



Texas shocks NU to win league title

Texas cornerback Bryant Westbrook and NU cornerback Michael Booker had a verbal battle all afternoon Saturday, although the two players were not on the field at the same time.

Westbrook and Booker played together at El Camino High School in Oceanside, Calif. Westbrook, who had four tackles and two pass breakups, got the upper hand on his former high school-mate, who did not record a tackle.

Booker's younger brother, Deion, is being recruited by both Nebraska and Texas, and Westbrook said the Longhorns' 37-27 win spoke volumes about where the younger Booker should attend school. "After the game, I told Michael I was going to tell his brother to go to a winning program like Texas."

The impact of playing without suspended linebacker Terrell Farley may have affected Nebraska again Saturday. An injury to free safety Eric Warfield forced rover Eric Stokes to return to his free safety position, which made Mike Minter, who replaced Farley at Will linebacker, return to rover. Octavius McFarlin and Ryan Terwilliger split time at Will linebacker.

On Wane McGarity's 66-yard touchdown pass that put Texas in front 30-27, Minter miss-timed his jump for the ball. That may not have happened if he didn't have to take a crash course in linebacker technique over the last two weeks. With Farley in the lineup, the Huskers were 8-0 this season and 20-0 in his two-year career. Without Farley, NU is 2-2.

Texas quarterback James Brown said his headline-grabbing quote was taken out of context when he said the Longhorns, a 20-point underdog, would beat Nebraska by three touchdowns.

"I just said that they might lose by 21 points," Brown said. "You never know. I figured we'd win the game, but I didn't make any prediction. That's not smart football."

Nebraska's defense saw its quarterback-sack streak of 39 straight games come to an end without bringing down the elusive Brown. The 37 points were the most allowed by the NU defense since Georgia Tech scored 45 points against the Huskers in the 1991 Citrus Bowl. Oklahoma also scored 45 points against NU in the final regular-season game of the 1990 season.

In addition to failing to win the conference crown, Nebraska's 31-game conference win streak was snapped. It was the first time in six years that NU did not win a conference title. Texas was the 12th unranked team to beat a Tom Osborne coached team in 195 tries.

The only good news for the Nebraska defense was the selection of rush end Grant Wistrom as the Touchdown Club of Columbus' defensive lineman of the year.

Gameday notebook compiled by senior reporter Trevor Parks.

Longhorns head to Tempe; NU goes back to the Orange Bowl.

By **MIKE KLUCK**
Senior Reporter

ST LOUIS — Moments after Texas' 37-27 victory over Nebraska on Saturday, Longhorn Coach John Mackovic sat in a hallway at the Trans World Dome, looking at the game statistics and shaking his head.



Mackovic stared at the Longhorns' offensive numbers: 503 total yards, 8.8 yards per play, 353 yards passing, one punt. It was the only time on Saturday that the Texas football coach was caught off-guard.

"It was a surprise," Mackovic said. "We're not shocked. We're sure surprised, the way we were moving and the things we were doing. I didn't know how many yards, but I kept thinking we must be gaining some yards today. When I looked up and saw we had scored 37 points, even that in itself was a little bit of a surprise for me."

What was a surprise to the 63,109 fans in attendance at the inaugural Big 12 championship game was that Texas was able to move the ball against Nebraska's defense, which many had considered to be the best in the nation. The Husker defense came into the game allowing an average of 232.9 yards per game.

For most of the day, Mackovic and his junior quarterback, James Brown, kept the Cornhuskers in shock as Texas (8-4) earned a spot in the Fiesta Bowl against Penn State. Texas entered the rankings at No. 20.

NU (10-2), which fell three spots in The Associated Press Top 25 to No. 6, is headed to Miami and the Dec. 31 Orange Bowl against 10-1 Virginia Tech, the champions of the Big East Conference.

The Longhorns became the first team to score a rushing touchdown this season against Nebraska and the first NU opponent in 40 games to avoid a sack. Texas also completed a gutsy, unconventional fourth-and-inches play to clinch the game.

With just 2:38 remaining in the game, Texas held a 30-27 lead, facing a fourth down at its own 28-yard line. Instead of punting the ball, running a quarterback sneak or trying to draw NU offside, Brown took the snap. The 6-foot, 190-pounder rolled to his left and found a wide-open Derek Lewis, who streaked 61 yards down the sideline to the NU 11.

"I thought they were going to go into a freeze and not snap the ball and try and draw us offside," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "When they snapped the ball, I was amazed. Then, when I saw the quarterback running to the left, I was really amazed."

"And then when he threw the ball, I was even more amazed. We had a chance to get our hands on him, and if the guy drops the ball or doesn't throw it right, we have a great chance just to win the game."

