

Nebraska 41

Title shot may happen

BY SAMUEL MCKEOWN
Senior editor

About 20 seconds after Nebraska had beat them 41-15, the Wildcats of Kansas State ambled, very slowly, out to midfield to greet the Huskers.

The Cornhuskers responded in kind, save Julius Jackson's dance routine, which spanned about 50 yards of the field. Nobody else was quite as jubilant. Nearly ever player clad in red had been here before.

Yes, it was business as usual in the NU-KSU series. Just like Nebraska cornerback Ralph Brown said, Kansas State's reign over Nebraska was a one-year deal.

At least, for another year.

So the Huskers, now 9-1 overall and 6-1 in the Big 12 Conference, took the postgame press conference as an opportunity not to dwell on just how badly the Wildcats played or, for that matter, just how ugly of a game it was.

Instead, they talked about the seniors, who were so key in the victory. And Nebraska talked about making a move for the national championship, which suddenly seems a possibility with Tennessee's 28-24 loss to Arkansas on Saturday.

"We need to have some things fall into place," said quarterback Eric Crouch, who had an NU position record 27 rushing attempts and 158 yards in the win. "But we know what we're capable of doing if we just focus on the things we can control."

Outside of the fumbling on the first play of the game for the second straight week, Nebraska controlled Kansas State in all facets. After NU I-back Dan Alexander fumbled at his own 28-yard line, the Husker defense again came up strong and again



MIKE WARREN/DN

AS THE KSU and Nebraska players scramble for the ball, Mike Brown holds it up for the officials and the sellout crowd in Memorial Stadium to see he had recovered it. Brown finished with five tackles and one interception along with the fumble recovery.

"We got it going on the ground, and we were able to mix in some throws."

FRANK SOLICH
Husker head coach

blocked a field goal attempt.

"Like I said like last week, that's the biggest play of the game," Nebraska rover Mike Brown said.

A Memorial Stadium crowd of 77,744 watched NU's offense, specifically Crouch, take the effort from there in the first half. NU had three touchdown drives of more than 40

yards against the nation's No. 2 defense en route to a 24-9 halftime lead. Crouch rushed for two touchdowns. NU kept KSU's defense off-balance with throws to fight end Tracey Wistrom.

"We got it going on the ground,"

Please see HUSKERS on 11

Erratic offense buries Kansas State

BY DARREN IVY
Senior staff writer

It would be safe to say No. 9 Kansas State missed Michael Bishop on Saturday in its 41-15 loss to No. 4 Nebraska.

Until now, quarterbacks Jonathan Beasley and Adam Helm had directed the Kansas State offense well enough to make KSU fans not miss Bishop as much, if not forget him.

But Saturday all those preseason fears resurfaced as quarterbacks Beasley and Helm were more erratic throwing the football than the Weiner Schlinger guy was with the hot dogs, completing a combined 7 of 31 pass attempts.

"It was pretty obvious that we weren't setting the world on fire with the play out of our quarterbacks," Coach Bill Snyder said.

In last year's 40-30 win, Bishop was on fire, throwing for 306 yards and rushing for another 140 yards. More importantly, he made the plays when they needed to be made. The inability of the quarterbacks to make plays this year and the special teams' inability to block Nebraska players on punts and field goals led to Saturday's 41-15 loss.

The offense's ineffectiveness started on the first drive of the game. After the previously No. 2-ranked defense in the nation recovered a Dan Alexander fumble at the NU 28-yard line, KSU failed to make a first down, and Jamie Rheem had to attempt a 35-yard field goal. It got blocked by Kyle Vanden Bosch, and the Wildcat defense headed back onto the field.

All-Big 12 defensive end Darren Howard expressed his frustration about the offense after the game.

"We get the offense good field posi-

tion, and they don't do anything with it," Howard said. "It's happened all year."

Running back David Allen, who rushed nine times for 18 yards, agreed with Howard.

"We didn't take advantage of our opportunities," Allen said. "We had ample opportunities to do things with the football. The defense did a good job of giving us the ball in good field position, and we didn't do our job. The offense didn't do anything today."

"(Beasley) didn't get the job done throwing the ball, and the running backs didn't get the job done running the ball. Nobody on offense had a good game today."

When asked if the NU game was the first time all year the Wildcats had missed Bishop, Allen responded, "I don't know."

"Beasley has done a great job all year. He's had some great games at times and helped us win. Unfortunately like today, he didn't have a good game. He's been hurting all week. I don't think the offense gave him a shot. We didn't do too much to help him out."

Beasley and Helm did not talk right after the game.

The offense was held 160 yards below its average and 24 points under its average points per game. It didn't help that KSU fell behind 16-0 in the first quarter.

Unlike the Iowa State and Oklahoma State games, the offense wasn't able to mount a comeback.

"This is Nebraska," said Quincy Morgan, a wide receiver for KSU. "You can't get behind like that here. We are a good team. We thought we could come back. Nebraska isn't going to let up and make it easy for you. Once they get you down, they are going to keep kicking you to keep you down. That is what they did today."

Football Game Review

Nebraska 41
Kansas St. 15

Nebraska Kansas St.

Rushing

No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD	No.	Name	Yds	Avg	TD
7	Eric Crouch	186	5.9	2	3	F. Murphy	62	5.1	0
30	D. Diedrick	96	6.6	1	32	D. Allen	18	2.0	0
15	W. Miller	20	2.9	1	18	J. Beasley	15	3.0	1

Receiving

No.	Name	No	Yds	TD	No.	Name	No	Yds	TD
67	T. Wistrom	4	66	0	5	Q. Morgan	3	116	0
12	B. Newcombe	2	6	0	22	A. Lockette	2	17	0
30	D. Diedrick	1	9	0	3	F. Murphy	1	13	0

Passing

No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD	No.	Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD
7	Eric Crouch	17	3	0	69	0	18	J. Beasley	19	3	0	100	0

Game Stats

Game Stats	Nebraska	KS	Game Stats	Nebraska	KS
First downs	20	11	Fumbles lost	3	4
Rushing attempts	61	37	Interceptions	1	0
Rushing yards	309	92	Penalties / yards	1 / 10	4 / 40
Passing attempts	17	32	Punt returns / yards	6 / 42	0 / 0
Passing completions	3	3	Kickoff returns / yards	3 / 45	0 / 104
Passing yards	69	142	Time of possession	33:38	26:22
Total plays	78	69	Third-down conversion	7 of 17	3 of 15
Total yards	378	234	Fourth-down conversion	2 of 4	1 of 2
Average yards per play	4.8	3.4	Sacks / yards	5 / 33	1 / 3

Scoring Summary

Team	Qtr	Scoring play	Plays - yards	Score
NU	1	Team safety	4 - 44	7 - 0
NU	1	Crouch, E. 30 yd run (Brown, J. kick)	11 - 23	14 - 0
KS	2	Beasley, J. 1 yd run (Beasley, J. pass failed)	7 - 53	16 - 6
KS	2	Rheem, J. 35 yd field goal	9 - 62	24 - 9
NU	4	Beasley, J. 22 yd field goal	7 - 31	27 - 9
NU	4	Diedrick, D. 46 yd run (Brown, J. kick)	1 - 46	34 - 9
KS	4	Howard, D. 20 yd field goal	2 - 40	34 - 15
NU	4	Johnson, E. 15 yd fumble recovery (Brown, J. kick)		41 - 15