

POSTGAME

35 **N** 17



The North rises and other surprises

Resurgent Big 12 North teams Colorado and Kansas State turn the conference on its head with upsets of No. 3 Oklahoma and No. 7 Texas, but the unexpected doesn't end there with four teams in the Top 25 falling, including No. 4 Florida, a 20-17 loser to Auburn. **Lee Barfknecht's Big 12 analysis, Page 2CF. Other upsets, Page 8CF.**

Win 'D'

Big plays by defense help Huskers blow by Cyclones

Offense: Marlon Lucky scores on the ground and throws for another TD

Defense: Bo Ruud returns an interception 93 yards for touchdown

Special teams: Cortney Grixby's 51-yard kickoff return sets up first TD

Conditions: 30 mph winds affect playcalling



Nebraska linebacker Bo Ruud gets an escort from teammates Shukree Barfield, left, and Zackary Bowman as he returns an interception 93 yards for a touchdown past Iowa State quarterback Bret Meyer. The ball originally was tipped by NU cornerback Cortney Grixby into the hands of Ruud, who scored on a key interception return for the second time in two weeks.

Nebraska can't cover flaws but still flattens Iowa State

By RICH KAIPUST
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LINCOLN — Desperate to shake the sour aftertaste of the past two weeks, Nebraska sprinted out Saturday with something to prove at Memorial Stadium.

It trailed 10-0 midway through the second quarter. Driven to show better defense is coming, the Huskers intended to impose some Blackshirt will on Iowa State.

They allowed 415 total yards and spent nearly 40 minutes on the field. No, not everything made sense as Nebraska beat Iowa State 35-17 as fall winds tore through Memorial Stadium and big plays ripped at the teams' emotions. But the Huskers cared only for the final outcome as they started defense of their Big 12 North football crown.

"I just think it was a really strange game today," NU coach Bill Callahan said, fighting to find answers in his postgame press conference. "It

was kind of weird in a lot of ways. In the end, we just made the plays that we had to make."

No. 25 Nebraska rallied from a sloppy start to beat Iowa State for the 15th straight time at Memorial Stadium. Although not particularly pretty, it at least kept some of the wolves at bay — and boo birds, too — with a trip to No. 20 Missouri on deck.

"It was the first game of the season to us," NU offensive tackle Lydon Murtha said. "We just went out there and did what we had to do. Things didn't roll our way at first, but we came back and capitalized."

It was just hard to dissect what happened before a crowd of 84,703 that watched through 30 mph winds.

Nebraska had three turnovers on its first eight offensive snaps — one on the ISU goal line and two others in Cyclone territory. It also kept alive the first two ISU drives with penalties on punts — one for roughing and one for jumping offside.

See Huskers: Page 5



A fourth-quarter hit on Iowa State quarterback Bret Meyer knocks NU safety Rickey Thenarse's helmet into the air as Steve Octavien closes in.

Time of possession

Iowa State	Nebraska
39:12	20:48

NU offensive TD drive times: 3:03 1:35 :55 1:25

NU's road gets tougher

LINCOLN—This ain't intramurals, brother! This is the Big 12 North!

And look who's at the top of the big, bad North Division.

Colorado. Kansas State. Nebraska. Then again, check back again next week, same batty time, same batty channel.

Get me rewrite. Next Saturday night's tilt between NU and Missouri was allegedly going to be the Big 12 North de facto championship game. That was then.

This is now: Colorado 27, Oklahoma 24; Kansas State 41, Texas 21.

The line of the day came from Nebraska quarterback Sam Keller, who saw those two scores on a flat-screen TV as he walked to his press conference and said, "Wow. That's weird."

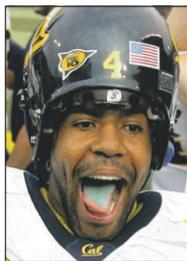
Weird science. Weird division. Weird game, college football.

The road to San Antonio just got more crowded. K-State and CU were supposed to be afterthoughts, after the Tigers and Huskers and maybe even an athletic Kansas team. But now this looks like a five-team race to the finish, all the way to Thanksgiving, when NU visits Boulder and MU and KU face off at Arrow-See Shatel: Page 7



Tom Shatel

NATIONAL



Cal..... 31
Oregon..... 24
Cal snapped a seven-game losing streak at Oregon, led by DeSean Jackson, who had 11 catches for 161 yards and two TDs. **Page 8CF**

Virginia Tech..... 17
North Carolina... 10

Georgia Tech..... 13
Clemson..... 3

Florida State..... 21
Alabama..... 14

Auburn..... 20
Florida..... 17

USC..... 27
Washington..... 24
More coverage, **Page 8CF**

BIG 12

Kansas State..... 41
Texas..... 21

Colorado..... 27
Oklahoma..... 24

Texas A&M..... 34
Baylor..... 10

Texas Tech..... 75
NW St..... 7

Oklahoma St..... 39
S. Houston St..... 3
More coverage, **Pages 2CF and 3CF**

STATE



UNO..... 45
Minnesota St..... 15

The two teams ran up 60 points and 947 yards of offense, with UNO tailback Brian McNeill rushing for 209 yards and two touchdowns. **Page 10CF**

BIG TEN



Indiana..... 38
Iowa..... 20

In their seventh straight Big Ten loss, Iowa took self-destruction to new depths by giving up nine sacks, making nine penalties, turning the ball over twice and committing countless defensive lapses. **Page 9CF**

Illinois..... 27
Penn St..... 20

Purdue..... 33
Notre Dame..... 19

Michigan..... 28
Northwestern..... 16

Wisconsin..... 37
Michigan St..... 34

Ohio St..... 30
Minnesota..... 7
More coverage, **Page 9CF**

Omaha.com

Husker photo gallery, expanded Big 12 and Big Ten coverage. Also check out the bowl retrospective, photo galleries from each of NU's 44 bowls.

More Husker coverage

LAWSON SHINES: It had been a long four weeks for Nebraska fullback Thomas Lawson before he scored two TDs Saturday. **Page 5CF**

TWO-MINUTE SUCCESS: The NU offense had ups and downs but again thrived in a two-minute drill at the end of the first half. **Page 6CF**

DEFENSE IMPROVES: The defensive shakeup was minimal. A new substitution here. A different blitz scheme there. The results? Well, they were better. **Page 6CF**