

# POSTGAME

55  19

After a week of questions, Nebraska gets the fast start it wanted at Fresno State; The usual suspects contribute: Abdullah, Armstrong, etc., and a new hero emerges



MATT MILLER/THE WORLD-HERALD

NU's De'Mornay Pierson-El, No. 15, celebrates with his teammates after an 86-yard punt return for a touchdown with 9:11 left in the second quarter. "He's a fearless guy back there," coach Bo Pelini said.

## Return to form

### Huskers' blowout victory has a bonus: Pierson-El has punt return score

By SAM MCKEWIN  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

FRESNO, Calif. — In the unyielding heat of the night, a sweat-drenched, sell-out crowd fanned themselves with game programs, wrappers, hats and anything else they could find discarded in the rows of Bulldog Stadium.

They were swooning over a temperature — 99 degrees at kickoff — unaided by a breath of wind. Of course, the Nebraska football team's smoking hot start — en route to a 55-19 romp over Fresno State — might have bowled them over, too.

Swiftly and with maximum explosion, the Huskers shrugged off last week's ugly performance against McNeese State with two touchdowns in the first three minutes of the game. Boom, Tommy Armstrong hit Jordan Westerkamp with a 70-yard pass for a score on NU's fourth play from scrimmage. Pow, Ameer Abdullah backed it up with a 57-yard gallop to the end zone on the fifth play.

But after the teams traded special teams gaffes, it was freshman punt returner Demornay Pierson-El who put a

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Fresno State's Christian Bailey is tackled by NU's Kevin Williams, No. 92, and Josh Mitchell in the second quarter.

### MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 7CF-12CF

#### TURNOVER TURNAROUND

The Huskers have significantly improved their turnover margin and punt return stats, Dirk Chatelain writes. **Page 7CF**

#### VIDEO: PRESS CONFERENCE

Replay Bo Pelini's postgame interview from the Nebraska-Fresno State game. **Omaha.com/bigred**

For all the details on the late-starting game, check out Omaha.com as well as the World-Herald's expanded Monday Sports section.

TOM SHATEL



COLUMNIST

*On trip to Twilight Zone, Huskers sap the drama, create feel-good ending*

FRESNO, Calif. — Start the bus. Head to the airport. Don't look back. Don't come back.

The Fresno State trip is over, and Nebraska not only survived, but was able to breathe easy most of the night. That is, as easy as you can breathe in the open-air sauna that is Fresno.

No worries. The only thing the Huskers lost on Saturday night was a lot of weight.

Nebraska 55, Bulldogs 19. Bring on Miami week.

Nobody knew what to expect on this trip. Bulldog Stadium has been a little shop of horrors for visiting Power Five types over the years. Some won, some lost, and all walked away asking themselves why they knowingly walked into

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**HAWKS SHOCKED:** Last-second field goal helps Cyclones hand Iowa its first loss of the season. Page 4CF



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