

Nebraska 49, Iowa State 27

"We knew this game would go four quarters, and the plays we made in the second half were the difference." - NU Coach Frank Solich

NU uses fourth-quarter barrage to seal win

BY DAVID DIEHL

AMES, Iowa — Amidst thousands of dejected Iowa State fans after Nebraska's late-game dominance, the accountant for the Cyclones' athletic department had to be breathing a little easier.

The department's pocketbook was safe because, after NU's four-touchdown fourth quarter, a new pair of goal posts wouldn't be needed.

A 36-point second half barrage from NU's offense, including those 28 fourth quarter points, crushed any upset hopes that ISU fans might have had, as NU bounced back from a slow start and dismantled the Cyclones 49-27 in front of 50,074 at Jack Trice Stadium.

Putting up 500 total yards vs. the Cyclones, and running behind three Correll Buckhalter touchdowns, Nebraska turned around its 14-13 halftime deficit and a slim 21-20 lead in the fourth quarter.

Three unanswered Husker touchdowns in seven minutes had Iowa State fans heading for the exits midway through the final period.

"We knew this game would go four quarters," NU Coach Frank Solich said, "and the plays we made in the second half were the difference."

The first 30 minutes were set against a backdrop of spirited Cyclone fans hoping for ISU's first win vs. Nebraska since its 1992 shocking upset over NU, 19-10.

Behind the efficient passing of Iowa State quarterback Sage Rosenfels and receivers of J.J. Moses and Craig Campbell, who combined for 277 receiving yards, it looked early on as if the goal posts in Ames may come down once again.

Nebraska led for only 2:33 of the entire first half and were behind 7-0 early with Campbell's 53-yard touchdown pass from Rosenfels with 9:41 left in the first quarter. The Huskers' cause was hindered by two missed field-goal attempts from 39 and 48 yards in the first half.

"We played Nebraska so much better than we have in the past," said Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney, who in his sixth season had never come close to beating NU before Saturday. "We played a

lot of good snaps and some good Big 12 defense.

"We're coming out of this game relatively healthy and a lot of good things can happen if we keep improving."

Early on, ISU got a lift from key offensive conversions on third downs, but Nebraska's Blackshirts held tough.

Led by an inspired performance from Larchwood, Iowa native Kyle Vanden Bosch, Nebraska held ISU to only 37 rushing yards for the game. And, while the Husker offense was busy building the fourth-quarter cushion, the NU defense was holding the Cyclones still at 20.

The Blackshirts didn't give up a point from the 6:46 mark in the third quarter until the game was decided with three minutes remaining and no hope for an ISU comeback.

First-year Defensive Coordinator Craig Bohl said the defense is coming around after shaky performances earlier in the season.

Bohl said the coaches were most satisfied with NU's dominance against the run. The Cyclones

came into the game averaging 227 yards per contest.

"We're pleased with making a team one-dimensional," Bohl said. "We felt like we were able to take the rush away today and we made some progress."

But Iowa State capitalized on the other dimension, as Rosenfels, a 6-foot-5, 220 pound senior and pro-prospect, picked apart the Husker secondary for 346 yards.

But in the end, Rosenfels' effort didn't matter. His Cyclone defense couldn't quiet Nebraska's offensive attack for the entire 60 minutes after holding NU scoreless in the first period.

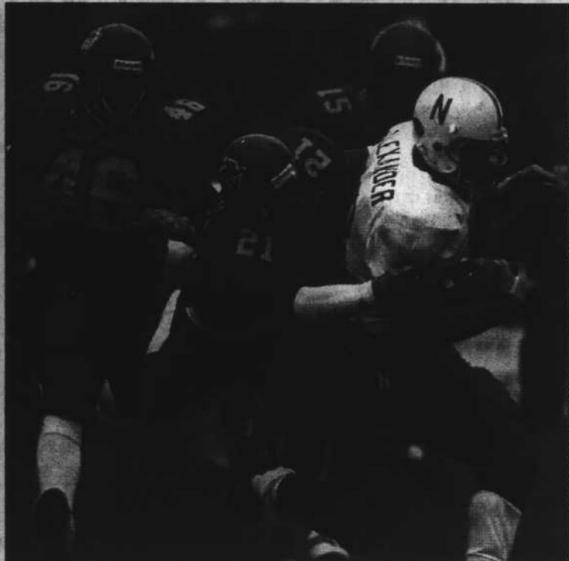
"If you have over 500 total yards on offense," Solich said, "you're doing something right."

