

# Blackshirts Change Script for Last Act; NU's 'Auld' Frustrations are Forgotten

By Tom Ash  
World-Herald Sports Writer

Houston — Nebraska's defensive football team just doesn't have much of a flair for dramatics. A game like Friday night's Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl just had to end on the Cornhusker goal line in the final second.

But the Blackshirts finished it 94 seconds and 78 yards too soon to deny an Astrodome turnout of 46,618 and a national television audience of one final case of the shakes — if there were any left.

It was thrill upon thrill, an offensive masterpiece, that ended with the Huskers holding the thin thread of a 27-24 victory over Texas Tech. But it was the defense, a frustrated and maligned

unit of late, that swiped the final curtain.

The Blackshirts had set up a dramatic final drive by the Red Raiders by trying vainly most of the evening to catch a whisp of smoke named Rodney Allison, who played quarterback for Tech. When he wasn't tormenting the Husker flanks with his sprincouts, he was puncturing the secondary with his passes.

And when the swashbuckling Nebraska offense, which had rallied the Huskers time and again, finally showed the Raiders back to their 30-yard line when it failed on a fourth-and-10 play with 1:44 remaining, the onus was on the defense.

For Allison and his troops, that didn't appear to be an impossible task.

But that final drive lasted only one play. Husker defensive

tackle Ron Pruitt, the forgotten man in the Blackshirt line, blew in and knocked Allison loose from the ball, and defensive end Reg Gast recovered on the Raider 22.

The victory was one that Nebraska's program sorely needed to remove some of the sour taste of nice tries in previous television games during the 9-3-1 season against Missouri and Oklahoma.

The Huskers showed abundant pluck by coming from 10-points back against a team that had gone in with a 10-1 record and higher national ranking.

It was billed as a showoff night for quarterbacks Allison and Nebraska's Vince Ferragamo, and both responded brilliantly.

Ferragamo finished with 13 completions in 23 attempts for 183 yards and two touchdowns. Allison passed 23 times, too, completed 15 and also had two touchdowns to go with his 89 yards rushing.

With Nebraska sophomore I-back Rick Berns totaling 118 yards on 27 carries and two touchdowns and Raider halfback Billy Taylor scoring a bowl-record three touchdowns, the combatants were as close in the final statistics as they were on the scoreboard. Nebraska held a 396-384-yard lead in total offense.

Ironically, there was no scoring the last 15 minutes, but there was enough the first three quarters to build the tension and enough chances for both teams in the fourth to keep it there.

Nebraska opened with an awesome display of ball-control power in an 80-yard drive that consumed 9 minutes, 18 seconds and 19 plays. Berns earned the final yard.

As the evening wore on, it became evident that such keepaway tactics were the best way to stop Allison and friends.

Rompin' Rodney showed his stuff with two 14-yard com-

pletions in his first drive, but all the Raiders got out of it was a 29-yard field goal by Brian Hall, who kicks with an artificial leg.

Then the Raiders sandwiched a pair of tainted touchdowns around a narrow miss by soccer booter David Melott from 58 yards.

The first came after defensive end Richard Arledge blind-sided Ferragamo and Harold Buell, from the other wing, recovered the ensuing fumble at the Nebraska 32.

Allison dumped a pass over the middle to Taylor for 14 yards. Taylor was ridden into the end zone by linebacker Clete Pillen, who later left the game with a concussion.

The second Raider touchdown came in similar fashion with Allison and Taylor combining for 11 yards after taking possession at the N.U. 16 when Berns mishandled a pitchout.

