

Gameday: Iowa St

Gameday Notebook

Oranges thrown onto the Memorial Stadium turf with 3:13 remaining in the third quarter caused a slight delay in Saturday's game. Despite the anticipation of Cornhusker fans, Nebraska still must get past Colorado Nov. 28 and Texas A&M in the Big 12 Conference championship game in San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 6, before a date in the Jan. 2 Orange Bowl.

With a 51-7 victory over Oklahoma Saturday, the Aggies (8-2 overall and 5-2 in the Big 12) clinched a berth in the championship game against Nebraska (10-0 and 7-0).

Defeating the Cyclones 77-14, the Huskers set a school record for points against a conference opponent. The previous high was 73, which was scored against Iowa State in 1995 and against Oklahoma in 1996. The total was also the most points ever allowed by ISU.

Nebraska's victory wasn't impressive enough to change some voters' minds. Nebraska held steady at No. 3 in both the AP and coaches' polls. Michigan is No. 1 in the AP poll, and Florida State in No. 1 in the coaches' poll.

NU senior Scott Frost threw for 111 yards Saturday and added 88 on the ground. Frost moved to fourth in the Big 12 in rushing with 940 yards, passing ISU's Darren Davis, who ran for 62.

Frost could become the first Husker and 10th quarterback all-time in Division I to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in a season. He needs 56 yards passing and 60 yards rushing.

Nebraska freshman Bobby Newcombe was introduced to ISU's Kevin Wilson up close twice in the first half. After Newcombe returned the first punt for a touchdown, the Cyclone defense decided to get aggressive. As Newcombe dropped back to receive two punts, Wilson drilled Newcombe before he touched the ball.

"I was like 'Oh no, he's going to blast me,'" Newcombe said. "After the second time, I thought they were doing it on purpose."

Nebraska got a chance to use everybody in Saturday's win. Sophomore place kicker Dan Hadenfeldt added the second extra point of his Husker career near the end of the third quarter.

Notebook compiled by senior reporters Antone Oseka and David Wilson.

Huskers rumble past Iowa State

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter

One question floated through Memorial Stadium like a red balloon Saturday.

Are there three numerals on the Nebraska side of the scoreboard?

After scoring on every possession in the first half, Nebraska led 63-7 at halftime. They already had more than enough points to win the game. But could the Cornhuskers break the century mark and test the scoreboard?

Third-ranked Nebraska (10-0 overall and 7-0 in the Big 12 Conference) never challenged the 100-point plateau, but beat Iowa State (1-9 and 1-6) 77-14 in front of 75,613 fans despite the below-zero wind chills. The win clinched the Big 12 North Division championship for the Huskers.

Only twice in the first half did Nebraska need to sustain drives longer than two minutes, and three times they scored in 10 seconds or fewer. The second score didn't even put the offense on the field. Freshman Bobby Newcombe returned an Iowa State punt 53 yards.

NU's third touchdown kept the Husker offense on the field for just 10 seconds. Junior I-back Ahman Green took a handoff from quarterback Scott Frost to the left side for 49 yards and a score.

After playing only five minutes of football, Nebraska led 21-0 and the offense had been on the field for 1:27.

"That's the quickest we've scored points since I've been around here," said Frost, one of 23 seniors to play his last home game Saturday. "It was 21-0, and I'd only run five plays."

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said he hoped for a little closer game from the Cyclones.

"Sometimes in a game like that, you're not trying to run the score up, you're trying to get players in," Osborne said. "I guess I'd rather have a tight game in some ways."

The ISU game was never tight.

The only thing concerning the NU coaches and players in the second half was the possibility of a letdown. Although NU scored just 14 points after halftime, the effort remained solid, defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said.

Nebraska finished the game with 473 yards rushing and 121 yards passing as the Blackshirts held ISU to 75 yards rushing and 228 total yards.

McBride said the entire team made adjustments from last week's

"I just worry about how many times I'm in the end zone and how many points we have."

AHMAN GREEN
Nebraska I-back

overtime win at Missouri. "I thought, overall, we accomplished everything we wanted to between this week and last week," he said.

One player who accomplished everything he wanted to was Ahman Green. The junior from Omaha rushed 15 times for 209 yards and three touchdowns. He averaged 13.9 yards per carry.

