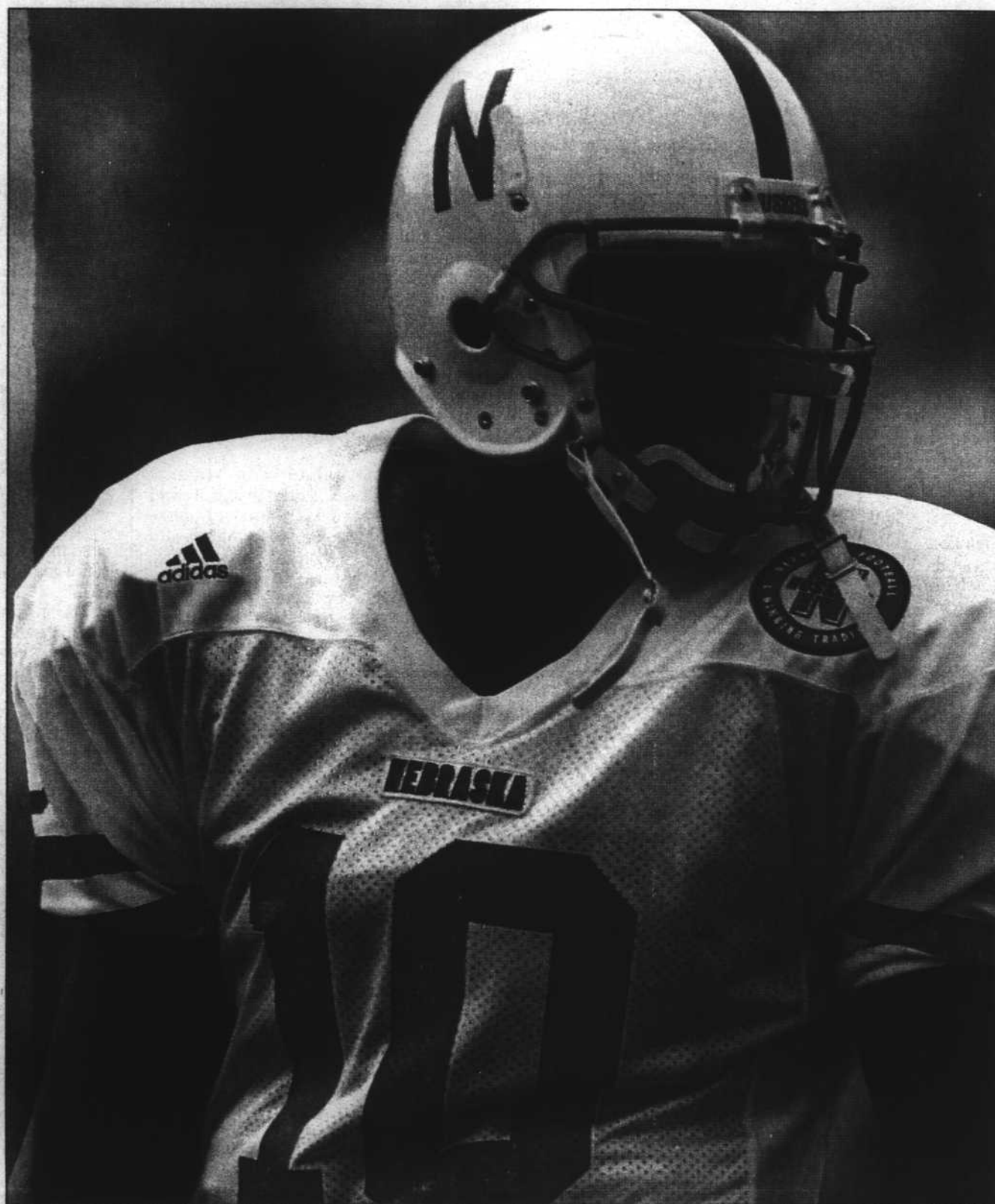


## Huskers look for second straight romp

Redshirt freshman quarterback Jammal Lord has been a solid backup for junior Heisman Trophy candidate Eric Crouch this season. Lord rushed for 33 yards, including a 9-yard touchdown, in last week's 56-3 rout of Texas Tech.



DN File Photo

### Lord emerges from shadows with increased confidence

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

From spring ball to fall camp, the question could be heard from Omaha to Scottsbluff on a routine basis.

If Eric Crouch goes down, who will lead the Nebraska offense? Speculation centered on former starting quarterback and now-wingback Bobby Newcombe.

Husker fans now have their answer, and it isn't Newcombe. His name is Jammal Lord.

"I think that talk has gone away now," Crouch said.

Lord, a redshirt freshman, said he never let the questions affect him, and if Crouch did go down, his play would never sway from just having fun.

"People are going to say what they want to say, regardless," Lord said. "I just have to step up and do what I have to do."

"I can't be Eric. I have to be Jammal."

But the answer was not always so clear. Lord has been the backup to Crouch but had never taken a snap before this season because of his redshirt status in 1999.

Fall camp started with a question mark for Lord after he went down with a partial tear of his left knee's PCL in the third week of spring practice. Lord would not have surgery, but nobody was quite sure how fast his recovery would be.

