



Showdown

Husker defense faces challenge

GAME from page 1

"I really don't think we've cut loose as a defense and I think that's what's holding us back right now," Wistrom said. "I think we have most of our package in, we just need to go out and execute it."

Big plays were what hurt the Huskers the most last Saturday against Central Florida, Wistrom said.

"They really couldn't drive the ball on us consistently," Wistrom said. "When the team is just taking the ball and driving it down your throat, that's when you have cause for concern and that wasn't the case last Saturday."

The Golden Knights rushed for 47 yards and threw for 318, but only twice consumed more than three minutes off of the clock while on offense.

But Nebraska's defense has not made an abundance of big plays so far this year. The Huskers have

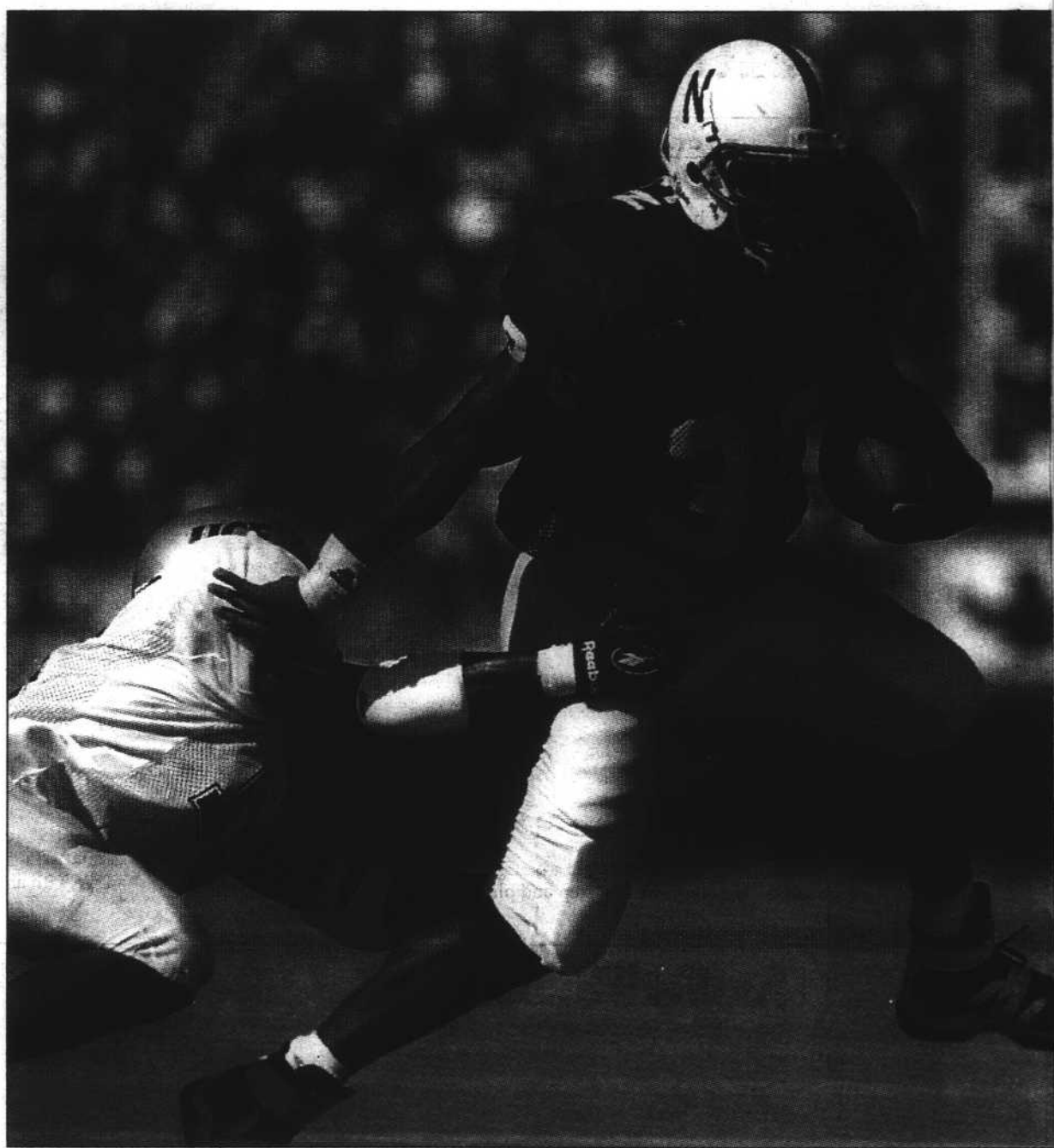
recorded three sacks — all against Central Florida — and have intercepted just two passes.

