

# Gameday:

## 'Clones squander chance of a lifetime

AMES, Iowa — There are many things that people only get one chance at in their lives — the first car, first marriage and, for the have-nots of the Big 12, first legitimate chance to beat Nebraska.



Joshua Camenzind

None of the three are easily reproduced.

If history holds true, all of the Iowa State football players will never get another chance like they had against Nebraska on Saturday.

A chance to beat the great powerhouse of the Big 12, the No. 1 team in the nation and a long-time nemesis only comes around about once every decade. It last happened back in 1992 in Ames with a 19-10 Iowa State victory.

The Cyclones missed their best chance in a long while to gain some ground on the Huskers, and it is very likely another opportunity won't come around with these same players in uniform.

Players like Sage Rosenfels, J.J. Moses and Reggie Hayward have never played the Huskers tough before Saturday, and sadly for them, this was their last chance.

Cyclone sophomore phenom Ennis Haywood, who was limited to 27 yards on 11 carries, will see NU at least two more times. But he will never see a Cyclone win or even another close game in his time at Ames.

Heck, it's not even known how many more of these Nebraska-Iowa State matchups Cyclone Coach Dan McCarney has left in him if he doesn't take his team to a bowl this year.

People in Ames are getting restless after being spoiled by the men's and women's basketball teams. They want to be in this dream called the Big 12 Championship game, have players considered for national honors and, most of all, want people to talk about Iowa State football without laughing afterward.

But for now, Nebraska remains a mystery to Iowa State and represents that hurdle too impossible to clear. As good as the Cyclones were coming in, sporting their 4-0 record against a suspect schedule if there ever was one, they should have known that they would come up short again.

The campus was abuzz with a struggling and wounded Husker squad coming to town. They hoped to gain that elusive win that would springboard them into talk of the nation's elite at 5-0.

And it looked as if the goal posts might come down until disaster struck and the Cyclones found a way to hand the game over to LII' Red and blow their chance.

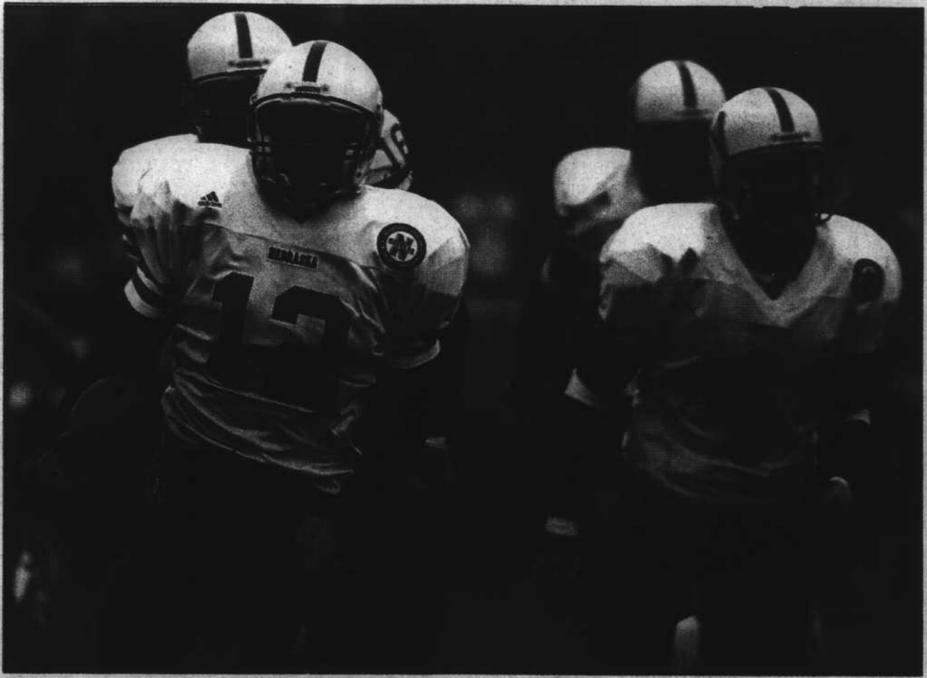
Iowa State was about to knot up the score after a 4-yard Haywood touchdown run with 6:46 left in the third quarter. But the ensuing point after was missed by Cyclone kicker Mike McKnight and the Cyclones found themselves staring at a one-point deficit at 21-20.

ISU players tried to play off the importance of the miss in the post-game press conference, but when a team goes on to score 21 straight points as NU did from that point on, it did matter.

The Cyclones would have been lining up against the Huskers on every down with a tie score and the wind at their backs. Psychological edges such as those are a must for a team like Iowa State.

Nebraska poured it on from there, and before you know it, the Huskers had executed another drive feeding in the buffet of the game.

McCarney said he knew that the Cyclones would never win, but he did five years ago, and he might



RIGHT: Nebraska wingback Bobby Newcombe returns a punt during the second quarter while three Huskers protect him from behind.

BOTTOM: Husker defenders DeJuan Groce, Joe Walker and Clint Finley break up a pass headed for ISU receiver Jamaul Montgomery to end the first half.



Photos by Scott McClurg/DN



RIGHT: Husker fans, from left, Jenny Jonyka, Amanda McGill and Dawn McNally celebrate a Nebraska touchdown during the fourth quarter.