

Crouch helps NU punish Bears

Sophomore QB, defense propel Huskers to 45-0 pasting of California

By SAMUEL MCKEWON
Senior staff writer

If someone would have told Nebraska quarterback Bobby Newcombe that his team's leading rusher would have exactly 29 yards by the end of its 45-0 dismantling of California ...

"I would have said you were full of it," Newcombe said.

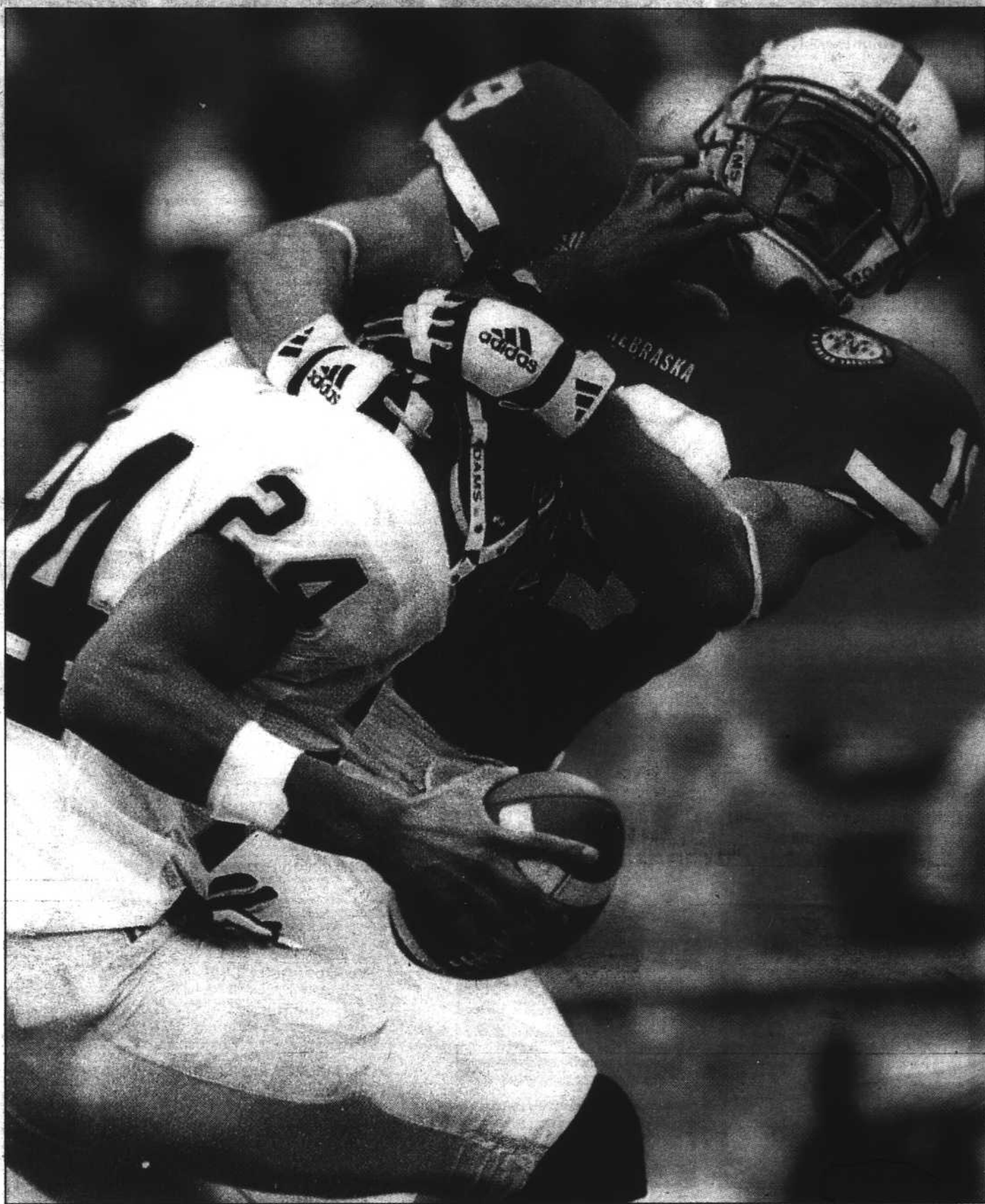
But the scant 114 total rushing yards mattered little as Newcombe's quarterback partner, Eric Crouch, had enough fireworks for one quarter to propel No. 5 Nebraska to an easy win - a win that defied football logic - in front of the largest crowd to ever watch a game at Memorial Stadium.