But Green has a habit of enjoying big days against the Cyclones, carrying the ball 56 times for 599 yards and seven touchdowns over the last three years. That broke the school record for most yards gained against one opponent.

"I'm more of a team player," Green said, who wasn't aware of his statistics. "I just worry how many times I'm in the end zone and how many points we have."

Scoring three of the first four touchdowns in the first quarter, Green gave NU enough points to win.

But throw in Newcombe, who finished with 113 total yards — including two punt returns for 57 yards, two rushes for 31 yards and a touchdown and one reception for 25 yards — and ISU was no match.

On NU's fourth drive, Newcombe took the handoff from Green for a 15-yard reverse to the ISU 4-yard line. Green scored on the next play. On the next drive, Newcombe got a pitch from Frost on a split-wing option and took the ball 16 yards for the touchdown to put NU up 35-7.

"I feel like I'm developing into a big play maker," Newcombe said. Although the win Saturday secured a trip to San Antonio to play for the conference championship against Texas A&M, Osborne doesn't want that to derail his team.

"I told the players before the game if we win today we're in the championship game," he said. "It's nice to have that in the bag. But it won't be quite the same if we don't get the job done out there in Boulder."



NU attack impresses ISU coach McCarney

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

Nothing changed at the top of Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney's ballot in this week's USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll.

Nebraska, which fell from its top spot in both polls last week after a narrow 45-38 victory over Missouri, still was able to keep one vote with the Huskers' 77-14 win over Iowa State on Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

"They've had my vote in the past, and they'll have it again," McCarney said. "There's no doubt about it. I think that's the finest team in college football."

The Cornhuskers' 77 points were the most ever scored against any Iowa State team, but poor execution on the Cyclones' part also played a factor in Nebraska's domination.

NU jumped to a 35-7 lead in the first quarter, allowing ISU to enter Husker territory just once. In the second quarter, Nebraska added 28 points, upping its lead to 63-7.

"I'm sorry for my players that the

score got out of hand like it did in the first half," McCarney said.

But it wasn't a case of Nebraska running up the score, he said.

"When people are putting up that many points and we're that ineffective, then it's our fault, not theirs," McCarney said.

Iowa State quarterback Todd Bandhauer had a simple explanation for the Cyclones' lack of offensive output.

"They kicked our ass," Bandhauer said.

The junior, who leads the Big 12 Conference with 2,249 yards passing, completed 11 of 36 passes for 153 yards — his second worst output of the season. The passing game combined with a running attack that averaged 2.2 yards per carry just wasn't enough Saturday.

Sophomore tailback Darren Davis, who has been hampered by injuries all season, took 22 carries for 62 yards averaging 2.8 yards against Nebraska. Davis ranks fifth in the conference with 939 yards rushing.

Please see MCCARNEY on 11

Scoring Summary

| | | Score by Quarters | | | | Total |
|------|-----|--|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| | | Iowa State | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 |
| | | Nebraska | 35 | 28 | 7 | 77 |
| Team | Qtr | Scoring play | Conversion | Score | Nebraska | ISU |
| NU | 1 | A. Green 18 yd run | K. Brown kick | 7 | 0 | |
| NU | 1 | B. Newcombe 53 yd punt return | K. Brown kick | 14 | 0 | |
| NU | 1 | A. Green 49 yd run | K. Brown kick | 21 | 0 | |
| NU | 1 | A. Green 4 yd run | K. Brown kick | 28 | 0 | |
| ISU | 1 | T. Watley 35 yd pass from T. Bandhauer | J. Kohl kick | 28 | 7 | |
| NU | 1 | B. Newcombe 16 yd run | K. Brown kick | 35 | 7 | |
| NU | 2 | J. Matovicka 9 yd run | K. Brown kick | 42 | 7 | |
| NU | 2 | S. Frost 1 yd run | K. Brown kick | 49 | 7 | |
| NU | 2 | S. Jackson 5 yd pass from S. Frost | T. Retzlaff kick | 56 | 7 | |
| NU | 2 | S. Frost 2 yd run | T. Retzlaff kick | 63 | 7 | |
| NU | 3 | F. London 4 yd run | D. Hadenfeldt kick | 70 | 7 | |
| ISU | 4 | D. Davis 5 yd run | J. Kohl kick | 70 | 14 | |
| NU | 4 | J. Cobb 1 yd run | T. Retzlaff kick | 77 | 14 | |