

Nebraska 37

Huskers warm up in 2nd half

Key plays early on set the tone for a decisive Nebraska win

BY DARREN IVY
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Just 15 seconds into its ABC regionally televised game with No. 18/21 Texas A&M on Saturday, No. 9 Nebraska found itself in a heap of trouble.

Bobby Newcombe, the hero of last week's 24-17 victory over Kansas, coughed up the ball on the Cornhuskers' first play of the game, and it was recovered by Aggies linebacker Harold Robertson at the NU 11-yard line.

The 77,705 Nebraska fans were in disbelief but soon rose to their feet as the Blackshirts put the clamps on A&M's offense on three straight plays. That set up a 28-yard field goal attempt by Terence Kitchens, which was tipped by junior rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch and came up short.

"That block was huge," said senior rover Mike Brown. "I think that was the turning point of the game. We gave them the ball in our backyard, and they weren't able to score. I think that was the biggest play of the game. No doubt."

That scoring opportunity would be one of only three times that A&M had the ball inside Nebraska territory the entire game.

The Blackshirts rose to the occasion the entire game as momentum swung back and forth most of the first half and early into the second half before the Huskers took control for good. A 31-point scoring explosion in the last 23 minutes of the game lifted Nebraska to a 37-0 victory and improved its record to 8-1 and 5-1 in the Big 12 Conference. A&M dropped to 6-3 and 3-3.

After holding the Aggies to 46 yards of total offense in the first half, the Blackshirts continued their domination in the second half. The Aggies added 72 more yards to finish with 118 -290 yards below their season average. But they couldn't punch in any points and were shut out for the first time since 1988.

"Today was one of the best defensive performances I have been a part of since I've been here," Mike Brown said.



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
Husker left cornerback Keyou Craver intercepts a Randy McCown pass in the fourth quarter.

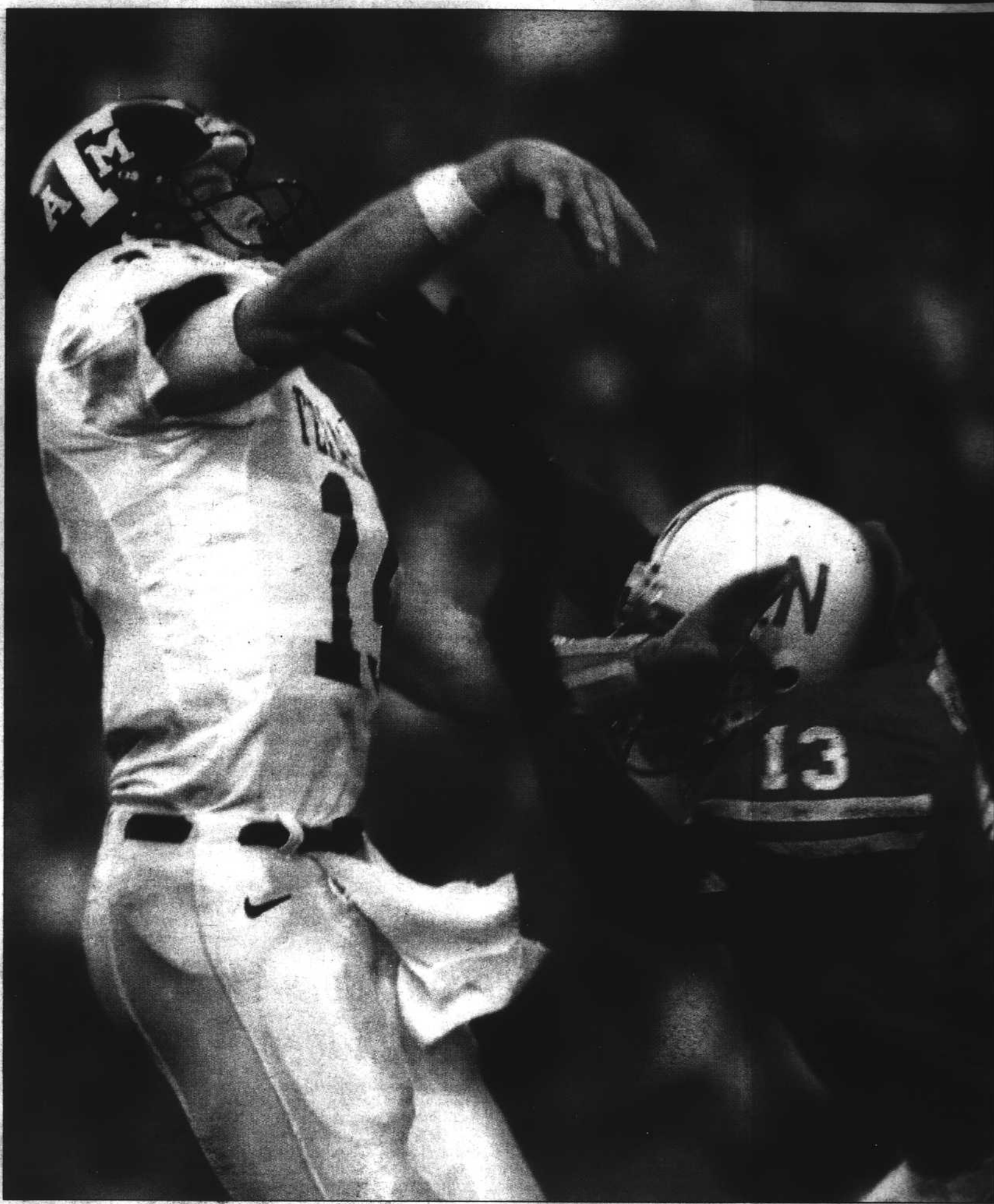
"We really came out and dominated. We got a lot of sacks, two blocked field goals, four interceptions and a fumble recovery. Those are the things we have to do to beat teams of Texas A&M's caliber."

