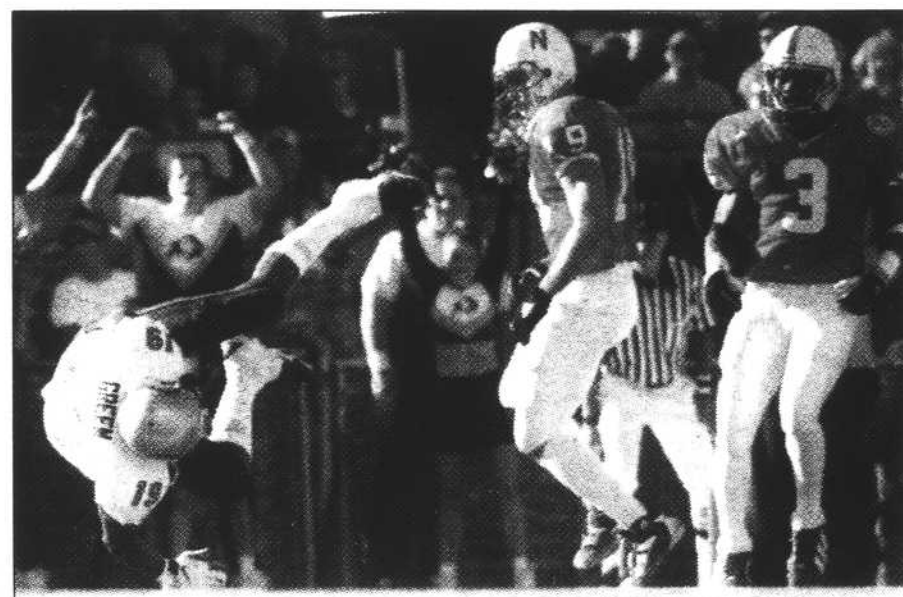
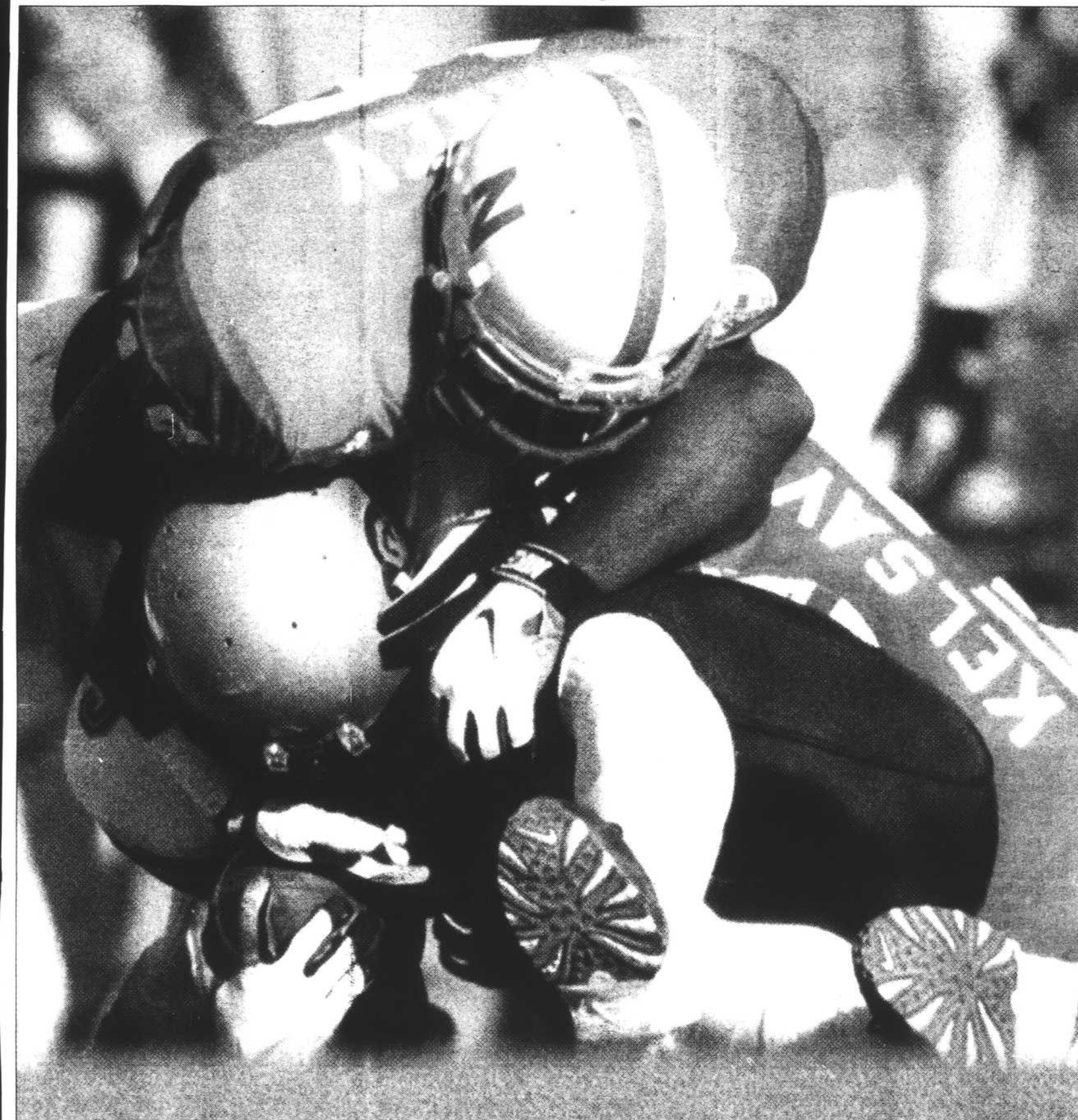
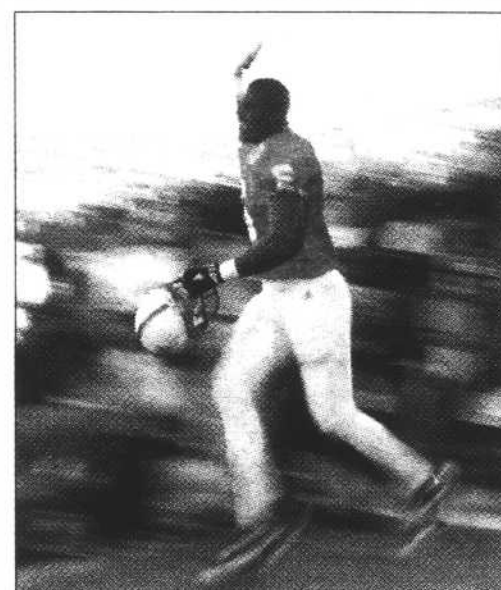


