



**JASON WILTZ** chases Texas Tech quarterback **Zebbie Lethridge** Saturday. Nebraska sacked Lethridge four times in the 29-0 victory and held Tech to 17 yards on 26 rushing attempts. RYAN SODERLIN/DN

## Huskers vault Penn State

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Coach Tom Osborne said Sunday. "We've been there before, and we responded appropriately."

Nebraska won 25 consecutive games and two national championships in 1994 and 1995 and was ranked No. 1 prior to nine of those matchups. The Huskers entered the 1996 season at the top of the polls, but fell to eighth after the loss to Arizona State.

This season, NU has defeated two ranked teams. The Huskers downed then second-ranked Washington 27-14 in Seattle Sept. 20, and beat 17th-ranked Kansas State 56-26 at home the following week.

Penn State, one of eight Division I teams yet to lose this season, defeated then seventh-ranked Ohio State 31-27 Oct. 11 in its only victory over a ranked opponent. The Nittany

Lions' opponents have compiled a 14-26 record this season, while Nebraska's opponents are a combined 18-20.

Third-ranked Florida State (6-0), No. 4 North Carolina (7-0), No. 5 Michigan (6-0), No. 10 Washington State (6-0), No. 12 Oklahoma State (6-0), and No. 24 Toledo (6-0) are also undefeated this year.

"There is a lot of season left," Osborne said, "and lots of undefeated teams who feel they are deserving of No. 1. I can understand that."

In the last year of a contract, the Big Ten Conference and the Pac-10 Conference will send their top teams to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Next year, the Rose Bowl joins the Orange Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl and the Sugar Bowl in the Super Alliance.

But this season, Big Ten members Penn State and Michigan, or the Pac-10's

Washington State could finish undefeated and not have the chance to play another undefeated team. Michigan plays at Penn State Nov. 8.

"If we were in a wide-open deal, where we had the Big Ten and the Pac-10 all in the same pot, I'd just assume stay No. 2," Osborne said. "But you always have to be concerned that if Penn State runs the table, where are you?"

"You just think the powers of college football would have the ability, the wherewithal, the knowledge to put everybody together and not have that same situation where somebody goes undefeated and all of a sudden they're frozen out of a national-championship game."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## NU defensive effort pleases Darlington

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was impressive, Darlington said, considering the talent of Tech true freshman running back Ricky Williams.

"Every week we face backs who can really run," Darlington said. "Just like we should be facing good receivers every week, because there are a lot of them around."

Facing good competition didn't stop the defense from pitching a shutout Saturday.

Darlington said Saturday's shutout, the first since a 49-0 victory over Baylor last season, should have been the second shutout of the season for the Huskers. After reviewing some of the game film, he said, Nebraska should have shut out Washington earlier this season.

"I think it's very important for us because it's World Series time," Darlington said, adding some baseball humor to his football analysis. "You're supposed to have shutouts in the World Series. We had our middle relievers come in and do well, and our closers and second-teamers at the end held up their end of the bargain."

"We should have shut Washington out, if we had played our techniques a

little better."

Even though Darlington was impressed with the entire game, he said the defensive coaches are equally impressed when NU's first team defense pitches a shutout and the opposition gets a touchdown late in the game against the backups.

Nebraska shut out the Red Raiders while relying on some freshmen to pick up the slack on the first-team units.

"The situation with Joe Walker revolved around the personnel Tech came out with," Darlington said.

He said Walker is the top nickel back in the defense. The people Tech fielded were the ones needed for Walker to start.

Darlington said it is important, however, to remember that Nebraska is still less than halfway through the regular season. In order to be successful, he said, they still need to improve the rest of the year.

**Note:**

The game time for the Nebraska-Kansas Saturday in Lawrence, Kan., was announced Sunday. The game will begin at 6 p.m., televised by FoxSports Net, Channel 58 in Lincoln.