## NU Quikens Pace

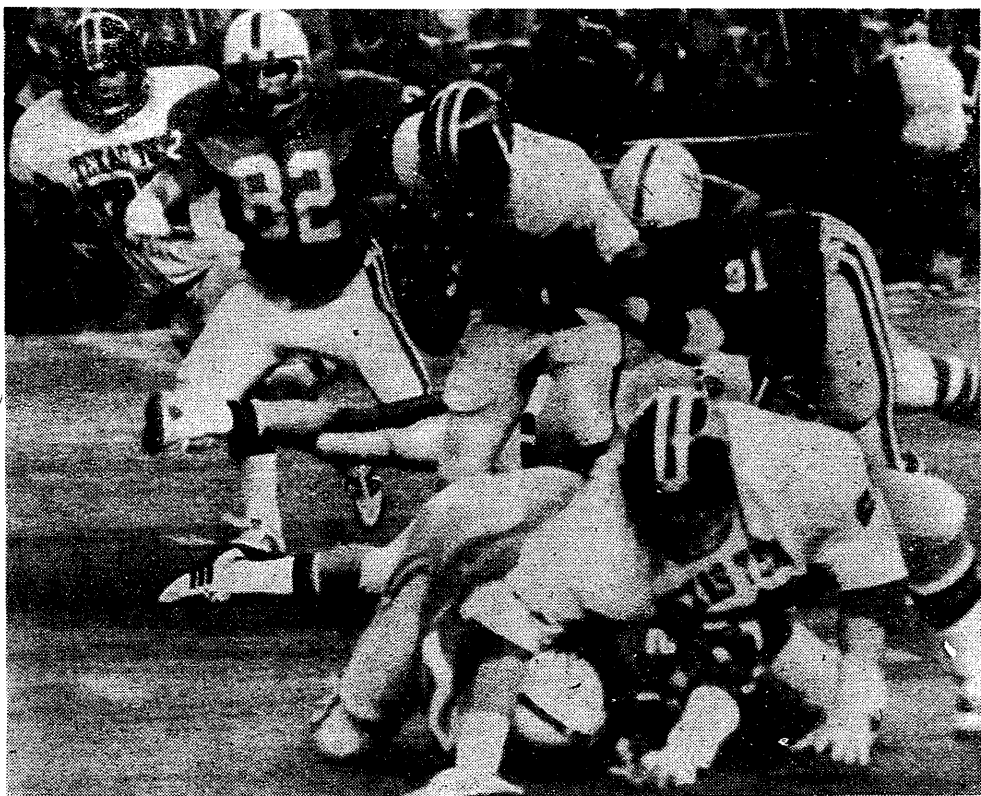
The Huskers suddenly found themselves trailing, 17-7, late in the first half. So much for ball control.

The Huskers stepped up the pace with an 80-yard drive that started 1:41 before intermission. They made it to the end zone with 33 seconds to spare when Ferragamo hit tight end Mark Dufresne with a sideline pass and the California junior college transfer sailed 22 yards.

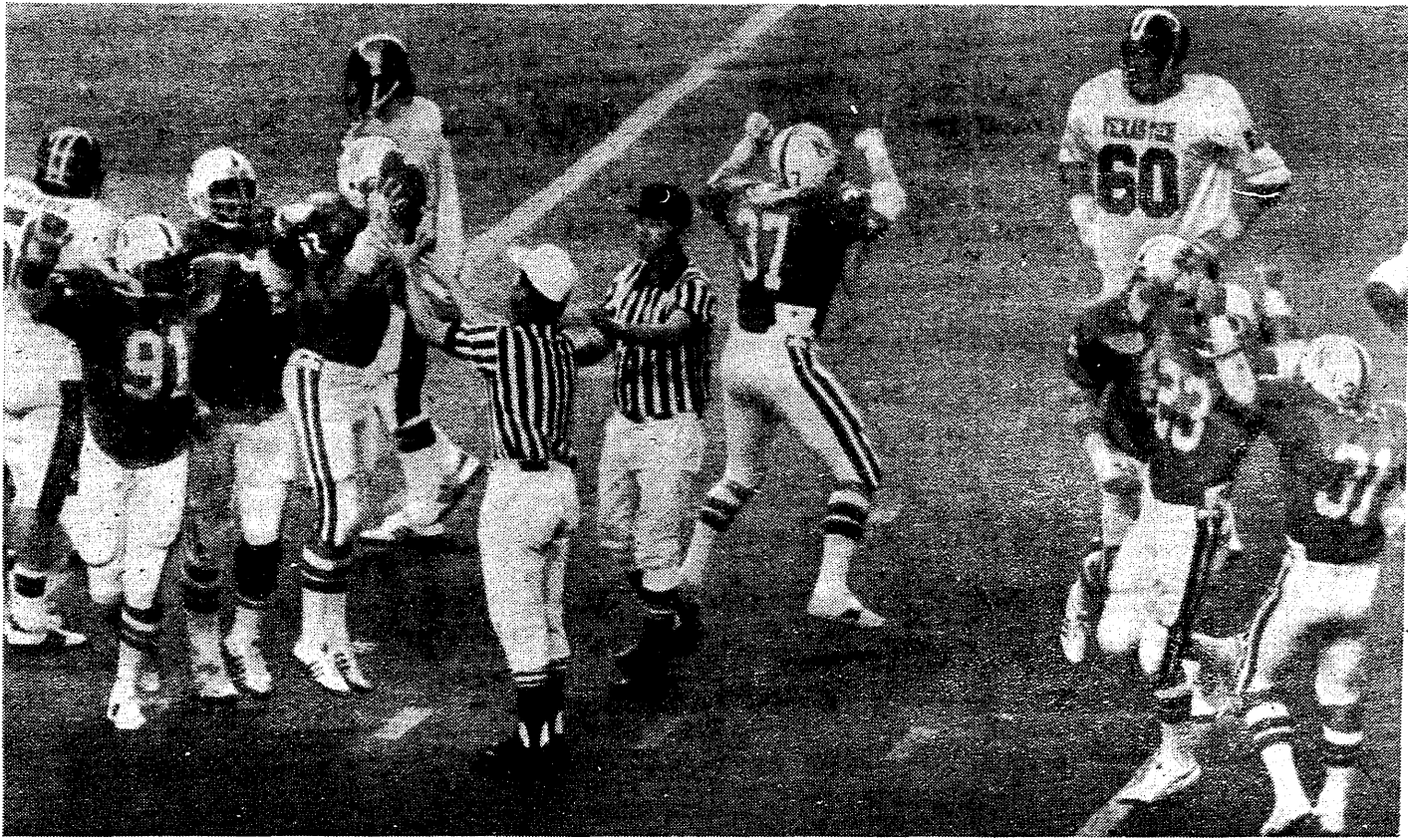
Tech had not drawn a penalty to that point, but the Raiders were tagged with a beauty in the Husker drive. Buell nearly claimed a first-down interception, and he spiked the ball in frustration. College football rules say that is a 15-yard no-no.

