

Game day: Central

Game day Notebook

Nebraska defensive tackle Jason Peter hyper-extended his right knee in the second quarter.

Peter sat out the rest of the first half, but he came back onto the field after halftime and played the entire second half.

Osborne said he will have to wait and see what the team doctors say about Peter's availability for next week's game against Washington. Peter said he had no second thought about playing in the second half.

"It was a close ballgame," Peter said. "When the game is that tight, you are not thinking about injury."

Injuries also plagued Eric Warfield (right shoulder sprain), Mike Brown and Joel Makovicka (right ankle sprains).

The 17-14 halftime deficit was the first time Nebraska trailed at halftime, and won since the 1995 Orange Bowl. In the national-championship game Miami, led Nebraska 10-7 at halftime, but the Huskers came back to win the game 24-17. The last time NU trailed at Memorial Stadium at the half, and won was also during the 1995 season. Nebraska trailed Wyoming 21-14 at halftime but came back to win 42-32.

Chris Lorenti, Central Florida's starting center, went down with an injury in the first half. That paved the way for freshman Daron Herndon to take over the snapping duties.

The UCF offensive line gave up three sacks, but earned praise from quarterback Daunte Culpepper.

"I know I will get hit a lot," Culpepper said. "but the offensive line played very well."

NU extended two Memorial Stadium streaks this weekend. It was the 38th consecutive home win, which is the longest current streak in the country and ties for the seventh longest of all-time. The crowd of 75,327 extended Nebraska's all-time record streak of sellout crowds to 215.

Central Florida did some streak-extending of its own. Receivers Todd Cleveland and Mark Nonsant each extended their streaks of catching passes in consecutive games. Cleveland caught three passes for three yards to extend his streak to 20 straight games. Nonsant led the Golden Knights with 174 yards on seven receptions, which extended Nonsant's streak to 14 games.

With a 4-yard touchdown pass to Kendrick Moore in the fourth quarter, Culpepper extended his streak of games with a touchdown pass to six.

NU kicker Kris Brown continued to make his way in the Nebraska record books against the Knights. Brown's 21-yard field goal not only tied the game at 17, but it also tied Brown with Dale Klein for most field goals in a Nebraska career with 27. The junior from Southlake, Texas, also kicked five extra points. That put Brown's career point total at 200, which ties him for ninth in Husker history.

Game day Notebook compiled by assignment reporter Jay Saunders.

NU drills UCF after slow start

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter

No one expected Nebraska to be losing at halftime.

Not to Central Florida.

Last week, leading up the Saturday's contest with Central Florida, the Nebraska coaching staff had been saying the same thing — the Golden Knights are a good team and could play with Nebraska for all four quarters.

But nobody actually thought the Huskers would be trailing 17-14 at halftime.

A 17-point third quarter helped Nebraska rally to 38-24 victory before 75,327 at Memorial Stadium, the Huskers' 38th consecutive home-field victory.

"I was pleased we were able to win it," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "Another turnover or two or big play or two against our defense, we would have been onside kicking like South Carolina last week. It was somewhat concerning it was that close."

Central Florida, which dropped to 0-3, lost to South Carolina 33-31 on Sept. 6 after failing to recover an onside kick.

The first half of Saturday's game was a back-and-forth battle.

Central Florida put the first points on the board when junior quarterback Daunte Culpepper dove in on a 10-yard touchdown run with 1:16 left in the first quarter. Junior kicker Fred Waczewski added the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

Nebraska (2-0) responded with a nine-play, 69-yard scoring drive of its own, topped by senior quarterback Scott Frost hitting Sheldon Jackson on a 16-yard touchdown pass with 13:21 left in the half. Kris Brown added the extra point to knot the score at seven.

UCF retook the lead when

"I felt like a totally different person in the second half."

JEROME PETERSON
Nebraska cornerback

Waczewski kicked a career-long 51-yard field goal at the 9:39 mark to put UCF up 10-7.

NU sophomore quarterback Frankie London then took over the helm for Frost, and led the Huskers on a 65-yard drive capped by an 8-yard London touchdown run to give Nebraska a 14-10 lead.

Nebraska's defense stepped up, and forced the Knights to punt on their next possession; but NU junior wingback Shevin Wiggins fumbled the return. UCF's Jeff Fye recovered the ball on Nebraska's 45-yard line.

On the next play, Culpepper hooked up with Mark Nonsant on a 43-yard bomb to put the ball on the NU 2-yard line. Knights' junior tailback Mike Grant then carried the final two yards for the score to put UCF up 17-14.

The Huskers had one last chance to tie the score as Frost drove the team 70 yards in nine plays, but Brown missed a 27-yard field goal.

