

Big 12 Notebook

The Big 12 offensive player of the week was sophomore running back De'Mond Parker of Oklahoma. Parker had 291 yards on 31 carries and three touchdowns in a 27-24 loss to Texas.

The Big 12 defensive player of the week was Kansas State sophomore linebacker Mark Simoneau, who had 13 tackles (four unassisted) in a 41-11 win over Missouri.

The Big 12 Specialty Teams player of the week was Oklahoma State sophomore place-kicker Tim Sydnes, who was four for four on field goals in the Cowboys' 33-29 win over Colorado.

Texas A&M's soccer team clinched at least a tie of the Big 12 Conference Championship with a 4-2 victory over Texas Tech on Friday. The Aggies could have won the title outright on Sunday against Baylor but lost 2-1 in overtime in a controversial game.

Baylor's Nikki Hales' goal at the 23:46 mark appeared to hit the outside of the net until the linesman and head referee determined Hales had scored a goal. The game is under appeal to the Big 12 Conference and NCAA Rules Committee.

Kansas State junior quarterback Michael Bishop had the best rushing day ever for a Wildcat quarterback with 196 yards and two touchdowns in the 41-11 win over Missouri.

"This was a coming out game for Michael," KSU coach Bill Snyder said. "He's getting better every week and his game management has improved a lot, too."

After a 158-yard performance against Baylor, Nebraska junior I-back Ahman Green now has 691 yards on the season and is tied for the Big 12 lead with 11 touchdowns.

"Green is just one great football player," Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes said. The Red Raiders face the Huskers this week.

Kansas junior linebacker Ron Warner has already set the KU single-season record for sacks with 10. He had four sacks against Texas Tech alone.

With a 51-yard boot against Oklahoma, Texas senior place-kicker Phil Dawson set the Texas record for consecutive field goals with 14.

Coach John Mackovic said Dawson compares well with a kicker he coached while with the Kansas City Chiefs: former All-Pro Nick Lowrey.

"Phil and Nick are both guys that believe that they will make kicks," he said. "That's what separates good kickers from great kickers, that they think they can make everything."

This week's

Big 12 games
 Baylor at Oklahoma
 Texas Tech at Nebraska
 Texas at Missouri
 Texas A&M at Kansas State
 Kansas at Colorado

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff reporter Sam McKewon.

Second, third teams need to improve

BY DAVID WILSON
 Senior Reporter

WACO, Texas — Depth is comforting, but it was also Nebraska coach Tom Osborne's main concern after NU's 49-21 victory over Baylor Saturday night.

Although the Huskers second and third team defenses allowed Baylor to score seven points in the second half, Osborne said, not everyone was to blame.

One of the players who may get a compliment instead of criticism for his performance was sophomore linebacker Tony Ortiz.

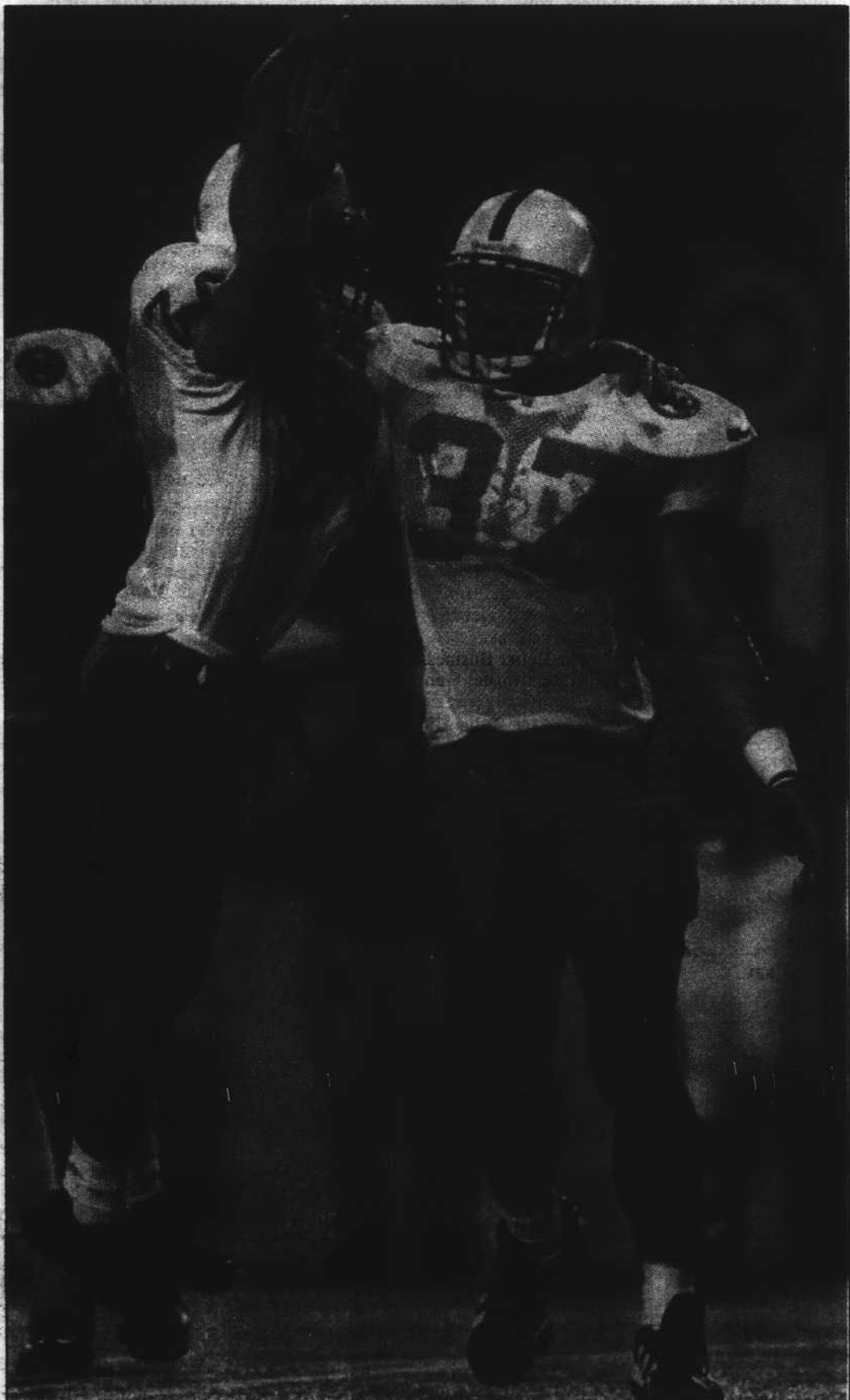
Playing behind Brian Shaw at Sam linebacker, Ortiz finished with a team-high five tackles against the Bears. He also recovered a fumble in the second quarter and sacked Baylor quarterback Jeff Watson for a seven-yard loss.

