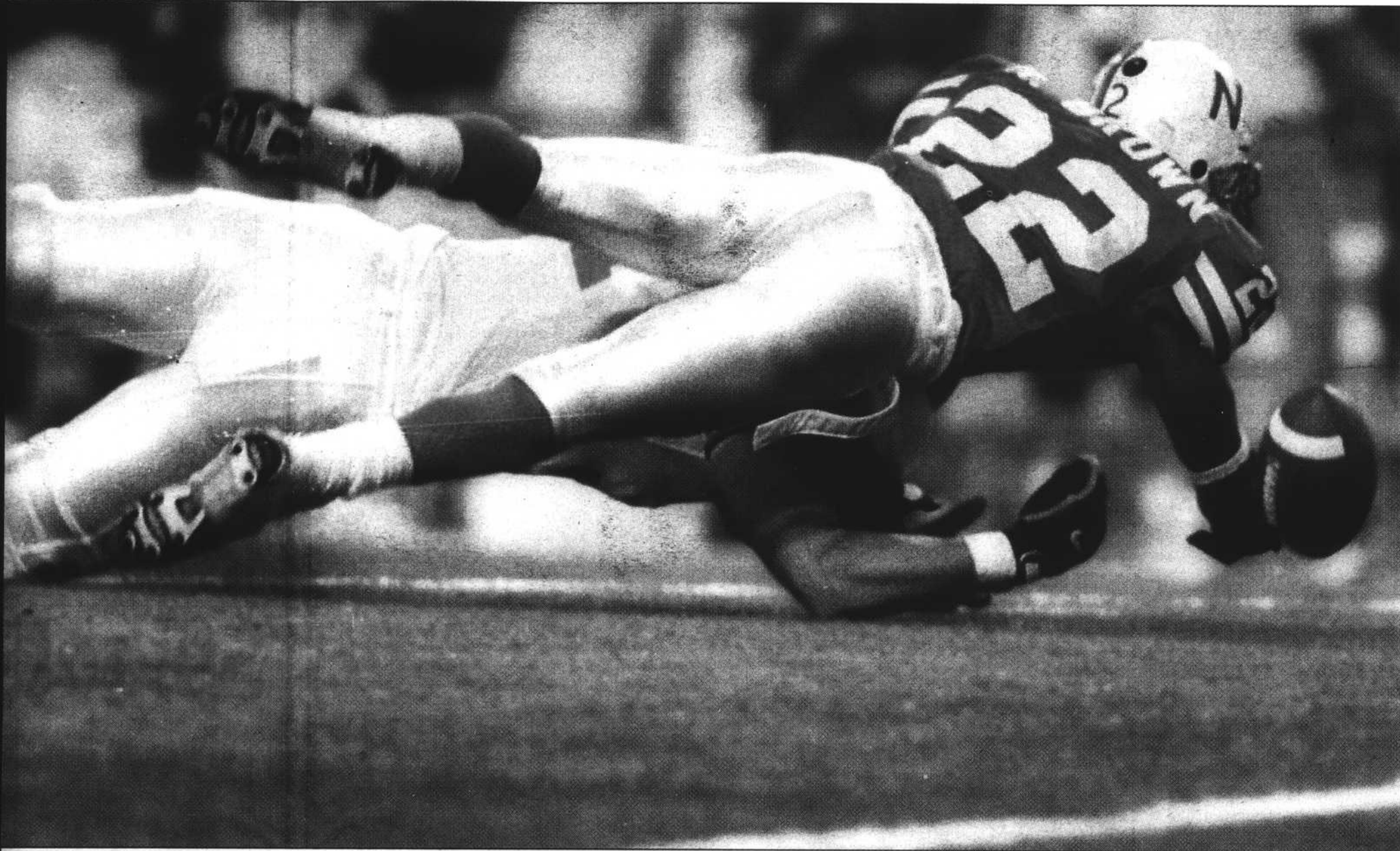


# Iowa State 14



COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NU CORNERBACK Ralph Brown breaks up a pass to Iowa State tight end Mike Banks late in the first quarter. LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

QUARTERBACK ERIC CROUCH and the rest of the Husker offense sent the Cyclones spinning, averaging 7.4 yards per play for a total of 524 yards.

AARON WILLS puts the brakes on Iowa State tailback Darren Davis. Davis, who entered Saturday's game as the nation's leading rusher, mustered just 40 yards though the third quarter.

NEBRASKA WINGBACK BOBBY NEWCOMBE celebrates with the crowd after catching a 24-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Eric Crouch in the third quarter. NATE WAGNER/DN

GRAPHICS MATT HANEY/DN

## Gameday Notebook

I-back Dan Alexander's career-long run didn't stand for very long. His 44-yard dash on the first play of the last half was his longest at Nebraska. But on the first play of the second half, he bettered that run with a 54-yard blast to the ISU 26-yard line, where he was caught from behind. Alexander joked that he had a good excuse for being run down. "I figure I weigh 250 pounds, and those guys chasing me weigh 170."

Matt Davison finally caught a touchdown pass at home. His 47-yard touchdown catch from Eric Crouch was only the third of his career, his first at Memorial Stadium and the first one he didn't score in Missouri.

If Dahrran Diedrick could have rushed for just one more yard on any of his 16 carries, NU would have had three rushers top the 100-yard mark for only the second time in school history.

Alexander rushed for 135 yards, Correll Buckhalter finished with 127 yards and Diedrick fell just shy of the century mark with 99 yards in the second half. Apparently, Diedrick took a bit of heat from his teammates for the performance. "I have given Dahrran a lot of flak for only getting 99 yards," Alexander said.

Hats, oddly enough, were a focus of the post-game press conference. When asked why he didn't wear a cap on the sidelines, Coach Frank Solich responded, "Well, I use it to block the sun, and I didn't need that tonight."

Center Dominic Raiola and tackle Adam Julch both donned white caps with "Crouch" and the number seven emblazoned on them. "I asked Eric's mom for it," Raiola said.

The NU defense held the Cyclone's rushing offense, the nation's best at 328.3 yards per game coming into the contest, to 146 yards for the game. ISU had only 59 rushing yards at the end of the third quarter. Star tailback Darren Davis was held to 107 yards, 69 under his season average of 176 yards per game.

Because of injuries to Willie Miller and Ben Kingston, Alexander lined up at fullback during parts of the game Saturday night. What goes through defenders' heads when they see a 250-pound train lined up in front of the I-back? "I think they think they're going to have trouble," Buckhalter said.

NU has jumped up a spot to No. 3 in both the AP and USA Today/ESPN polls. The Huskers have a week off before traveling to No. 19 Texas, which snapped Nebraska's 48-game home winning streak last year.

Gameday notebook compiled by staff writer David Diehl