Nebraska 16, Colorado 14



PHOTOS BY SCOTT McCLURG/DN
ABOVE: COLORADO WIDE RECEIVER
 Javon Green tumbles into the end zone after a 17-yard touchdown pass during the first quarter. Green's score marked the first time CU had reached the end zone at Memorial Stadium since 1994.



LEFT: NEBRASKA WINGBACK Shevin Wiggins takes the field during a special ceremony honoring the Husker seniors before their last game at Memorial Stadium. Twenty-one graduating seniors took part in the pre-game proceedings.

Buffs frustrated, angry in loss to NU

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
 Senior staff writer

The frustration burst forth from the fists of Colorado linebacker Hannibal Navies, who crouched down and pounded the turf as the final second ticked off on the Memorial Stadium scoreboard Friday.

It broke the tense silence in post-game interviews when CU Coach Rick Neuheisel called the Buffaloes' 16-14 defeat the "most sickening thing I've ever been around."

And it shined in the black streaks smeared across quarterback Mike Moschetti's face, who refused to make excuses for Colorado's disappointing 7-4 season or for its fourth loss in five years to the Cornhuskers by less than five points.

"There are no excuses," Moschetti said defiantly. "If we're starting all freshmen, we still expect to win. I'm tired of hearing that we're young, and I'm tired of hearing we're beat up. It doesn't matter. When we put on a Colorado helmet, we expect to win the game."

Colorado came painfully close to doing so in front of an NU crowd of 75,958 fans. The Buffaloes shut NU down and forced a Husker punt with two minutes and 40 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

After a 58-yard punt by Bill Lafleur, CU took over at its own 9-yard line. The Buffaloes quickly notched two first downs on back-to-back plays, the first a 12-yard run by Marlon Barnes, the second a 10-yard pass by Moschetti to wide receiver Javon Green.

But a false start penalty stalled CU's drive, and an 8-yard sack by Nebraska rush end Chad Kelsay set the Buffaloes back further. Facing third-and-15 at the Colorado 26-yard line, Moschetti threw consecutive incomplete passes. Nebraska regained possession with 1:41 left in the game.

Neuheisel blamed the outcome on three key turnovers and penalties.

Colorado's first miscue took place four minutes into the first quarter when Husker free safety Clint Finley intercepted a Moschetti pass intended for tight end Tom Ashworth. Finley ran the grab back 42 yards for a score. In the second half, Nebraska's

Mike Rucker caused two Moschetti fumbles that NU recovered. The second fumble, recovered by freshman Jeremy Slechta, led to place-kicker Kris Brown's third field goal of the day and the Huskers' winning score.

Neuheisel hinted that he disagreed with several of the penalties called against CU. The Buffaloes were penalized seven times for 78 yards, including one offensive pass interference call that ended a crucial drive during the fourth quarter.

"I have to be careful here because I don't want to get sanctioned," Neuheisel said. "My opinion was that Darrin (Chiaverini) was making a play on the ball. The Nebraska defender wasn't. He was face guarding Darrin. Again, that's my opinion, and my opinions are biased."

Despite his frustration, Neuheisel was pleased with Barnes and Colorado's defense. Barnes, who has played in only five games because of an injury, rushed for 102 yards on 25 carries.

The offensive and defensive lines had a dominant performance. CU linebacker Jashon Sykes said, but the defensive line controlled the trenches as well. Colorado held Nebraska to 131 yards rushing. NU had -2 rushing yards after the first quarter.

"We practiced for two weeks for this offense," said Sykes, who led CU with 13 tackles. "I knew what they were running out of every formation. Today was a defensive game. They couldn't do anything against us. We shut them down."

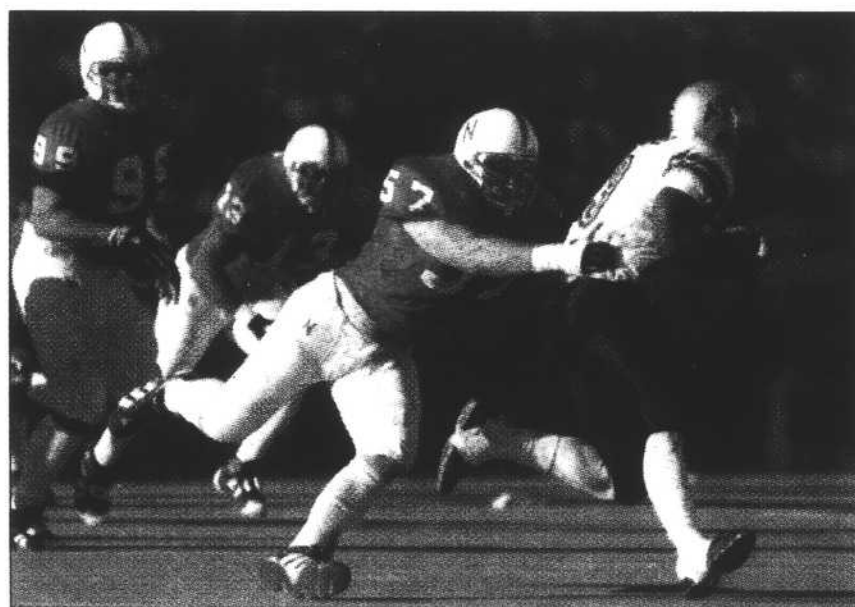
Sykes added that Nebraska will face a healthy and experienced Buffs team next year.

