

Crouch romps in Huskers' easy win

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got to go ahead and do that." Crouch's display was matched by the Nebraska defense, which shut down a less-than-scintillating offense for the second week in a row. Cal managed only nine first downs for the game, and, after the first 15 minutes, made little-to-no meaningful yardage. Cal had 145 total yards for the game, 72 over the last three quarters.

Along with a strong performance from punter Dan Hadenfelt, the defense gave the offense good field position most of the day.

"They've done all we've asked them to do," said NU Coach Frank Solich of the Blackshirts, "and all that's been possible to do from a defensive point of view. But they will get tested."

The Huskers got tested slightly on Cal's opening two drives, as the Bears entered Nebraska territory but came away with no points. On the second drive, kicker Ignacio Brache hit the left upright with his 35-yard field goal attempt.

The Bears (1-1) threatened to score only once more in the entire game (Brache missed another field goal) and starting quarterback Samuel Clemons completed only 6 of 16 passes for 84 yards.

"There was some confusion out there early on," rover Mike Brown said. "But once we got settled down and got into a rhythm we were pretty much dominant."

Meanwhile, California's defense set in hard against the NU rushing attack. After stuffing the Huskers on the first two drives, Nebraska finally broke through with a five-play, 51-yard touchdown drive, culminating

with a Newcombe 12-yard option run.

Shortly afterward came Crouch's trio of scores.

At quarterback, he initially led NU (2-0) on a nine-play, 80-yard scoring drive, which ended in his 1-yard touchdown run.

After Newcombe's next drive stalled, Crouch was on at quarterback again. On the series' second play, he popped back to pass and found tight end Tracey Wistrom wide open — no one was within 20 yards of him — and Wistrom hoofed it to the end zone for a 70-yard score. On the play, and several others during the game, Cal had committed 10 players to stopping the run.

That defense opened up the airwaves significantly. For the game, NU had 187 passing yards and averaged 37.4 yards per completion.

"(Cal's) style of defense, it makes you look bad and can get you for a lot of lost yardage, which I'm sure we had today," Solich said. "But it's also vulnerable for big plays."

Said NU center Dominic Raiola of the Cal defense: "I thought they were bunch of cream puffs up front. They brought nine guys up in the box, and that's what broke the big plays. If you look at the film, their guys are laying all over the ground."

Crouch scored again a few minutes later, lining up at split end, catching a short inside screen pass from Newcombe and weaving his way through the defense for the score. The play had been set up from last year's 24-3 win over California, and Solich said there was an opportunity for the play to break.

"In a game, I've never caught a pass before," Crouch said, including his time at Millard North High

"I thought they were a bunch of cream puffs up front."

DOMINIC RAIOLA
NU center

School. "Everybody was in the right place at the right time."

Aside from those big plays, Cal's defense gave up very little in the first half.

NU had 43 yards rushing. I-backs DeAngelo Evans and Dan Alexander were virtually nonexistent. But Crouch supplied enough juice for Nebraska to be comfortably ahead. He was 2-2 passing for 102 yards and had four touchdowns overall.

"I've found what my role is right now," Crouch said. "And I think it's good for me."

NU padded its lead in the second half with the aid of a Brian Shaw blocked punt and a Ralph Brown interception, which he returned to the Cal 4-yard line. Those turnovers led to 10 points.

Instead of progressing after the first quarter, the Bears' offense regressed in the second half, gaining only 33 yards. In the third quarter, Clemons gave way to true freshman Kyle Boller, who resorted to heaving the ball 40 yards down field to avoid oncoming rushes.

Nebraska also benefited from 14 California penalties, some of them personal fouls. Several times, the Bears didn't have the proper substitution methods or the required six men

