

# Cornhuskers survive shaky defense

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make some plays that kept us from being in poor field position."

Smith's second critical play again gave NU a 14-point lead at a crucial point in the game. After rush end Chris Kelsay forced Missouri's Zack Abron to fumble at his own 28-yard line, Nebraska's Jamie Burrow picked up the ball and broke two tackles in his way to scoring for the defense and giving NU a 35-21 lead with 8:14 left in the third quarter.

The play by Kelsay and Burrow personified what the Blackshirts have been stressing in the week leading up to Saturday's game-forcing turnovers.

"That is the kind of stuff that we need to do," Vanden Bosch said. "That is what being a Blackshirt is all about. We said that we needed to start putting points on the board and get some turnovers. That is where our focus was all week."

Despite the fumble return for a touchdown and Troy Watchorn's second interception of the season in the fourth quarter, Nebraska's defense had very little to cheer about after hitting the showers.

The Blackshirts were held without a sack and gave up 22 first downs and 209 yards rushing to Missouri - almost twice the Tiger average of 107.7 on the year.

"We need to get more solid on defense in terms of not allowing big plays," said Solich, whose defense allowed Missouri seven plays of 23 yards or more.

Quarterback containment was also on the mind of Solich and defensive coordinator Craig Bohl.

"Both quarterbacks had great mobility



Husker Blackshirts swarm to stop a run by Missouri tight end Dwayne Blakley.

Scott McClurg/DN

and the ability to pull the ball down and run," said Bohl, whose defense gave up an average of seven yards per play.

"That posed a lot of problems. I don't think that we were executing our tackling well in our pass rush lanes.

"I think our guys were pressing so hard that the quarterback spilled out some times. I think our guys were coming about a foot short of coming up with a good sack."

Vanden Bosch, who had five tackles in the game, said he blamed himself as much as anybody for the defense's slow start.

"We really are prepared well, but by game

time, we lose our edge," he said. "As a senior and as a captain, I take a lot of the responsibility. It is my job to make sure the players are ready and to bring excitement."

Bohl said he has not hit the panic button yet, despite his defense giving up an average of 340.2 yards per game this season.

Members of the offense, which have had to shoulder much of the load up to this point, are not getting down on their teammates on the other side of the ball.

"If I remember right from last year, at this point, they were carrying us," NU center Dominic Raiola said.

# Newcombe grabs Rodgers record in return

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Bobby Newcombe now owns the record for longest punt return in Nebraska history with his 94-yard second quarter return, topping a 92-yard return by Johnny Rodgers against Oklahoma State in 1971. The return also tied Kansas State's David Allen for longest return in Big 12 history.

It was a third quarter to remember and forget for Missouri freshman Zach Abron. He recorded a career high 13-yard run on a touchdown that cut the Nebraska lead to 28-21. On the next series, Abron fumbled the touchdown back to Nebraska, as linebacker

Jamie Burrow picked up the loose ball and ran it 28-yards for the touchdown.

Missouri Coach Larry Smith pulled a card out of his sleeve in the third quarter, when he called for a reverse to wide receiver Justin Gage. Only, Gage didn't carry out the reverse but instead became a quarterback and fired a pass to Kurt Farmer who was finally hit late out of bounds by Keyuo Craver 35 yards later.

The pass by Gage may serve as good practice.

Gage could be No. 2 on the depth chart at quarterback after Farmer's injury.

Larry Smith won't likely be

sending Christmas cards to the referee crew that worked the game Saturday night. After his team received a sideline warning in the fourth quarter, Smith-exchanged words with the refs as he stood on the field, earning a 15-yard penalty for his actions.

Troy Watchorn picked off his second pass of the season to grab the team lead in interceptions in the fourth quarter of the Missouri game. One week prior, he picked off an Iowa pass and returned it for a touchdown.

Nebraska handed their No. 1 ranking over to Florida State when Sunday's AP Poll was announced. The last time a team lost their No.

1 ranking in the AP Poll without losing their game was in 1997. Coincidentally, it was Nebraska who lost the ranking after a 45-38 overtime win against Missouri, and they were replaced by Florida State atop the poll.

Scoreboard watchers surely noticed Iowa State's 31-17 win over Baylor on Saturday night. The Cyclones will be undefeated coming into next week's contest in Ames against Nebraska.

The game may serve as the second biggest attraction in Ames that day, with the Dixie Chicks performing at the Hilton Coliseum later that night.

Compiled by Brian Christopherson

# Swimmers allege NCAA violations

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She said coaches tampered with the scholarship money because there wasn't enough to go around.

Jowsey receives 80 percent of a full scholarship while completing her undergraduate degree. She has finished her eligibility but still practices with NU.

She said the violations were common knowledge.

"I always heard talk about it on the pool deck among the other swimmers," Jowsey said. "I was never approached about receiving money, nor did I see anyone receive it with my own eyes."

"I've also heard athletes talk about receiving money while at the Hewitt Center."

Kapinus said he was surprised the swimming team was able to get away with the violations for as long as it did.

Byrne and NU Associate Athletic Director Bob Burton referred questions about the investigation to the Nebraska

*"This has been happening years before I came here. ... I think after the wrestling incident, the university is trying to crack down on these kind of things."*

Sara Jowsey  
NU swimmer

Sports Information Office. The office issued a short, 76-word release announcing the suspensions Friday afternoon.

Byrne met with swimming coaches on Thursday for about 10 minutes to announce the suspensions, Paine said.

Swim team members met Friday at a meeting led by the university's legal staff, Byrne and Burton.

Specifics of the university's investigation were not disclosed at the meeting, said Jowsey, who was in attendance.

Both Kapinus and Jowsey said, as far as they knew, the violations have been going on for some time.

"It started when I got here four years ago," Kapinus said. "I

heard through the grapevine who was getting asked to take cuts in their scholarships, I wasn't hearing it from coaches."

Jowsey shared his sentiments.

"This has been happening years before I came here. I'm not quite sure what sparked this whole issue," she said. "I think after the wrestling incident, the university is trying to crack down on these kind of things."

Earlier this year, former Nebraska Wrestling Coach Tim Neumann resigned amid allegations from former Husker wrestlers that he tampered with scholarship money.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the athletic department are investigating his case.

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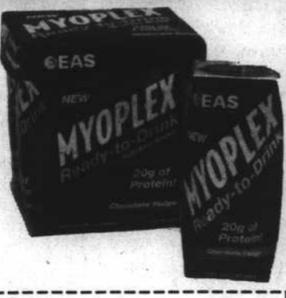
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