



REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

PRIDE IN LIONS' DEN

Down 32 at halftime to Barkley and Penn State, Huskers get some consolation with five second-half touchdowns

By SAM MCKEON
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — NJU, NKU, NLU. In these three sections, an end zone upper deck of Beaver Stadium, sat small, lonely clumps of soaked Nebraska fans. They bore waterlogged witness to what's sure to be the final road game of the Mike Riley era, a 56-44 Penn State win that wore on for nearly four hours but didn't require a crystal ball to predict.

To the repeated canned growl of a Nittany Lion sound effect, Penn State's hot knife offense melted Bob Diaco's Blackshirt butter — 609 total yards, including 263 on the ground. Nebraska's

offense struggled for much of the first half until quarterback Tanner Lee, one week after a concussion, led five spirited second-half touchdown drives, some against Penn State backups.

"I was proud of our team and coaches for staying in it and getting some stuff going," Riley said. "The guys kept competing to get some stops and score some points in the second half. I'm glad we did that."

Still, Nebraska lost by double digits because it allowed 50 points for the third time this season. That hadn't happened since 1943.

The second-half surge — and Lee's 399-yard, three-touchdown game — is

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PENN STATE 56
 NEBRASKA 44

NU's struggling defense didn't get a break from Saquon Barkley, who produced several highlights. **9CF**

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Omaha.com/bigred

UP NEXT

Iowa; 3 p.m. Friday
 FS1; 590 AM, 92.3 FM

Barkley showcased his speed plenty on Saturday. On this second-quarter TD run, he also flashed some power to shake off Dedrick Young.

In a season under fire, Lee shows skills in rain



Tom Shatel

COLUMNIST

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — The rain was falling and Tanner Lee was slinging it. Slinging in the rain. What a glorious feeling, even for the moment.

There's one more game left to play this season, possibly one more game left in Lee's limited Nebraska career. But it's hard to imagine this not being a snapshot we keep of Lee and store wherever it is we'll put this lost season of Husker football.

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