Afterwards, Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride echoed Brown's comments. "I can't even pick out guys," McBride said. "There were so many guys that played well. Both of the Browns played great. Mike Brown was unbelievable. The way he was supporting the run, he looked like he was a heat-seeking missile today."

Mike Brown made nine tackles, picked off two passes, caused two fumbles and recorded one sack. And all but four of those tackles came in the first half as he set the tone for the Blackshirts.

While the defense was strong the entire game, it took the offense a half to wake up. Stupid penalties and

Please see HUSKERS on 12



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

ABOVE: Aggie quarterback Randy McCown gets a face full of Husker middle linebacker Carlos Polk on Saturday during Nebraska's victory over Texas A&M. The Blackshirts were all over McCown with four interceptions and eight sacks for 64 yards.

RIGHT: Dan Alexander and the rest of the Cornhuskers rolled over Texas A&M, beating it 37-0.

FAR RIGHT: Cheering Nebraska fans give their vote on who the No. 1 team in the nation is.



Football Game Review						Nebraska	37						
Nebraska			Texas A&M			Texas A&M	0						
Rushing													
No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD	No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD				
7	Eric Crouch	137	9.1	1	5	J. Toombs	46	4.6	0				
38	D. Alexander	135	6.8	1	20	T. Hardeman	14	2.8	0				
50	D. Dieck	27	4.5	1	28	J. Weber	9	2.3	0				
Receiving													
No.	Name	No	Yds	TD	No.	Name	No	Yds	TD				
12	B. Newcombe	4	32	0	3	M. Bumgardner	3	27	0				
99	A. Golliday	2	29	0	2	L. Hodge	2	31	0				
82	S. Applegate	1	16	0	2	C. Cole	2	23	0				
Passing													
No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD	No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD
7	Eric Crouch	20	9	0	85	0	30	R. McCown	30	11	4	116	1
Game Stats													
First downs	23	9	Fumbles lost	0	1								
Rushing attempts	55	38	Interceptions	4	0								
Rushing yards	335	2	Penalties / yards	1 / 10	4 / 32								
Passing attempts	20	30	Punt returns / yards	5 / 35	2 / 16								
Passing completions	9	11	Kickoff returns / yards	1 / 16	5 / 86								
Passing yards	95	116	Time of possession	29:56	30:04								
Total plays	75	63	Third-down conversion	4 of 13	0 of 21								
Total yards	430	118	Fourth-down conversion	1 of 1	0 of 0								
Average yards per play	5.7	1.7	Sacks / yards	8 / 64	1 / 3								