## Green runs for 178 yards in Huskers' first shutout

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"When we came in at halftime, as a defensive unit, Coach (Charlie) McBride said, 'Let's buckle down and come after them even more,'" Peter said. "And we did."

After allowing 68 yards of offense in the first half, the Blackshirts held the Red Raiders to 59 yards in the second half.

Texas Tech senior quarterback Zebbie Lethridge was sacked twice and netted minus-23 yards on the ground. Typically a threat to run, Lethridge was a little more predictable Saturday hampered by a sprained ankle, Wistrom said. Lethridge completed 10 of 20 passes for 110 yards.

"We were in his face," Wistrom said. "We were able to put pressure on him very well today. A large part of that was due to his lack of mobility."

Brown added his third field goal of the game, a 35-yarder, to give NU a 16-0 lead with 11:33 remaining in the third quarter. The Huskers struck again when senior guard Jon Zatechka recovered Green's fumble in the end zone with 4:59 remaining in the quarter, the first NU touchdown scored by an offensive lineman since the 1984 Orange Bowl, when Dean Steinhuehler successfully converted a 19-yard fumble-rooski.

Green scored his only touchdown of the game on a seven-yard run in the fourth quarter to give NU a 29-0 lead with 4:42 remaining.

Though the Huskers have no ranked teams left on their schedule, Wistrom said, they are not on a cake-walk to the national championship game in the Orange Bowl.

"People can laugh when we say this, but we've still got a lot of big games ahead of us," Wistrom said.

## Texas Tech can't explain woes

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leg just kicking," Dykes said, "unless you kick it really hard."

Lethridge said, "If a guy breaks his leg, I'm sure a flag should have been thrown somewhere."

Flags were called plenty of other times throughout the game against the Red Raiders. Tech was penalized nine times for 68 yards, most of

which were false start penalties on the offensive line.

"I was very surprised," Lethridge said of the offensive inability to score. "Looking at the game film, I thought we were going to be able to move the ball more successfully than we actually did."

"I give Nebraska a lot of credit. They came out and won the game."

## Rainy conditions postpone NU-Duke soccer

**Staff Reports**

The No. 10 Nebraska soccer game against No. 4 Duke was postponed Sunday due to rain in the Durham, N.C., area and a flooded

playing field.

The game has been rescheduled for today at noon and if possible will be played on the practice field. Duke's home field was underwater on Sunday.

## NU golfers look for win in Texas

**BY DARREN IVY**  
Staff Reporter

Everybody wants to win. The Nebraska men's golfers are no different.

They have finished in second place twice this fall and in the top five several other times, but they haven't tasted victory.

Nebraska finishes its fall schedule today and Tuesday when the Huskers compete in the 17-team Red Raider Intercollegiate in Lubbock, Texas. The tournament is part of the 1997-98 Rolex Collegiate Tour.

NU hopes to satisfy its hunger with a first-place finish.

"If we play like we are capable of,

we should win," said Larry Romjue, NU men's golf coach. "We just need to prove it."

Romjue said the Hillcrest Country Club in Lubbock, Texas, is a medium, difficult course, but he expects the golfers to shoot good scores if the weather is good.

He said the tournament is important because Iowa State and Oral Roberts, two district teams, will be competing.

The play of the fourth and fifth golfers will be a key if NU expects to win, Romjue said.

"We need to have a solid performance from all five," Romjue said.

Ryan Nietfeldt, Scott Gutschewski and Peter Smith have all battled for the fourth and fifth spots

all fall. Romjue said Nietfeldt didn't have a good tournament last week at the Kroger Intercollegiate, where he shot a two-round 159 and finished in a tie for 64th overall.

Nietfeldt and Smith both made the trip to Texas and Romjue said he was going to have them have a playoff during yesterday's practice round. The one, who shot better would compete as the fifth golfer on the team today. While the other will compete individually.

After a second-place finish at the Kroger Intercollegiate Romjue said he believes the Huskers are ready for the Red Raider Intercollegiate.

"Hopefully, we are peaking at the right time," Romjue said.

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