

College Football

NU STATISTICS, 2

SCORES, SUMMARIES, 6

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AUGUST 31, 1997

PAGE 1-F



All Is Well For Openers

Lincoln
Diary of a season opener, or, who says the Akron game doesn't mean zip?

9:15 a.m.: The doors to Barry's Bar and Grill open. Finally, a line began forming outside the door at 8:30 a.m. Thanks to the new starting time (12:30), body clocks are moved up for Husker home games. And so is first call. All over Lincoln, doors are opening, and fans are sipping beers at 9 a.m. The least they could do is put tomato juice in it.

10 a.m.: The sparkling new Huskers Authentic store, inside the new donor-only parking garage, is filling up fast. For Big Red junkies, the store is heaven on earth. You can buy everything from the hat Tom Osborne wears to the jersey on Grant Wistrom's back. Blood and sweat not included.

Famous Greeter

But perhaps the biggest novelty at the new store is the greeter at the door. Nebraska legend Tommie Frazier, two years removed from Memorial Stadium, stands at the front door. Frazier shakes the hand of every customer, smiles each time and says, "How you doin'?" Thanks for coming!" Frazier does this for hundreds of Husker fans, all of whom have this glazed, I-can't-believe-this-is-Tommie-Frazier look spread all over their faces as they pass through the turnstile shaking Frazier's hand. One lady says, "We saw you at the Fiesta Bowl." Frazier smiles and says, "Thank you." For Frazier, this might have been tougher than beating Colorado.

10:40: Two big green Good Life buses arrive at the southwest corner of the stadium. The Huskers are here. They empty out and file between a gantlet of fans who watch silently, as if in awe, as their heroes enter the stadium. Akron's bus arrived at 10. It was the only time the Zips beat the Huskers all day.

Kodak Moments

11:20: Akron fans assemble in their section. They all have cameras. They all snap photos of each other with various parts of the stadium. Like they're at Disney World or the Grand Canyon. Can't you see the slide show back in Akron? "And here am I, with the Omaha Steaks sign in the background, right next to where our guy scored our first touchdown."

11:30: I go outside to buy a Husker Burger. Have you ever had a Husker Burger? It's shaped like the state of Nebraska. There's nothing like it, especially if you run the cat-sap across the burger in the line of the Platte River.

High Noon: Memorial Stadium is filled to the gills. Amazing. For those wondering if Nebraska fans were bored with Akron or these blowouts, there's your answer. If the sellout streak can't end today, on a hot skillet August afternoon, it may never end (though check back in two weeks against Central Florida).

No Surprise

12:37: Nebraska runs its first play. Ahman Green off left tackle for 2 yards. And 76,000 all say in unison, "Told you it would be off-tackle."

First quarter, 3:14 left: Ralph Brown makes his first interception of the season, though any sportswriter could have caught this one: an off-target lame duck from quarterback Greg Gromek that falls lifelessly into Brown's waiting hands. Brown returns it 23 yards, with the help of the block of the day: courtesy linebacker Octavious McFarlin, all of 200 pounds, who levels Akron's 6-foot-5, 315-pound tackle, Rex Pyles. Line Coach Milt Tenopir should give McFarlin a grade.

First quarter, 2:43 left: The highlight of the day (besides the Husker Burger). Junior fullback Joel Makovicka scores NU's second touchdown of the day on a classic, 20-yard, legs-churning, arms-pumping, head-driving run in which Makovicka broke six tackles, kept his balance a few feet off the ground and drove the remaining 5 yards into the end zone on sheer will.

Second quarter, 7:00 left: The signature Akron play of the day. Zips' linebacker George Cameron apparently couldn't stomach any more of the Huskers. He lost his cookies on the 15-yard line, leaving a yellowish mark that several players tiptoed over the rest of the quarter (Why did I take NU officials so long to clean up the mess? Husker center Josh Heske said tackle Fred Pollack, in particular, was worried about running into it before one counter trap). Say this for Akron: It left everything See SHATEL Page 2



SCOTT FROST: Nebraska's starting quarterback scores on a 5-yard run with 53 seconds left in the first half, breaking out of the grasp of Akron's Bill Burke and following the block of fullback Joel Makovicka, No. 45, on Jerome Cargile. Frost, who scored the opening touchdown on a 26-yard run, established his NU career high with 123 rushing yards on 11 carries and finished with 190 total yards after passing for 67 yards.