"They obviously felt if they didn't do something pretty good there, we might come back and win it. It was a gamble on their part, but it worked and

we have to give them credit for it. If (Brown) hadn't had mobility and speed, they might never have gotten the pass off."

Osborne wasn't the only one amazed with the play.

"I thought they were going to run the quarterback-keeper," senior Mike Minter said. "I was surprised when he rolled out, and it was just me and him for the first down. Then all of a sudden, he throws the ball over my head and I saw the guy was wide open. It was a great call."

On the next play, running back Priest Holmes carried the ball 11 yards for his third touchdown, and the Longhorns had their biggest lead of the game.

Holmes and Brown helped give the Longhorns their first lead of the game. Texas took the opening kickoff and marched 80 yards, scoring when Holmes found the end zone from five yards out.

Brown was a perfect four for four throwing the ball on the drive, completing passes of 10, 11, 10 and 11 yards and scrambling one time for a four-yard gain as the Longhorns never faced a third-down situation.

It was the first time since the Sept. 21 Arizona State game that a Nebraska opponent scored on the opening drive of a game. The Sun Devils beat NU 19-0.

Gameday

Nebraska 27
Texas 37

Nebraska Players

Player	Att.	Yds.	TDs
4 DeAngelo Evans	32	130	3
7 Scott Frost	18	47	0
31 Jay Sims	5	32	0

Player	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
4 DeAngelo Evans	6	42	0
5 Brendan Holbein	3	43	0
25 Jon Vedral	3	35	0

Player	Att/Cmp/Int	Yds.	TDs
7 Scott Frost	24/15/0	155	0

Texas Players

Player	Att.	Yds.	TDs
33 Priest Holmes	9	120	3
3 Shon Mitchell	7	16	0
5 James Brown	4	7	0

Player	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
83 Mike Adams	6	92	0
81 Pat Fitzgerald	6	73	0
8 Wane McGarity	3	96	1

Player	Att/Cmp/Int	Yds.	TDs
5 James Brown	28/19/2	353	1
3 Shon Mitchell	1/0/0	0	0

	Neb.	Texas	Neb.	Texas
First downs	26	22	Fumbles / returns	3/2 0/0
Rushing attempts	63	28	Interceptions / returns	2/0 0/0
Rushing yards	243	150	Penalties / yards	5/35 4/24
Passing attempts	24	29	Punt returns / yards	1/7 1/6
Passing completions	15	19	Kickoff returns / yards	5/92 2/37
Passing yards	155	353	Time of possession	39:35 20:25
Total plays	87	57	Third-down conversion	12 of 20 3 of 9
Total yards	398	503	Fourth-down conversion	2 of 2 1 of 1
Average yards per play	4.6	8.8	Sacks / yards	0/0 1/5

“We went from the penthouse to the outhouse overnight.”

CHARLIE MCBRIDE
NU defensive coordinator

Nebraska 27
Texas 37

their first drive, and the Longhorns appeared ready to take control of the game when they moved the ball 54 yards in nine plays to the Nebraska 9-yard line.

But an errant Brown pass was intercepted by Eric Stokes in the end zone to thwart the UT drive. Brown finished the day 19-of-28 passing for 353 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions.

After the first interception, Nebraska put together a 12-play, 80-yard drive in which I-back DeAngelo Evans carried six times for 17 yards. The true freshman, who was making his first career start, also caught a screen pass for a 22-yard gain and scored from two yards out on a trap play up the middle.

Evans finished the day with a career-high 32 rushing attempts for 130 yards and three touchdowns.

After the NU score, Nebraska had a chance to take control. The Husker defense forced the Longhorns to punt, and Nebraska took the ball at its own 43-yard line.

However, on a third-down-and-four play, NU quarterback Scott Frost fumbled and Texas linebacker Aaron Humphrey recovered at the Nebraska 37-yard line. Frost was effective throwing the ball Saturday, completing 15 of 24 passes for 155 yards. The junior also ran the ball 18 times for 47 yards.

After gaining just five yards, the Longhorns settled for a Phil Dawson 49-yard field goal. Nebraska responded by putting together a seven-play, 31-yard drive highlighted by junior Jay Sims' 18-yard run and a career best 51-yard field goal from Kris Brown.

Texas needed just three plays and 1:15 to regain the lead when Holmes broke free for a 61-yard touchdown run. It was the longest run against the Huskers this season.

But Nebraska answered with an 11-play, 80-yard drive to tie the game at 17 on a 23-yard run by Evans.

"One thing we thought that prob-

Please see LOSS on 11

