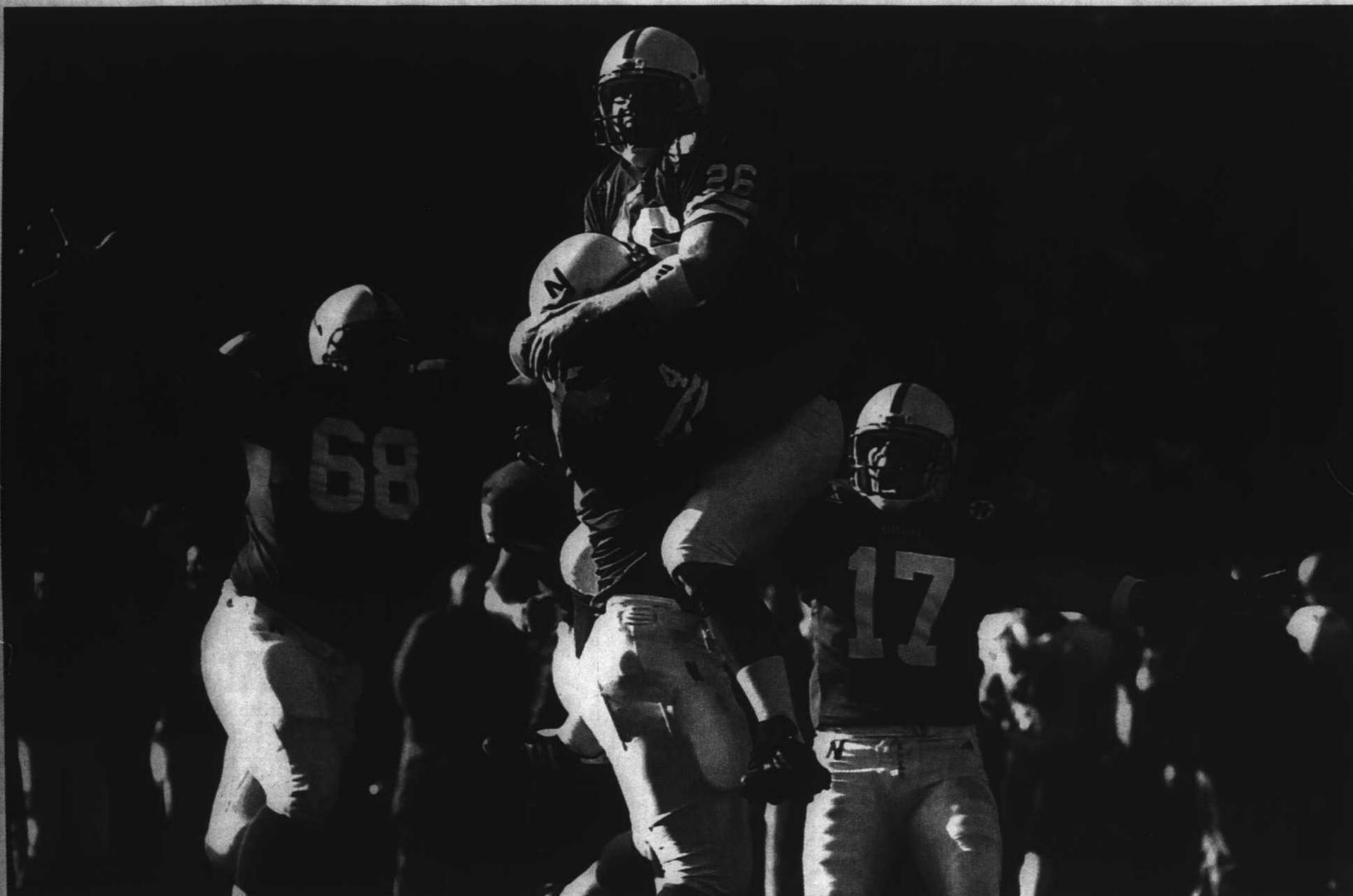


Gameday: Nebraska 34, Colorado 32



Scott McClurg/DN

Bufs go home with even more disappointment

■ Despite many solid performances, the Colorado Buffaloes haven't been able to defeat Nebraska.

BY DAVID DIEHL

Ralphie the Buffalo has about five reasons for a Prozac prescription.

They are as follows: 1996 Nebraska 17, Colorado 12. 1997 Nebraska 27, Colorado 24. 1998 Nebraska 16, Colorado 14. 1999 Nebraska 33, Colorado 30. And finally in 2000, Nebraska 34, Colorado 32.

Five losses to its arch rival by a combined 15 points has CU fans and players alike frustrated.

"This is getting old," said Craig Ochs, CU's true freshman quarterback who was, at first, swallowed by Memorial Stadium's red sea, but eventually calmed down to throw for 254 yards. "I thought we had this game."

Ochs, a Boulder native who grew up a Colorado fan, had watched his Buffs lose eight in a row to the Cornhuskers. The freshman quarterback had his shot to stop the bleeding while living out a lifelong dream.

And the 19-year-old fared well where former CU signal callers could not. In the past, Kordell Stewart, Koy Detmer and Mike Moschetti had all seen bleak performances against Nebraska at one time or another.

It looked that way once again as Ochs misfired on his first five passes, but the 6-2, 215-pounder, who became the starter in CU's fourth game, rallied to complete 25 of 41 passes, none longer than 26 yards.

Ochs craftily hit receivers on short crossing patterns and bounced back from his shaky start, which was caused from him being "too wired."

Ochs found success where past QB's couldn't, but the more things change, the more they stay the same. The more the Buffaloes match up with Nebraska, the more frustrating the losses become.

The senior class, all six of them on CU's active roster, have never beat NU, despite being 16 points away from never losing to them.

One of those six, receiver Javon Green, who contributed five catches to the Buffs' cause, said the five straight losses to Nebraska are frustrating. Even more so with this one because it was his reception on Colorado's two-point conversion that gave the Buffaloes a 32-31 lead and an apparent victory with just 47 seconds remaining.

Please see **COLORADO** on 9



Scott McClurg/DN

TOP: NU's Joe Walker is wrapped up by Derek McCoy during a kickoff on Friday.
ABOVE: Nebraska receiver Matt Davison fights for the ball against Colorado defensive back Phil Jackson during the last Nebraska drive of the game. Davison broke up Jackson's attempt at an interception, preserving the Husker's drive, which ended with a game winning field goal.



David Clasen/DN

CENTER: Nebraska kicker Josh Brown celebrates with fellow Huskers after kicking a last-second field goal to defeat the Colorado Buffaloes on Friday afternoon at Memorial Stadium.

TOP RIGHT: Husker linebacker Carlos Polk spikes the ball to celebrate his first career touchdown from an interception on the Buffaloes' first drive of the game.

ABOVE: Eric Crouch is tackled by two Colorado players on Friday in the 34-32 Nebraska win over Colorado. Crouch rushed for 125 yards and two touchdowns during the game.

LEFT: Colorado's Cortien Johnson stretches for the end zone while NU's Joe Walker pulls him to the ground on Friday. The run set up a Colorado touchdown on the next play.



David Clasen/DN