Blackshirts Hot, Lose Their Zip

Husker offense unstoppable in 59-14 win before Akron gets consolation scores

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Nebraska's Blackshirts wore red faces after Saturday's 59-14 victory over Akron.

Two second-half touchdowns by the Zips, well after the game had been decided, took much of the joy out of the

season-opening victory for the Husker defenders. Defensive tackle Jason Peter, wearing a scowl when he walked into the postgame interview room, best summed up the mood of the Nebraska defensive community.

"If we go up to Washington and play like this," Peter said, "we're going to get our butts kicked."

The Huskers will have ample time before their Sept. 20 showdown at Washington to work on correcting the first-game defensive mistakes that spoiled an otherwise impressive — and expected — rout of the overmatched Zips.

In winning its 37th straight home game in front of its 215th consecutive sellout crowd of 75,124, sixth-ranked Nebraska:

■ Compiled 644 total yards, its most since a 669-yard effort against Baylor last season, and averaged 8.6 yards per play. Seventeen of the Huskers' 75 offensive snaps produced gains of 10 yards or more, with backup quarterback Frankie London breaking the longest run of the afternoon with a 51-yarder. London also connected with true freshman Matt Davison on a 46-yard pass play.

■ Scored on nine straight posses-

sions after Kris Brown missed a 38-yard field-goal attempt that ended the Huskers' first series. Brown later kicked a 34-yard field goal to go along with five touchdowns that put the Huskers ahead 38-0 at halftime. Nebraska then scored on its first three possessions of the second half to boost its lead to 59-7.

■ Got impressive games from London and starter Scott Frost at quarterback. Frost rushed for a career-high 123 yards on 11 attempts and completed 7 of 13 passes for 67 yards. London continued to demonstrate marked improvement in a performance that

saw him rush five times for 79 yards — a 15.8 average — and complete 4 of 5 passes for 90 yards.

■ Welcomed the debuts of six true freshmen and junior-college transfer Brandon Harrison. Davison, from Tecumseh, Neb., was Nebraska's leading receiver with three catches for 64 yards.

■ Got impressive games from London and starter Scott Frost at quarterback. Frost rushed for a career-high 123 yards on 11 attempts and completed 7 of 13 passes for 67 yards. London continued to demonstrate marked improvement in a performance that

See HUSKERS Page 2

Manning Has 5 TD Throws In Vols' Win

Knoxville, Tenn. (AP) — Peyton Manning said he came back to college to have fun. He's off to a good start, if five touchdown passes are fun.

Manning threw for 310 yards and a school record-tying five TDs Saturday to lead No. 5 Tennessee to a 52-17 victory over Texas Tech to start a senior season many people never expected him to have.

"I was so excited and anxious the game finally got here I probably had a little too much adrenalin that first series," Manning said.

The Volunteers (1-0) scored five times in a span of just over 12 minutes bridging the halftime break — with the help of two fumbled kickoffs by Texas Tech — to put away the Red Raiders (0-1).

Manning's five TD passes tied the Tennessee single-game record last accomplished by Heath Shuler in 1993; Manning completed 26 of 38 passes, with one interception, before retiring with 4½ minutes left in the third quarter.

After a long offseason dominated by his decision to stay at Tennessee instead of going to the NFL, Manning said he was elated to get the season started.

"I was the happiest guy this game finally got here so I could stop talking about why I stayed, and instead talk about why I didn't complete that pass or why we threw that interception," he said. "I'd rather talk about those things. I had a lot of fun out there tonight."

The senior threw touchdowns of 23 and 11 yards to Marcus Nash, 9 yards to Jeremaine Copland, 29 yards to Andy McCullough and 5 yards to Peers Price.

"We had a tiger by the tail," Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes said.

How The AP Top

25

FARED

1. Penn St. (0-0) did not play.
2. Florida (1-0) def. Southern Miss., 21-6.
3. Florida St. (0-0) did not play.
4. Washington (0-0) did not play.
5. Tennessee (1-0) def. Texas Tech 52-17.
6. Nebraska (1-0) beat Akron 59-14.
7. North Carolina (0-0) did not play.
8. Colorado (0-0) did not play.
9. Ohio State (1-0) did not play.
10. LSU (0-0) did not play.
11. Notre Dame (0-0) did not play.
12. Texas (0-0) did not play.
13. Syracuse (1-1) lost to N.C. State 32-31.
14. Miami (1-0) def. Baylor 45-14.
15. Michigan (0-0) did not play.
16. Alabama (1-0) beat Houston 42-17.
17. Auburn (0-0) did not play.
18. Stanford (0-0) did not play.
19. Brigham Young (0-0) did not play.
20. Clemson (0-0) did not play.
21. Iowa (0-0) did not play.
22. Kansas State (0-0) did not play.
23. Southern Cal (0-0) did not play.
24. Northwestern (1-0) did not play.
25. Michigan State (0-0) did not play.