Through its first two games last season, the Nebraska defense recorded 13 sacks and intercepted four passes. With Huard at the helm, the Huskers will be challenged to make things happen against Washington.

"Huard is very accurate and he's a big guy," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "He's not that easy to sack."

After losing eight defensive starters from last year's team, Saturday's game will be the first true test for the Husker defense, Wistrom said.

"This summer we did have a concerned effort to kind of refocus the team," Wistrom said. "Maybe we're not as good as we thought we were on defense. Who knows? This Washington is one of the top teams in the country. I guess we'll see where all this hard work got us. Hopefully it's not for nothing."



NEBRASKA I-BACK AHMAN GREEN attempts to break free of a tackler in last Saturday's UCF game. Green and the Huskers have a good rushing attack this week against the Husky defense.

Burton, Chorak familiar with NU

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter

Of all the players on the Washington team, only one has seen the Huskers up close.

In fact, he played against them.

Starting rover Nigel Burton was a freshman when Pacific played Nebraska in 1995. He said there's nothing quite like playing against Nebraska.

"It was a different attitude then," he said. "I was going to fight then, I'm going to fight now. It's a good feeling knowing you have a chance to win it."

When Burton visited Memorial Stadium with Pacific, the Huskers won 49-7.

A year later Pacific dropped its football program and Burton transferred to Washington.

Now Burton is one of the defensive leaders for the Huskies. In the first two games he is fourth on the team with eight tackles.

Burton had the opportunity to play against one of the better Husker teams in history, featuring quarterbacks Tommie Frazier and the late Brook Berringer.

"Frost kind of reminds me of Berringer," Burton said of the current NU signal caller Scott Frost. "He's a better athlete, so he can get out and run."

However, more Huskies remember Frost from his days at Stanford.

The Cardinals beat Washington during Frost's sophomore season at Cardinal Stadium.

Senior linebacker Jason Chorak said he has a vivid memory of Frost.

"I remember Scott Frost picking us apart," Chorak said. "He seemed he could do no wrong."

Burton has played in a lot of different stadiums, including places that are notorious for being loud. He said the only place that compares to Husky Stadium is NU's Memorial Stadium.

"Those two places are really similar," Burton said. "It's one of the best experiences I've ever had. I was impressed by how the fans handle themselves."

For Burton and the Huskies, playing in the confines of Husky Stadium will be an advantage that can't be overlooked.

"We have the comfort of being at home," Burton said.

The sixth game in the Husker-Husky showdown has all the makings of a big game for the two teams, Chorak said.

"You stay at Washington for big games like this," Chorak said. "I figured this team had a chance to play in the Rose Bowl and maybe even a national championship."

For either team, a loss this early in the season might end chances for a national title.

"A loss wouldn't be the end of the world," Chorak said. "But a loss would be disappointing."



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
TWO NEBRASKA DEFENDERS sack UCF quarterback Daunte Culpepper in last Saturday's 38-24 victory. NU recorded its first three sacks of the season last week, but will need more against Washington to slow down the Husky attack.

Cornhuskers in to live up to tra

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

This is what college football is all about.

Seventh-ranked Nebraska (2-0) travels to Seattle Saturday to face second-ranked Washington (2-0) at 2:30 p.m. in Husky stadium. The game will be televised regionally on ABC.

"This is why you play college football," Nebraska senior rush end Grant Wistrom said. "When it comes right down to it, it doesn't get any better than this."

The Cornhuskers, who have won eight straight games against top-10 teams, face the pressure of an early season make-or-break game as well as the pressure of maintaining Nebraska tradition.

"You don't want to be the team that Coach Osborne only wins nine games with," Wistrom said.

Senior guard Aaron Taylor agreed that Husker tradition enhances the pressure of Saturday's game.

"It's tough to reach that point where you want to be national champions every year," Taylor said, "but

it's a goal the nation has. There we're and win this

In each of the Husker games, and than sixth in than second

Though son, Taylor's Saturday's m

"If we rest of this y ple of year going to ha going to ha against these

Against three, Nebraska games. Not Nebraska ha team on the second-rank in 1971 en rc onship.

A loss to would likely for a nationa son.

"If we championshi