

POST GAME

52  10

Lucky day

I-back lets it roll against Nevada for 233 yards



REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

Nebraska junior running back Marlon Lucky is lifted into the air by teammates after his first touchdown of the game. Lucky ran for three touchdowns, caught another and broke the 200-yard barrier.

Nebraska's Lucky numbers

233 RUSHING YARDS A career-high, as were his 30 carries. He is the 15th Husker with a 200-yard game.

4 TDS Also a career high, and the most ever by a Husker in a season-opener.



O-line opens gaping holes in Wolf Pack defense

BY RICH KAIPUST
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Sam Keller was spreading out the compliments, almost like a proud father bragging about his boys. I-back Marlon Lucky was incredible. The Nebraska offensive line was powerful and physical. The game plan well-crafted. And Keller himself? Well, it wasn't about Sam Keller on Saturday as the Huskers whipped Nevada 52-10 at Memorial Stadium. "It wasn't the perfect game, but there will be some in the future," he said. "That's just how things go."

yards and four touchdowns from Keller against the Wolf Pack. That production came easily from other places.

Keller just ran the show, removed the rust and liked what he saw on the scoreboard as he walked away.

"The whole point was just to manage the offense and put points on the board today, and that's what we did," Keller said. "So I'm pleased with where the offense is at and how I did."

NU's season-opening game wasn't about personal accomplishments — unless your name was Marlon Lucky — no matter if a good number of the 84,078 came to see what you had to offer.

To Keller's credit, he only did what he

was supposed to do.

"He handled it like he does in practice," tackle Carl Nicks said. "He takes charge, he has that charisma, that swagger . . . and everybody is all eyes on him at all times. And I think he did a real good job."

Nebraska steamrolled Nevada with 413 rushing yards, the most by the Huskers under head coach Bill Callahan. Lucky contributed a career-high 233 of it, scoring three times running the football and one time catching it.

Overall, the statistics were as lopsided as the final score, with NU holding edges of 35-9 in first downs, 625-185 in

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266 ALL-PURPOSE YARDS Lucky also caught three passes for 33 yards, moving him into a tie for fifth on NU's single-game list.

Player	Opponent	Date	Yards
1. Calvin Jones	@Kansas	Nov. 9, 1991	298
2. Rick Berns	Missouri	Nov. 18, 1978	289
3. Mike Rozier	Kansas	Nov. 12, 1983	285
4. I.M. Hipp	Indiana	Oct. 1, 1977	284
5. Marlon Lucky	Nevada	Saturday	266
Johnny Rodgers	@Colorado	Nov. 4, 1972	266

Iowa 16
N. Illinois 3
Albert Young ran for 144 yards and a touchdown in Iowa's opener at Soldier Field in Chicago.
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STATE
UNO 41
UNK 24
An injury presses junior college transfer Brian McNeill into service at running back, and he responds for the Mavericks, gaining 176 yards on 22 carries and scoring two touchdowns.
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Omaha.com
Husker photo gallery, expanded Big 12 and Big Ten coverage. Also check out the bowl retrospective, full accounts and photo galleries of from each of NU's 44 bowls.

I-backs steal show in Keller's NU debut

LINCOLN — Say this for Sam Keller: The guy can really hand off.

We waited for more than a year for Keller, who arrived like some Internet-built messiah out of the desert, to lead Nebraska football back to the holy land. Otherwise known as the Fiesta Bowl.

But wouldn't you know it? As the curtain went up on the season, Keller burst onto the stage and then bowed out of the spotlight.

In NU's 52-10 victory over Nevada, Nebraska's free-agent quarterback completed 14 of 25 passes for 193 yards and a touchdown. But his debut will be remembered for how he took the snap, turned, handed the ball to a running

back and enjoyed the view. And what a view.

Nebraska ran the ball against Nevada. The Huskers ran and ran and ran. And ran some more. They ran it over the Wolf Pack, down their throat, around it.

They ran 70 times for 413 yards. It was the most since coach Bill Callahan arrived in 2004. Go figure. Callahan finally gets an NFL arm under center, and he has that arm handing off.

Honestly, if I had known it was going to be "Throwback Day" at Memorial Stadium, I would have worn my Rick Berns jersey (yes, the tear-away version from 1978).

Speaking of legends, we may have been introduced to the next one. Marlon Lucky galloped like a ghost of Husker past, 30 times for 233 yards and three touchdowns.

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MATT MILLER/THE WORLD-HERALD

Quarterback Sam Keller is congratulated by holder Jake Wesch, left, after Keller's first touchdown pass as a Husker, a 16-yarder to Marlon Lucky.

More Husker coverage

ON AN ISLAND: Nevada went after cornerback Armando Murillo early, but the junior college transfer was ready for it.
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DOMINATING D: The Blackshirts held the Wolf Pack to 185 yards and 19 minutes, 22 seconds of possession time.
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UNHAPPY VISITOR: Nevada coach Chris Ault wasn't happy with the way his team handled itself in front of its largest audience in history.
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On Page 1A
COMMON BOND: From metro Omaha to the Sand Hills, Husker football is the tie that binds Nebraskans.