Ortiz, who had only recorded six tackles prior to Saturday, said he did not take the Bears for granted.

"We treated this team with a lot of respect," Ortiz said. "We came out there knowing that if we slipped up, they could take advantage of us. We didn't want to let anything happen that would put us down. We wanted to keep them in a hole as long as possible."

The NU backup linebackers finished the game with 10 tackles compared to the 19 tackles recorded by the rest of NU's second and third team players.

Please see **BAYLOR** on 8



NEBRASKA SOPHOMORE LINEBACKER Tony Ortiz celebrates after he forced Baylor quarterback Jeff Watson to run out of bounds for an 8-yard loss and a sack.

RYAN SÖDERLIN/DN

NU offensive line wipes up field with Bear defense

BY DARREN IVY
 Staff Reporter

Baylor's defense and Nebraska's offense feasted on two completely different diets Saturday night in Waco, Texas.

Bears defenders found themselves eating a lot of turf, while the NU linemen enjoyed an all-they-could-eat pancake feed of Baylor defensive players.

The second-ranked Huskers (5-0 overall, 2-0 in the Big 12 Conference) recorded a season-high 88 pancake blocks en route to a 49-21 conference victory.

"Whenever we needed to move the ball, we were able to," said NU offensive line coach Milt Tenopir.

The solid play of the offensive line, Tenopir said, was one reason why NU leads the nation in total offense with 530.20 yards per game and rushing offense averaging 401.8 yards per game. NU is also second in the nation in scoring offense averaging 45.8 points a game.

The play of the first-team offensive line has pleased Tenopir, but he still wants the reserves to improve.

"I have no complaints about the top unit," Tenopir said. "These guys are making things happen."

The starting line of Aaron Taylor, Josh Heskew, Erik Anderson, Fred Pollack and Jon Zatechka is ahead of last year's line, Tenopir said. They are focused and have the right mind set, he said.

Although the reserves have improved from the beginning of the season, Tenopir said, they still need to get sharper.

"I feel better about how these guys are playing now than I did three weeks ago," Tenopir said.

Against Baylor, Tenopir was happy with the play of backups James Sherman, Jason Schwab and Adam Julch. They played well for the 20 or 30 snaps they were in, Tenopir said.

Tenopir said he needs to do spot substitutions rather than wholesale substitutions.

"I worry about injuries, but I need to weigh that against having continuity," Tenopir said. "You have to get kids in game situations to tell if they have progressed enough to play."

Tenopir has been pleased with the effort of all the linemen this year, but says the team still needs to work on little phases of the game if the team wants to get to where it wants to be at the end of the season.

"Regardless of opponents, we want to keep improving each game," Tenopir said. "We are going to be a difficult team to contend with."

Sixth high school senior commits to NU

BY DAVID WILSON
 Senior Reporter

When Nebraska coach Tom Osborne calls, you answer.

Even if you're sitting in contemporary literature class.

Such was the case for Jon Bowling, a senior at Lincoln Southeast High School, who received a pass during his 9:30 a.m. class on Friday with a memo to call Osborne.

"I was just like, 'Whoa, that's pretty sweet,'" Bowling said.

Bowling wasted no time and returned the call on the in-classroom phone.

"My class was freaking out," Bowling said. "My teacher was like, 'We've never had anybody call Coach Osborne from that phone before.'"

But Bowling — and the rest of his class — knew what was up.

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound tight end was offered a scholarship to play foot-

ball at Nebraska. And after talking it over with his parents and his coach, Chuck Mizerski, Bowling became the sixth high school senior to give the Cornhuskers a verbal commitment.

A three-year starter on varsity, Bowling has caught 13 passes for 326 yards and four touchdowns for the top-ranked Monarchs (6-0) this fall. As a defensive end, Bowling has four quarterback sacks and one interception.

"He's an exceptional athlete,"

Mizerski said. "He has very good size and very good speed and very good hands."

Bowling, who has qualified academically, runs a 4.84-second electronic 40-yard dash and has a 31½-inch vertical jump. An All-State basketball player, Bowling chose to play football over basketball in college even though he played on the Godfather's All-Star Basketball team last summer.

Please see **COMMIT** on 8