Football Game Review **Nebraska 45** **California 0**

Nebraska					California								
Rushing					Rushing								
No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD	No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD				
30	D. Diedrick	30	5.8	0	4	M. Fields	32	2.1	0				
38	Dan Alexander	27	4.3	1	29	J. Igber	17	4.3	0				
7	Eric Crouch	26	2.3	2	34	S. Muhammad	13	3.3	0				
Receiving					Receiving								
No.	Name	No	Yds	TD	No.	Name	No	Yds	TD				
87	Tracey Wistrom	2	102	1	3	M. Ainsworth	4	53	0				
7	Eric Crouch	1	60	1	4	M. Fields	1	24	0				
3	Matt Davison	1	18	0	87	B. Surgener	1	14	0				
Passing					Passing								
No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD	No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD
12	Bobby Newcombe	7	3	0	85	1	5	S. Clemons	16	6	1	84	0
7	Eric Crouch	2	2	0	102	1	7	K. Boller	10	2	1	21	0
Game Stats													
Nebraska			Cal			Nebraska			Cal				
First downs	15	9	Fumbles lost	1	1								
Rushing attempts	48	35	Interceptions	2	0								
Rushing yards	114	40	Penalties / yards	6 / 65	14 / 110								
Passing attempts	9	26	Punt returns / yards	4 / 41	2 / 9								
Passing completions	5	8	Kickoff returns / yards	1 / 25	3 / 77								
Passing yards	187	105	Time of possession	29:07	30:53								
Total plays	57	61	Third-down conversion	5 of 13	4 of 17								
Total yards	301	145	Fourth-down conversion	0 of 1	0 of 0								
Average yards per play	5.3	2.4	Sacks / yards	5 / 37	4 / 35								

MATT HANEY/DN

on the line of scrimmage, leading to more penalties. In all, Cal lost 110 yards in penalties and turned the ball over three times.

"They didn't get too many calls," said middle linebacker Carlos Polk, who had seven tackles and one sack. "As a defense, we try to go out there and cause mistakes — and we did."

For the game, Nebraska had 301 total yards — 242 less than last week, which Solich said was some cause for concern.

The coach also deflected any questions to the ongoing quarterback

controversy, which heated up again with Crouch's success and Newcombe's relatively slow start.

But, at this point, it's a win he will take. Even if, in some ways, the 45-point margin didn't necessarily fit the game on the field.

"It was a surprising game," Solich said. "Throughout the whole week, as we prepared, we thought it was going to be a lot closer game than it turned out to be score-wise."

"We did enough things to make it work. I think we contributed in all three areas."

Big plays thwart Cal's upset bid

CAL from page 20

touchdown and two field goals in the first half," Holmoe said. "It's hard because you work for those points. They aren't going to give them to you very much. If you don't come away with points when you get an opportunity, you might not get another one."

As disheartening as the little mistakes were for the Bear offense, they were particularly difficult to swallow for the defense, which held NU to 114 rushing yards, 15 first downs (four by penalty) and 187 yards passing.

Holmoe said he was proud of his defense's effort against the run but said a couple mistakes contributed to NU's points.

"The idea wasn't that we were going to give away the pass," Holmoe said in reference to Tracey Wistrom's 70-yard touchdown reception and Eric Crouch's 60-yard touchdown catch. "We just had a couple of breakdowns. That's too bad because we were playing them pretty tough on the line of scrimmage. Things could have been a little different."

"The difference was the big play. You can't be satisfied with holding Nebraska's rushing yards down. We didn't come in here to do that. We came in here to win the game."

Another thing that might have made a difference was the loss of inside linebacker Matt Beck, one of the defense's leaders, to a sprained foot in the first quarter of the game. But Holmoe said Beck's loss wasn't a major factor.

"It was hard to lose Matt," Holmoe said. "Juan Jimenez came in and did a great job. He played super. I don't think Juan Jimenez had anything to do with the big plays. I know he didn't."

"We just had a couple of breakdowns. That's too bad because we were playing them pretty tough on the line of scrimmage."

TOM HOLMOE
California coach

"Twelve bad plays — four really bad ones," said senior inside linebacker Keith Miller shaking his head.

"It's tough to play a perfect game but that is what we strive for. You have to play a perfect game against these guys. Those four big plays killed us."

As for whom the Bears felt was the better NU quarterback, they wouldn't pick one. However, Miller did offer his opinion about the situation.

"I am seeing more and more teams go with two quarterbacks, and it is working for them," said Miller, who made six tackles. "It is working for these guys so far, and I would continue it. They both play very hard."

"They are a running team and if they are going to run the ball, keep Newcombe in there and teach him how to pitch every once in a while."

"If Newcombe were in the game, we knew he was going to keep it and if Crouch was in, he probably was going to pitch it. Newcombe likes to keep it, and you key on that. Crouch runs very hard. I will give him that. He is a very hard runner and I respect that."

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