In an 11-minute, 37-second span in the second quarter, Crouch electrified the 77,617 fans in red with a rushing, passing and receiving touchdown, turning a 7-0 Husker lead into a 28-0 cushion by half-time, thus demoralizing a Cal team that controlled much of the first quarter.

Crouch's final touchdown of the quarter, a 60-yard "jailbreak" pass from Newcombe, put a record stamp on the sophomore's performance and made him the first player since Johnny Rodgers in 1973 to score in three different ways offensively.

"I didn't expect for this to happen," said Crouch, who had a hand in 183 of NU's 208 first-half yards. "But anytime I can get on the field and make a play or take advantage of every opportunity I'm given, I've

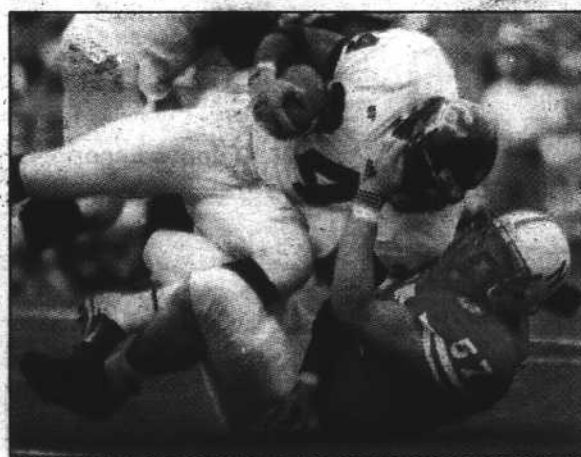
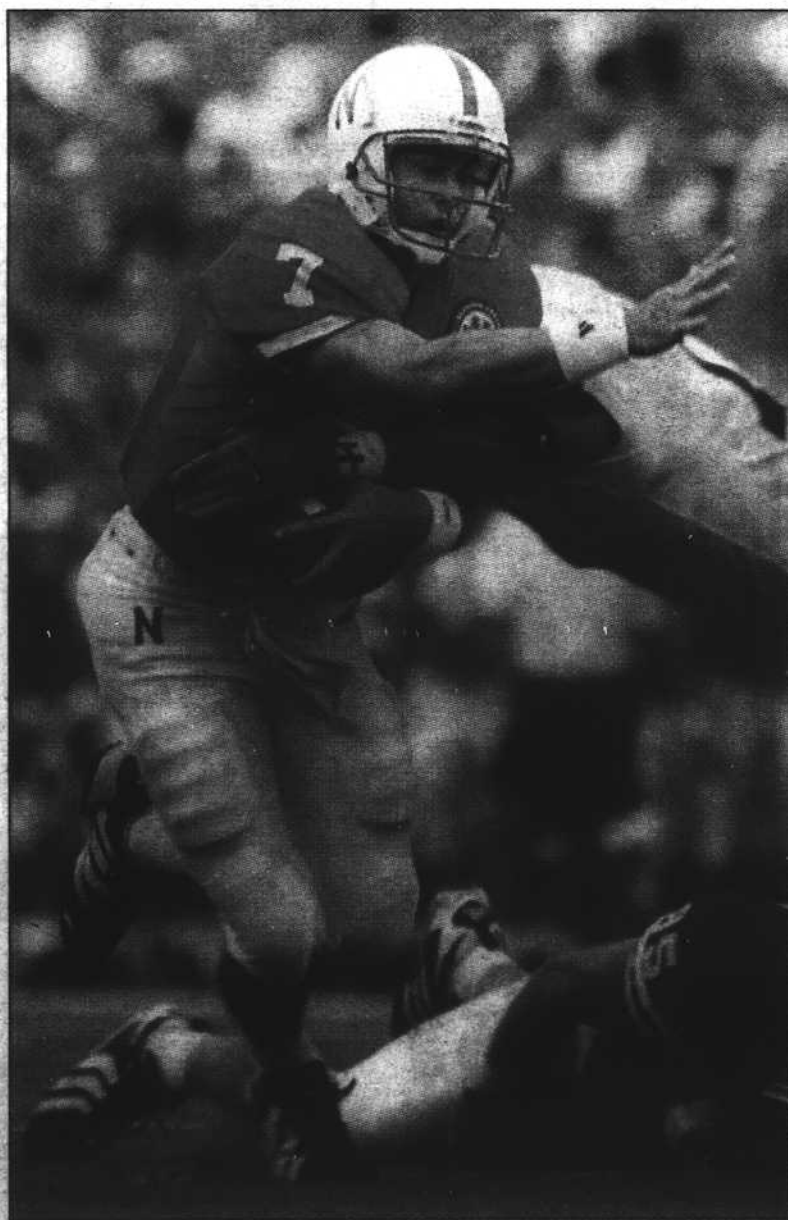
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LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
ABOVE: NEBRASKA FREE SAFETY Clint Finley tackles Cal running back LaShaun Ward during Saturday's game at Memorial Stadium. The Blackshirts continued dominating their opponents, not allowing an offensive score for the second straight week.