College Football Inside

- Miami loses its No. 1 tailback, but Edgerrin James scores three touchdowns and runs for 120 yards to the No. 14 Hurricanes stop Baylor 45-14. Page 5.
- Syracuse self-destructs in a 32-31 overtime loss to North Carolina. State. Page 6.

ISU Collapses in Second Half

BY COREY ROSS
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ames, Iowa — Iowa State football games continue to be a tale of two halves — a first half full of highlights followed by a second-half horror show.

That script was followed to the letter Saturday in the Cyclones' season-opening 21-14 loss to Big 12 Conference rival Oklahoma State before 43,841 at newly dedicated Jack Trice Stadium. Despite missing 10 players, including five starters, because of academic ineligibility and another player for breaking team rules, the Cowboys still had enough to beat Iowa State.

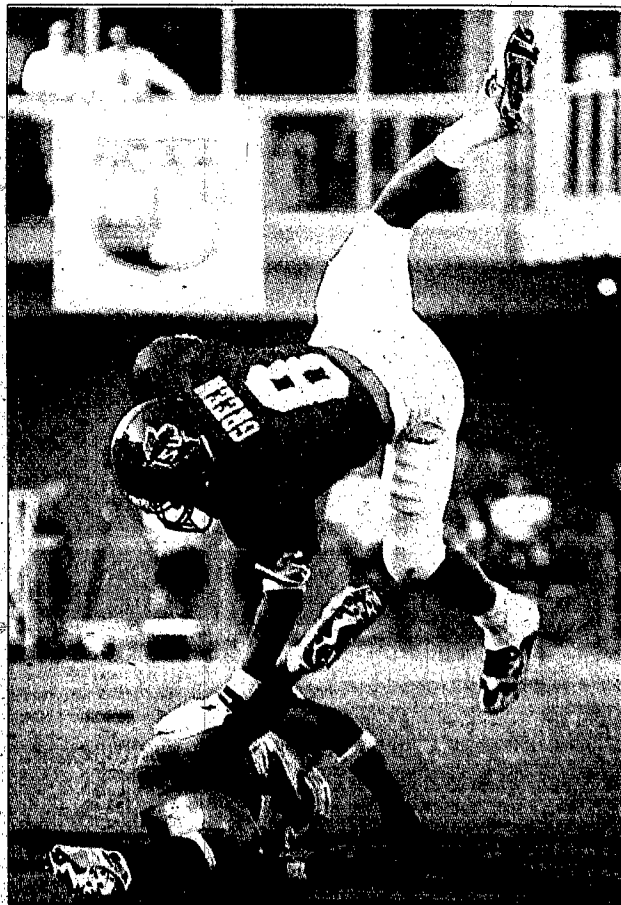
The Cyclones took a 14-7 halftime lead on quarterback Todd Bandhauer's pin-point passing only to watch the Cowboy defense dominate the second half. Oklahoma State blitzed Bandhauer heavily, holding the Cyclones to just two first downs and 51 yards in the half.

Oklahoma State's pressure finally forced the interception that set up its winning score.

With the score tied 14-14, Cowboy Kevin Williams stepped in front of Iowa State's Ed Williams for an interception which he returned 19 yards to the Cyclones' 3-yard line. Two plays later, tailback Nathan Simmons plunged into the end zone from a yard out with 9 minutes, 31 seconds left for the decisive score.

It was Simmons' second score of the game. He slipped several tackles on a 31-yard scoring run that tied the score at 7-7 with 10 minutes left in the second quarter.

Simmons, a sophomore, and freshman Jamal Fobbs teamed up at tailback to replace the suspended Andre Richardson. They combined for 170 yards rushing to complement reserve redshirt freshman quarterback Tony Lindsay's 11-of-15 passing for 104



ROCKY LANDING: Iowa State wide receiver Daman Green flips over Oklahoma State defender Maurice Simpson after making a second-quarter catch in Ames, Iowa. Two second-half touchdowns lifted Oklahoma State to a 21-14 win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

See CYCLONES Page 5