Quarterback Coach Turner Gill said he was worried about Lord off the field during that time.

"I was concerned about him, emotionally," Gill said. "He hadn't been through something like that in his whole life."

Gill couldn't have asked for a better recovery for Lord, and while he wears a brace on his knee, there have been no problems whatsoever up to this point.

Lord's first action came right away against

San Jose State in the season opener. It wasn't a perfect performance, but it showed a glimpse of what's to come as Lord was one for three passing with an interception with four rushes for 27 yards.

Lord would not see the field for the next three games, but his next two appearances were the epitome of execution and efficiency—a direct result of a higher level of confidence, Gill said.

"I always play with confidence," Lord said.

"If you don't have confidence, then why play?"

Against Iowa State, Lord threw no passes but scored on a 6-yard touchdown run on his only carry of the game. Last Saturday against Texas Tech, Crouch's backup played most of the second half and scored on a 9-yard quarterback keeper that time.

Gill said both of Lord's touchdown runs, in

Please see **LORD** on 11

### Blackshirts want to prove to Baylor they're for real

BY DAVID DIEHL

Coming off its best performance of the 2000 season, a 56-3 dismantling of Texas Tech, Nebraska's defense is looking to pound a message down the throat of the Big 12—the Blackshirts are a force to be reckoned with.

"Our guys are hungry right now," Defensive Coordinator Craig Bohl said.

*"That's a team that I'm scared of. They've got nothing to lose, and when you have nothing to lose you have everything to gain."*

**Carlos Polk**  
senior  
co-captain

The Cornhusker defense and the rest of the Big Red will have the opportunity to show the conference just how hungry it is when Baylor (2-4, 0-3) comes to Lincoln to battle No. 1 Nebraska (6-0, 3-0).

Coach Frank Solich said his squad enters the 12:30 p.m. contest looking more deserving of the top ranking it has enjoyed for most of the season.

"We're coming off a game where we've gathered some confidence," Solich said.

"But I don't believe they're satisfied."

Nebraska's defense should have gotten its fill last week with its pure domination of Texas Tech's pass-happy offense.

The Red Raiders were held to just 19 yards rushing and 200 total yards to go along with its worst loss in school history.

But still, Bohl said there was room to get better this week against Baylor.

"Their mark is against themselves," Bohl said. "They want to continue to work hard and improve this week."

Going up against the Bears' futile offense Saturday should give Bohl and his defense some positives to work with.

Saturday, true freshman Kerry Dixon, who completed just 11 of 27 passes with four interceptions last week against Texas A&M, will lead the BU offense, which ranks last in the Big 12.

Ranked 104th out of 116 Division I teams, Baylor's

**Nebraska vs. Baylor**

**When:** Oct. 21 @ 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Memorial Stadium

**T.V.:** No Coverage

**Radio:** Pinnacle Sports Network (1400-AM KLIN)

offense averages just 271 yards a game, 226 fewer than the conference-leading Huskers.

To add to their offensive woes, Baylor hasn't scored a point in its last two games, a 28-0 loss to Tech and a 24-0 loss to A&M.

Despite the lackluster numbers posted by the Bears, Bohl said his team still had to do more than go through the motions for a victory Saturday.

"One thing we have found," said Bohl, in his first year as NU's defensive coordinator, "is in college football you'd better be prepared. That may sound like an old coach's cliché, but if you come out flat you're going to be in a dog fight."

Linebacker Carlos Polk said NU needed to be wary of Baylor.

"That's a team that I'm scared of," the senior co-captain said. "They've got nothing to lose, and when you have nothing to lose you have everything to gain."

Polk will be spearheading a defense that jumped 17 spots in total defense to rank 38th in the nation after its performance against Tech. Many players said the break-out game against Tech should carry over against Baylor.

They said the performance against Tech came down to attitude, and since that game the team's spirit had changed.

Solich said he had seen a change in his team's demeanor.

"They've never had a lackadaisical attitude," Solich said. "They've never thought they've had anything in hand."

With that approach, many players say they expect to dominate Baylor, and each team after, as they did Texas Tech.

"The challenge now is to do that every week," center Dominic Raiola said.

"If we do it every week there's no way anyone's going to beat us."

### Steele, Frazier back in Lincoln to face NU

■ The former NU linebackers coach and the All-American quarterback will coach Baylor in its upset effort.

BY JAMIE SUHR

Baylor Coach Kevin Steele and Baylor Running Backs Coach Tommie Frazier will find themselves in familiar, yet unfamiliar territory—at Memorial Stadium but on the visitors' sideline.

But for Steele, NU's linebackers coach from 1989-1994, and Frazier, former Husker and first team All-American quarterback, it won't be a walk down memory lane.

"I think of it as a business trip," Frazier said. "I work for Baylor University, and we're coming to play Nebraska, so I have to approach it that way."

The rebuilding process at Baylor has been a little rough for Steele, who has a career record of 3-14. So forgive the coach if he doesn't get a little misty-eyed when stepping on Tom Osborne Field.

"It would probably make a wonderful story of how emotionally tied to the game or how very strange it is, but we're focused on the rebuilding process," Steele said.

