and stop their drive, those are all things that build momentum for you to feed off of."

Fuente, who shared playing time with Eric Moore, said he wasn't sure if that one play changed the game drastically.

"It was a tough call," Fuente said, "and it went the other way obviously. But it's hard for me to pick just one turning point."

Many other OU mistakes led to opportunities for Nebraska, which scored 31 points off Sooner turnovers.

"You can't play Nebraska like we did," Blake said. "You can't give them the ball on the 20, 30 and 15-yard line and expect to keep them out of the end

zone.

Three-straight Oklahoma passes — two from Fuente and one from Moore — were intercepted in the third quarter.

Oklahoma had only 89 yards and zero points after three quarters before exploding for 21 points — all touchdown runs by DeMond Parker — and 186 yards.

Since the scoring margin was so great, Blake said, the Sooners must put Nebraska behind them as they prepare for Oklahoma State on Saturday. But several positives emerged from the 52-point loss.

"We identified a lot of weaknesses," he said. "Our players learned a lot today. They learned truly how good they are and what it takes to win a football game."