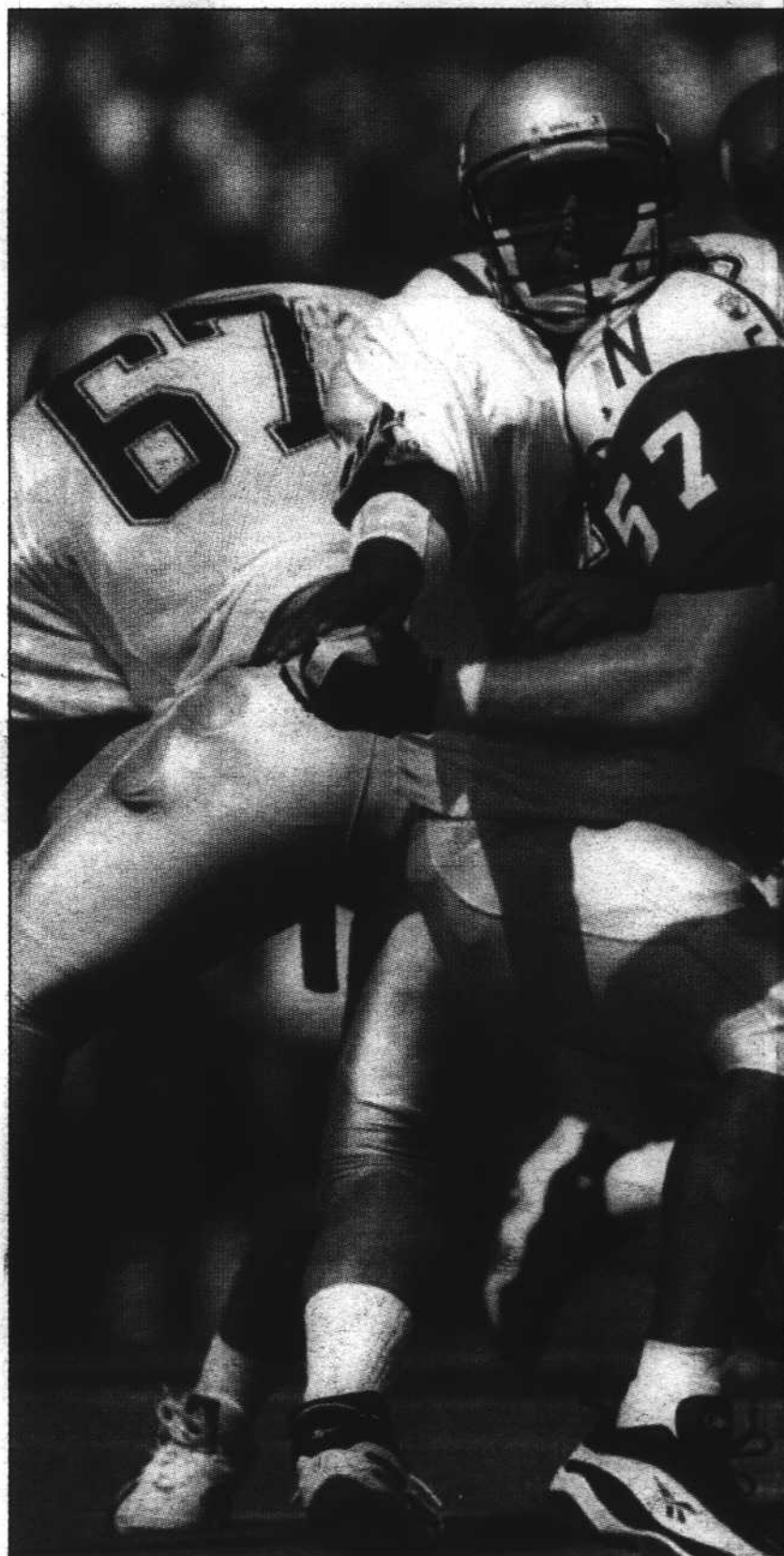
Rush end Grant Wistrom said the defense got an earful during halftime.

The defense had sacked Culpepper only twice in the first half, but the preseason third-team All-American threw for 186 yards, completing 12 of 16 passes.

For the most part, Culpepper threw to the weak side of the NU defense, challenging sophomore cornerback Jerome Peterson.

"I was trying not to mess up,"

Please see FOOTBALL on 12



NEBRASKA RUSH END Chad Kelsay hits Central Florida quarterback Daunte Culpepper.



HUSKER I-BACK Ahman Green bears down on Central Florida defenders Damien in his ninth game of his career in which the junior has exceeded 100 yards.

Football Game Review										Nebraska	Central Florida								
										38	24								
Nebraska					Central Florida														
Rushing					Rushing														
No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD	No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD										
30	Ahman Green	113	4.5	0	8	Daunte Culpepper	34	2.6	1										
36	Correll Buckhalter	82	7.5	2	24	Mike Grant	17	1.4	1										
45	Joel Makovicka	68	6.2	0	1	Siaha Burley	4	4	0										
Receiving					Receiving														
No.	Name	No	Yds	TD	No.	Name	No	Yds	TD										
88	Sheldon Jackson	3	61	1	18	Mark Nonsant	7	174	0										
6	Kenny Cheatham	2	36	0	1	Siaha Burley	7	76	0										
30	Ahman Green	2	30	0	7	Charles Lee	3	31	0										
Passing					Passing														
No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD	No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD						
7	Scott Frost	14	9	0	120	1	8	Daunte Culpepper	35	24	1	318	1						
1	Frankie London	1	1	0	30	0													
Game Stats																			
Nebraska				UCF				Nebraska				UCF							
First downs				30				14				Fumbles lost				2			
Rushing attempts				65				26				Interceptions				1			
Rushing yards				364				47				Penalties / yards				1 / 5			
Passing attempts				15				35				Punt returns / yards				3 / 8			
Passing completions				10				24				Kickoff returns / yards				4 / 108			
Passing yards				150				318				Time of possession				33:50			
Total plays				80				61				Third-down conversion				8 of 14			
Total yards				514				365				Fourth-down conversion				0 of 0			
Average yards per play				6.4				6.0				Sacks / yards				3 / 21			