

Gameday: Nebraska

Gameday Notebook

After Nebraska's 27-24 win over Colorado, the polls stayed the same with NU at No. 2 in both. Colorado has faced both of the top teams, losing to Michigan 27-3 earlier in the year.

Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel, however, declined to compare the Huskers and Wolverines.

"The pollsters have their votes, and I don't want to get involved in that at this time," Neuheisel said. "Both teams are good football teams."

The 52,738 fans was not a sell-out at Colorado's Folsom Field. It was the first time the NU game has not been sold out since 1968.

Nebraska senior Scott Frost became only the 12th player in college football history to rush and pass for more than 1,000 yards in a single season. Of the 11 before him, only one other quarterback from the Big 12 earned accomplished the feat.

Colorado's Darian Hagan surpassed the 1,000 pass- and rush-plateau on Nov. 18, 1989. It was Hagan's sophomore season and he was the sixth player to pull the double-1,000.

With 8:10 left in the game, CU quarterback John Hessler headed to the bench with an injured right thumb.

Sophomore Jeremy Weisinger entered the game to a chorus of cheers from the CU fans. Hessler took a seat on the bench to have his thumb examined.

In their next series, the Buffs were forced to burn a timeout because Neuheisel wanted Hessler back in the game and couldn't find him.

"That was just a big miscommunication between me and him," Hessler said. "He thought I broke my thumb, and I thought he benched me."

Hessler's thumb was still swollen after the game.

Nebraska's Ahman Green broke his longest run of the season on the first play of the second half, a 64-yard scamper up the middle on a trap play. He had 202 yards on 29 carries and is second on NU's all-time rushing chart, trailing only Mike Rozier. He's 1,079 yards behind the 1984 Heisman trophy winner.

Despite being underdogs, Colorado didn't lack motivation to play the Huskers. Signs posted throughout the Colorado locker room reminded CU of their chances. The sign next to Hessler's locker said:

"Nebraska is more concerned about who they are going to play in the Orange Bowl."

A win over Nebraska would have secured CU a bowl berth and a winning season.

"Everybody was expecting Nebraska to just run right through us," senior wide receiver Phil Savoy said, "but it didn't happen that way because we fought."

Gameday Notebook compiled by senior reporters David Wilson and Antone Oseka.

Huskers survive close call at CU

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter

BOULDER, Colo. — Nebraska learned on Friday why football games last four quarters.

The Cornhuskers seemed to play only three quarters as they put the finishing touches on an 11-0 regular season and kept their conference- and national-championship hopes alive with a 27-24 win over Colorado.

Second-ranked Nebraska led 27-10 going into the final quarter when NU place-kicker Kris Brown nailed a 46-yard field goal with 20 seconds left in the third quarter.

It seemed to the 52,738 fans at Folsom Field that the kick ended any chance of a Colorado upset and an Aloha Bowl bid for the Buffaloes (5-6 and 3-5).

However, Colorado mounted a comeback with less than five minutes remaining in the game. CU got its biggest break of the game when NU I-back Ahman Green fumbled at the Colorado 23-yard line. Ryan Black recovered the ball to give the Buffalo offense life with 4:59 left in the game.

Colorado quarterback John Hessler passed the Buffaloes down field in six plays, hitting Marcus Stiggers in the end zone for a touchdown to cut the lead to 27-17.

After recovering an onside kick that bounced off Husker T.J. DeBates' hands, Hessler hit the skies again, covering 45 yards in four plays to cut the lead to 27-24.

Preparing for a second onside kick, Nebraska inserted its hands

unit, a kick-return squad composed of the team's surest ball handlers. The kickoff bounced out of bounds and Nebraska took over at the Colorado 49-yard line.

With less than a minute left, Nebraska punted the ball after gaining nine yards in three plays, giving CU life again.

After taking over at its own 20-yard line, Hessler hit senior wide receiver Phil Savoy for a first down at the 36-yard line. After two incompletions, Hessler hit Savoy again for what appeared to be a first down at midfield, but Savoy was called for pass interference.

Instead of gaining a first down at midfield Colorado had a third-and-25 situation at its own 21.

On fourth and 25, with only 21 seconds remaining, Hessler spotted wide receiver Phil Savoy in the flat. Hessler hit Savoy, and he rumbled toward the first-down marker. But NU freshman Erwin Swiney spun Savoy out of bounds three yards short, preserving the Husker win.

"That late fumble hurt us pretty badly," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "It looked like we maybe were going in for a score that would have iced the game. We got in the soup in a hurry."

Nebraska managed its way out of the soup through staunch defense when necessary. For many players, it was a reminder of the overtime win in Missouri on Nov. 8.

"It all came down to if we could stop them on one series," senior rush

Please see FOOTBALL on 10



A COLORADO PLAYER IS COMFORTED by a teammate Friday. The Buffaloes finished with a 5-6 record and are ineligible for a bowl game.

Football Game Review										Nebraska	27		
Nebraska					Colorado					Colorado	24		
Rushing					Rushing								
No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD	No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD				
30	Ahman Green	202	6.9	2	10	Dwayne Cherrington	78	7.8	0				
7	Scott Frost	76	5.4	1	5	Herchell Troutman	26	3.2	0				
45	Joel Makovicka	46	3.8	0	1	Jeremy Weisinger	-4	-2	0				
Receiving					Receiving								
No.	Name	No	Yds	TD	No.	Name	No	Yds	TD				
6	Kenny Chestnut	2	42	0	80	Phil Savoy	6	107	0				
30	Ahman Green	2	-8	0	18	Chris Anderson	3	39	0				
3	Matt Davison	1	21	0	6	Darin Chlaverini	2	54	0				
Passing					Passing								
No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD	No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD
7	Scott Frost	14	7	0	92	0	7	John Hessler	35	19	2	326	3
							1	Jeremy Weisinger	1	0	0	0	0
Game Stats Nebraska CU					Game Stats Nebraska CU								
First downs	20	20	Fumbles lost	2	0								
Rushing attempts	58	25	Interceptions	0	2								
Rushing yards	350	93	Penalties / yards	7 / 56	7 / 71								
Passing attempts	14	36	Punt returns / yards	5 / 192	4 / 156								
Passing completions	7	19	Kickoff returns / yards	2 / 24	1 / 31								
Passing yards	92	362	Time of possession	33:51	26:09								
Total plays	72	61	Third-down conversion	6 of 15	2 of 10								
Total yards	442	455	Fourth-down conversion	2 of 2	1 of 2								
Average yards per play	6.1	7.5	Sacks / yards	3 of 12	0 of 0								



ABOVE: NEBRASKA I-BACK AHMAN GREEN is tackled by Colorado's Ryan Sutter (left) with 202 yards on 29 carries and two touchdowns.

TOP: NEBRASKA QUARTERBACK SCOTT FROST breaks from the hold of Colorado Tim Carpenter throws a block on Colorado left cornerback Damen Wheeler. Finishing and 92 yards passing, allowing him to become the first NU player over to