The drive was sided by a spectacular leaping reception of a 24-yard pass by wingback Dave Shamblin.

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The final blow... Pruitt (91) hits Allison and the ball goes free as Gast (82) moves in for the recovery in the final minutes.



After the recovery, the rejoicing... Huskers are Pruitt (91), Gast (82), Jeff Carpenter (37), Kent Smith (23) and Ted Harvey (31).

## Ten Years Coming, but Huskers Get Revenge, Says Ex-Tide Quarterback

By Tom Allan  
World-Herald Staff Writer

Houston — Texas Tech Coach Steve Sloan handed Coach Tom Osborne and his Cornhuskers bouquets to go with their newest bowl trophy with a blue bonnet on it.

The affable coach, who just 10 years ago in the Orange Bowl quarterbacked Alabama to a 39-28 over the Huskers, joshed: "They got back at me tonight."

But in a more serious mood he was all graciousness and full of praise for the Huskers who defeated his scrapping Red Raiders 27-24.

He opened his post-game

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summary: "I'd like to congratulate Nebraska and give the Nebraska team a great deal of credit. They made a great comeback when they were behind, 24-14, in the third quarter. That reflects good coaching and the character of their team."

Earlier he had hugged Osborne at mid-field and shouted in his ear above the din of the celebrating Husker fans.

"I congratulated him and told him his team played well and deserved to win," said Sloan, the man who has launched a football revival for the Red Raiders.

In a pre-game column Houston sports columnist John Wilson had written the 32-year old Sloan was "more relaxed" and Osborne "seemed more tense" in final bowl preparations and their last press conference.

## Feelings Hidden

It was the same after the game. Sloan, smiling and warm, hid his disappointment. In the first moments of victory Osborne had to be begged by photographers for a smile as he accepted the huge Bluebonnet trophy from R. E. Hardister, bowl board chairman.

Sloan praised Osborne as "a class guy, an outstanding coach and a real credit to the coaching profession."

Sure Sloan was disappointed. But he made it clear "I'd be more disappointed if our team hadn't played so well."

"I've never been prouder of a bunch of guys than the ones we had on our team this year. They played 12 games as hard as they could, and in coaching you can't ask for much more than that."

## Raiders Proud

Some of his players said the loss wasn't as disappointing as the 27-19 defeat by Houston which knocked them out of the Cotton Bowl.

But like Sloan they all agreed their showing against Nebraska "showed we could play with anybody in the country."

With boyish exuberance Sloan called the see-saw battle "A great game all the way and I think both teams displayed excellent offenses."

Of the defensive hitting Sloan said: "It wasn't a place for children out there tonight."

Sloan refused to name a turning point.

"There were seven or eight big plays that changed the complexion of the game. You would have thought when we came back to score after Nebraska's first long (touchdown) drive it would have changed the momentum."

"But I don't think momentum was ever that big a factor."

## Tough Tony Helps

By a World-Herald Sports Writer.

Houston — The television cameras may have picked up what looked like an extra student manager along the Nebraska bench during the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl Friday night.

There was this guy running back and forth, dousing the heads of Huskers with water and wiping the sweat off their faces.

"I'd do anything," said Tough Tony Davis, who just completed his rookie season with the Cincinnati Bengals after an outstanding career at fullback and I-back for Nebraska.

