

# OSU mistakes aid Husker win

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out," McBride said. "They came out with some things they hadn't done, and they sat around for two weeks and thought of that, and we adjusted to it very well. They didn't have any yards passing. They tried to ram the ball against us, and it didn't work."

The second half wasn't much like the first, partially by design and partially through what NU considered a poor effort. OSU outscored the Huskers 14-7 in the last 30 minutes and out-yarded them 228-129. It was a laborious end to a quick-moving first half, complete with numerous delays for officials' conferences and television timeouts that zapped the juice out of the Husker defense, filled mostly with reserves.

Still, that didn't make the starters any happier about the overall defensive performance. Nebraska allowed the most rushing yards and most points of the season.

"I'm upset right now," senior rover Mike Brown said. "I'm mad. I know our defense is better than that. I'm pretty disappointed in the way we played in the second. We're going to

have to look at the film and see where guys made some mistakes."

McBride already knows. Poor communication in the second half, coupled with the long delays "took away some ... momentum."

Not that any of it mattered after the first half, arguably Nebraska's best half of football this season. All facets ran smoothly, especially the option game, which Crouch ran with precision. Often, Buckhalter and I-back Dan Alexander were left uncovered on the pitch. When they were, Crouch picked up yards inside. He led all NU rushers with 61 yards on 11 carries.

"I didn't get as many carries today because I pitched the ball quite a bit," Crouch said.

"The defenses are going to do that; they're either going to take the quarterback or they're going to take the I-back. If I have an opportunity to option the ball to the I-back, then getting hit is what I need to do."

NU's offensive diversity helped produce a career day for Wistrom, as he had four catches for 116 yards. Crouch completed seven of 13 passes for 145 yards and accounted for 206

total yards.

Oklahoma State actually had more offensive plays than Nebraska and held the ball for more time. But the Cowboys did most of their damage in the second half after a disastrous start. OSU was without quarterback Tony Lindsay for the game, but Coach Bob Simmons made no excuses.

"During the first half," Simmons said, "I really wasn't pleased with the way we executed any of our game plan. First play: fumble. Special teams, blocked kick."

On the NU side, Solich said he'd take his team's win, though the second half raised questions going into next week's game against Iowa State, which features a better offense.

In a sense, it was a near-perfect win; Nebraska played well but still made enough mistakes to prevent a false sense of security.

"There were enough really good things there to make the guys feel good about themselves," Solich said. "Yet on the other side of it there are errors and plays that jump out at you that we just need to do a better job with."

# Injuries limit 2 Cowboys to sidelines vs. Nebraska

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Cowboys probably outplayed the Huskers in the second half, outscoring them 14-7 and gaining twice as much yardage.

"I thought we played somewhat better the second half than the first half," Simmons said. "Obviously, the first half I wasn't pleased with the way we executed any part of our game plan."

Offensively, OSU had just 45 total yards, including zero through the air.

Lindsay's replacements, B.J. Tiger and Ben Bowling, were 7-for-21 for 85

yards and one touchdown, but in their defense, they weren't given many opportunities.

When they were allowed to pass the ball and take some risks, the result was 228 second-half yards and 14 points.

The Cowboys hope to get the same production next week against Texas Tech.

"There might be a sense of urgency, but we haven't written our season off," Golden said. "We lost two games. If we come out and play like the team we really are, those will be the last two games we lose this year."



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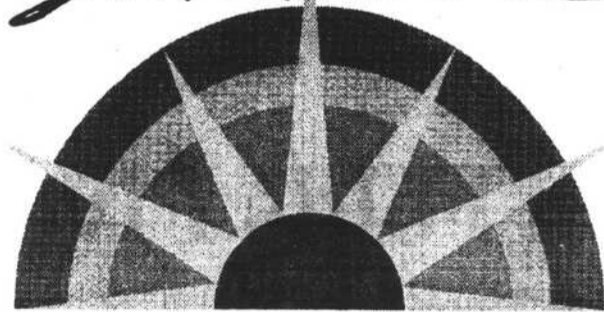
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