But Steele's rebuilding nearly didn't include Frazier, who dabbled in different opportunities.

The former Nebraska star worked with Gov. Ben Nelson, was a broadcaster for Nebraska football games, played for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League and was director of market development and public relations for Nebraska Technologies and Telecommunications in Omaha.

"When I left Canada playing the game of football, I didn't want to have anything to do with football," Frazier said. "I wanted to enjoy the other parts of my life."

When Steele left for the NFL's Carolina Panthers as a linebackers coach, he told Frazier if he became a coach somewhere, he'd want Frazier on his staff.

When Baylor approached him about its job opening, Steele, then-linebackers coach for the Carolina Panthers of the NFL, knew exactly who he'd ask to join his staff.

"It was an automatic (to hire Frazier)," Steele said. "He brings a credibility in terms of the game of football. His character and the fact that excellence is an everyday word in everything Tommie Frazier does."

But talking Frazier back into football was no easy task. Frazier said he was at ease living without football and was happy with his job at NT&T.

Frazier said NU assistant coaches Ron

Please see **STEELE** on 11

### Huskers ready to rebound after first loss

BY TOBY BURGER

The NU soccer team looks to do something it hasn't needed to do all season—rebound from a loss.

Even after out-shooting Oklahoma 37-5, NU suffered its first loss Sunday versus Oklahoma in a 2-1 game. But the Huskers are looking to regain their winning ways with two games this weekend.

The Huskers play host to Colorado tonight at the Abbott Sports Complex in a 7 o'clock contest. NU then journeys to face Texas Tech on Sunday for a 1 p.m. game in Lubbock, Texas.

Coach John Walker said the offense and defense bore responsibility for Sunday's loss.

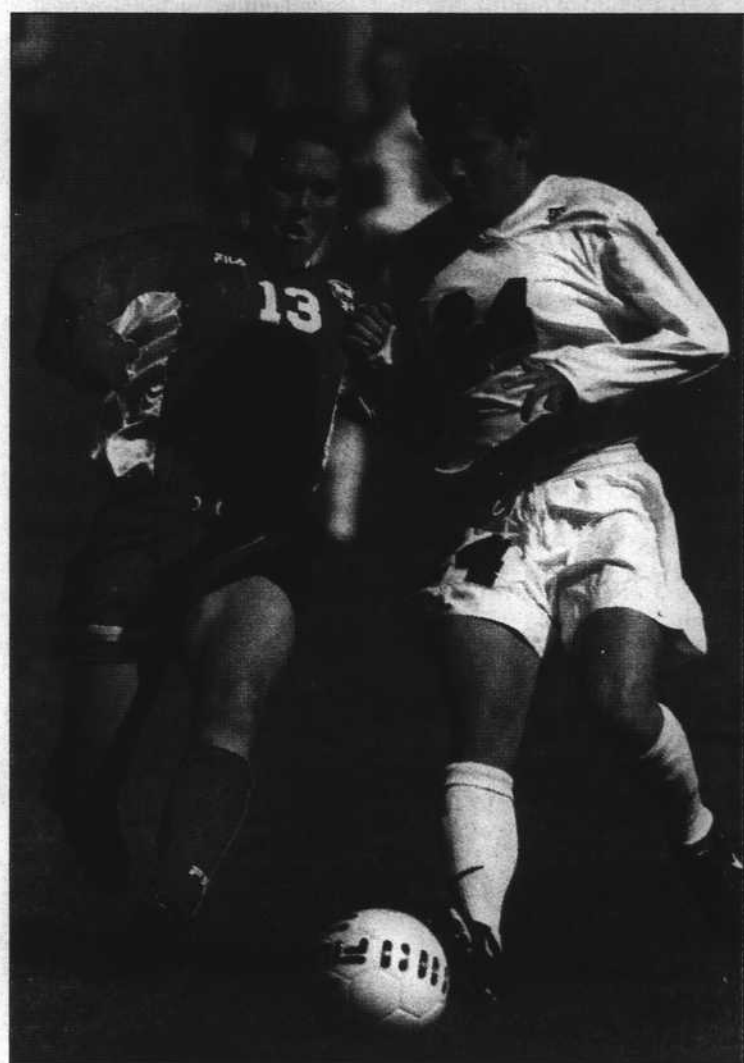
"Offensively we need to finish off chances that we create," Walker said. "We need to be a little cleaner. When you give up two goals on five shots, that is not really a good ratio."

Walker said though improvement was needed his team had executed well throughout the season.

"The track record is there for having things done right. You just don't win 15 games in a row without having things right. At the same time we accept responsibility for how things went, and we need to change it," Walker said.

Walker and his team will look to improve against two of the Big 12's worst teams. The

Please see **REBOUND** on 11



Mike Warren/DN

Kori Saunders, left, battles for position against Texas A&M midfielder Juli Gojin in a 2-1 victory earlier this year at the Abbott Sports Complex. Nebraska has been out-shooting its opponents by a wide margin this season but lately has had difficulty scoring goals. Nebraska out-shot Oklahoma 37-5 in a 2-1 loss Monday.