MIKE WARREN/DN
FAR LEFT: NEBRASKA QUARTERBACK Eric Crouch runs through the arm tackle of Cal outside linebacker, Sekou Sanyika, for a 6-yard gain off left tackle. Crouch was gang tackled by three Cal defenders to bring him down.

MIKE WARREN/DN
FRESHMAN LEFT rush end Chris Kelsay drags down Cal fullback Saleem Muhammad after a 5-yard run in the third quarter.



Missed opportunities doom Cal

By DARREN IVY
Senior staff writer

One more block on a Nebraska linebacker or one less blown coverage in the secondary and California Coach Tom Holmoe thought Saturday's 45-0 loss to Nebraska could have been a much different ball game.

Eliminating little mistakes - two missed field goals, three turnovers, 14 penalties and several other mental and physical breakdowns - were what Holmoe stressed to his team after the loss.

"It's amazing how little things make all the difference in the world," Holmoe said. "The little things add up very quickly against Nebraska. When you come in here, you have to play flawless. We didn't."

One example of a little thing becoming a big thing was a screen

Scoring summary

		Score by quarters				Total	
		7	21	10	7	45	
Nebraska		0	0	0	0	0	
California		0	0	0	0	0	
Team	Qtr.	Scoring play				Plays - yards	Score
NU	1	B. Newcombe 12 yd run (J. Brown kick)				5-51	7-0
NU	2	E. Crouch 1 yd run (J. Brown kick)				9-80	14-0
NU	2	T. Wilson 70 yd pass from E. Crouch (J. Brown kick)				2-73	21-0
NU	2	E. Crouch 60 yd pass from B. Newcombe (J. Brown kick)				1-60	28-0
NU	3	J. Brown 37 yd field goal				4-7	31-0
NU	3	E. Crouch 4 yd run (J. Brown kick)				1-4	38-0
NU	4	D. Alexander 5 yd run (C. Long kick)				3-50	45-0

MATT HANEY/DN

pass to running back Joe Igber on Cal's second series, Holmoe said. Igber looked like he had a wide open path to the end zone and then all of a sudden, NU middle linebacker Carlos Polk came out of nowhere to make a touchdown-saving tackle.

"One of our linemen was supposed to cut block Polk, but he thought (the play) was over," Holmoe said. "You just can't take anything for

granted against a team like this. If he would have done what he was assigned to do, it would have been a touchdown."

That play, along with a missed 35-yard field goal by Ignacio Brache on the next play, took some wind out of the Bears, Holmoe said.

"I think we should have had a

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