Much of the offensive load was shouldered by quarterback Eric Crouch, who improved his stock as a legitimate Heisman candidate, throwing for

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TOP: Iowa State wide receiver J.J. Moses makes a catch over NU's Clint Finley in the second quarter.



LEFT: Husker I-back Dan Alexander is brought down by ISU defensive back Atif Austin during the first quarter.

Upstart ISU falters late against Huskers

■ Despite trailing by only one point after three quarters, the Cyclones find no moral victories in loss to NU.

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

AMES, Iowa — Finding a way to compete with upper-echelon teams like Nebraska has been a goal of Iowa State's since Dan McCarney became coach in 1994.

McCarney and the Cyclones achieved that goal on Saturday in a 49-27 defeat to the Cornhuskers, but failed to find a way to win in the fourth quarter with the game hanging in the balance and NU clinging to a 21-20 lead.

In that fourth quarter, the new look 'Clones reverted to their old ways against NU, giving up 28 points. Because of the late collapse, the Cyclones finished without a win, something that has eluded them since 1992. Because of the late collapse, ISU left Jack Trice Stadium unsatisfied.

"I'm not going to give you a patented speech," McCarney said after the game. "We're sick and disappointed that we didn't win this game. We went out to win this game, not look respectable."

McCarney displayed that desire to win when he called for an onside kick to start the game. The gamble was successful and the Cyclones showed NU that they came to play.

"He told us before the game that we were going to do it," strong safety Adam Runk said. "We were all thumbs up and ready to do it and we executed it. It was a big play at the time and gave us a little momentum right away."

Even though Iowa State failed to capitalize on McCarney's trickery and was forced to punt, the Cyclones would draw first blood on a 53-yard touchdown pass from Sage Rosenfels to Craig Campbell on the next drive.

The duo, along with wide receiver J.J. Moses, proved to be a thorn in the side of NU's defensive backfield all day as they torched the Blackshirts for 346 passing yards and two touchdowns.

Passing became a necessity for ISU after the Husker defense showed a renewed enthusiasm for stopping the run in the first half. NU held ISU, which had averaged 227 yards in its first four games, to 12 and eight yards, respectively, in the first and second quarters and 37 yards total in the game.

With their starting running back, Ennis Haywood, hurting with bruised

ribs, Rosenfels took to the air to try and beat NU's stacked defense in the box.

The senior quarterback threw the ball 42 times and completed 11 of them to Moses, who often ran routes out of the slot and crossed up NU defenders most of the day. That allowed the ignored Campbell and Rosenfels to hook up for three big plays.

"We knew Nebraska would be trying to stop the over route to J.J. and the safety was cheating a little bit," said Rosenfels, who completed three passes to Campbell for 119 yards. "On the back side we have a post, and Craig was doing a good job of running that route and getting down the field."

Moses said Nebraska was a little stunned early on, and he could see desperation creeping into the eyes of some of the Huskers as the game wore on.

"They knew that they had to dig deep to come down here and beat us," he said.

NU did dig down in the final 15 minutes, scoring 28 points and allowing a lone 15-yard touchdown reception by Moses with 3:06 left in the game.

"They can put up points in a hurry and, obviously, they did that," McCarney said. "Our first half defense overall was outstanding and in the second half it wasn't."

The Huskers gained over half of their total yardage for the game in the first half (258 of 500), but were limited to 13 points by the Iowa State defense.

Cyclone defensive back Jamarcus Powers picked off NU's Eric Crouch with 8:12 left in the second quarter and returned it 40 yards for a score. Powers' touchdown, the first returned on Crouch in his career, gave the Cyclones the lead going into halftime and much-needed momentum.

"I was thinking that there needs to be a big play made and why not me to make it," said Powers, who saw NU run similar passing routes against Iowa and Missouri.

But McCarney didn't believe plays like Powers's would be enough. The ISU coach tried several trick plays in the game with mixed results.

"I was trying to give my kids an edge and make them understand that I trust them and we were going for the win in this game — not trying to be respectful and play close," McCarney said.

While the opening onside kick was a success, two other calls went against the Cyclones in the end. A fake field goal,

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