"Everyone in the country knows that next year Colorado is going to be right back where we were in 1990. We're going to turn this thing around next year."

In the wake of his second disappointing season in as many years, Neuheisel struggled to echo Sykes' predictions in his post-game comments to the Buffaloes.

"It's hollow. I'd love to say we're excited about where we are. I think we're headed in the right direction and the future is bright. But today, in the post-mortem of a two-point loss that's as sickening as any I've ever been around, it's hard to be as upbeat as I think we deserve to be with respect to the future."

ERWIN SWINEY, an NU left cornerback, and Chad Kelsay, a left rush end for NU, squish a Colorado player during Friday's game. The Husker defense kept the team ahead to win the game 16-14. It was the seventh consecutive win for the Huskers over the Buffaloes and the fourth win in the last five years by 5 or fewer points.



SCOTT McCLURG/DN
NEBRASKA RIGHT RUSH END Chad Kelsay tackles Colorado's Marlon Barnes for a loss during the second quarter. Despite a concerted effort to establish its rushing offense, Colorado was able to rack up only 112 yards on the ground in Friday's game.

Football game review

Nebraska	Colorado	16	14
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Rushing					Receiving				
Name	Car	Yds	Avg	TD	Name	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Correll Buckhalter	15	92	6.1	0	Marlon Barnes	25	102	4.1	0
Joel Makovicka	5	21	4.2	0	Dwayne Cherrington	6	39	6.5	0
Eric Crouch	17	18	1.1	0					

Rushing					Receiving				
Name	Car	Yds	Avg	TD	Name	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Shevin Wiggins	3	42	14.0	0	Javon Green	5	72	14.4	1
Correll Buckhalter	3	29	9.7	0	Marcus Stiggers	4	25	6.3	0
Matt Davison	2	31	15.5	0	Adam Peeke	1	15	15.0	1

Passing					Passing				
Name	Comp	Att	Yds	TD	Name	Comp	Att	Yds	TD
Eric Crouch	10	22	123	0	Mike Moschetti	12	18	132	2

Game Stats	Nebraska	Colorado	Nebraska	Colorado
First downs	12	18	Fumbles lost	1 2
Rushing attempts	37	46	Interceptions	1 1
Rushing yards	131	112	Penalties / yards	5 / 44 7 / 78
Passing completions	10	13	Punt returns / yards	3 / 20 3 / 43
Passing attempts	22	19	Kickoff returns / yards	2 / 42 1 / 2
Passing yards	123	134	Time of possession	26:18 33:42
Total yards	254	246	Sacks / yards	6 / 48 2 / 15

Scoring Summary		Score by quarters		Total
Team	Qtr	Nebraska	Colorado	Score
Nebraska		7	3	3 3
Colorado		7	0	7 0
				16 14

Team	Qtr	Scoring play	Plays - yards	Score
NU	1	C. Finley 42 yd interception return		7 0
COL	1	J. Green 17 yd pass from M. Moschetti	11 - 80	7 7
NU	2	K. Brown 30 yd field goal	11 - 45	10 7
NU	3	K. Brown 30 yd field goal	9 - 65	13 7
COL	3	A. Peeke 15 yd pass from M. Moschetti	13 - 80	13 14
NU	4	K. Brown 25 yd field goal	10 - 49	16 14

JON FRANK/DN