In this game neither team ever gave up or let the other team have a psychological edge. Both teams just kept coming back and that's what made for a great game."

There was even a wan smile when asked about the big play when with 1:40 to go when the final Raider hopes were dashed. Quarterback Rodney Allison, voted the game's most valuable back, fumbled when

decked by Ron Pruitt and Nebraska recovered on Tech's 22-yard line.

"If we hadn't fumbled, we could have at least tied the game," he said. "I'm paid to think that. We just played as hard as we could and it went that way."

Sloan wouldn't fault Allison or his downhearted field goal specialist Brian Hall. The usually accurate youngster with an artificial leg missed two attempts and his back-up David Melott one.

He praised Allison as "next year's premier quarterback." Sloan said of Hall: "We probably wouldn't have been here

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## Tech 'Bemed'

Texas Tech	3	14	7	0-24
Nebraska	7	7	13	0-27
Nebraska	Berns 1 run (Eveland kick)			
Tech	FG Hill 28			
Tech	Taylor 14 pass from Allison			
(Hall kick)				
Tech	Taylor 11 pass from Allison			
(Hall kick)				
Tech	Dufresne 22 pass from Ferragamo			
(Eveland kick)				
Tech	Taylor right run (Hall kick)			
Nebraska	Berns 18 run (kick failed)			
Nebraska	Melott 23 pass from Ferragamo			
(Eveland kick)				
A	48,618			

Tex. Tech	27
Nebraska	24
First downs	42-19
Rushes-yards	48-144
Passing yards	384
Total yards	396
Return yards	38
Penalties	15-23-0
Fumbles-lost	3-2-3
Time of play	2:21
Penalties-yards	2-21

## Stewart's 'Peachy' Dashes Spark Breeze by Kentucky

Atlanta (AP) — There's a moral to every story, and the moral to this year's Peach Bowl is: "Don't make Rod Stewart mad."

Stewart, who was named the game's most valuable player in Kentucky's 21-0 victory over North Carolina, said he got his dander up early in the first quarter when the North Carolina line pummeled him on a tackle and prompted him to throw the ball at the defenders after the whistle.

That play cost Kentucky 15 yards, but Stewart more than paid back his team in points as he scored all three touchdowns.

"I play better when I'm mad" the 197-pound sophomore from Lanchester, Ohio, said after gaining 104 yards in 19 carries.

"Kentucky Coach Fran Curci said the scoreless first half was a result of Kentucky's inability to find an offensive gimmick. We jumped all over trying to

settle into something," he said. "In the second half, we decided just to do what we do best, that is, run right at them," he added.

North Carolina Coach Bill Dooley refused to blame the lack of offense on the absence of Mike Voight, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year who gained 1,407 yards this season.

Voight suffered a sprained ankle during practice Wednesday.

"Losing key players is nothing new to us," said Dooley. "We've lost people before and always had someone step in and do the job."

The shutout was the first suffered by the Tar Heels since Notre Dame did it in 1971.

"Our offense didn't take any pressure off the defense," said Dooley.

North Carolina had only five first downs and 106 yards while Kentucky had 334 yards, 318 on

the ground. "We had some misfortune when we had a touchdown called back. Then we gave them a blood transfusion when we fumbled near their goal line," he said.

North Carolina had a 50-yard first-period touchdown pass from quarterback Matt Kupec to Walker Lee called back by an offside penalty.

The Tar Heels fumbled on their 21 early in the third period and Stewart scored the first touchdown moments later.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS  
RUSHING — Kentucky — Stewart 19-106, Brooks 8-66, Hill 18-55, North Carolina — Poschal 11-41, Johnson 7-29, Col-ling 3-12

RECEIVING — Kentucky — Woods 1-3, Hill 1-3, North Carolina — Mabry 1-11, Leg 1-6, Williams 1-5

PASSING — Kentucky — Ramsey 2-8-16, Kupec 3-15-24-3

## Buffs to Seek Big 8 Sweep

Big Eight teams are 3-0 in postseason bowl play and Colorado will seek to make it a sweep against Ohio State in the Orange Bowl tonight.

Bowl victories thus far for the Big Eight are Nebraska over Texas Tech, 27-24, in the Bluebonnet Bowl; Oklahoma over Wyoming, 41-7, in the Fiesta Bowl; and Oklahoma State over BYU, 49-21, in the Tangerine Bowl.

See Page 17 for a review of today's bowl games.

## Ferrari Ships Cars For Argentine Race

Modena, Italy (AP) — Two Ferrari 312-T-2 cars were shipped to Argentina Friday for the Jan. 9 Argentine Grand Prix, the opening event of the 1977 Formula One season.

Drivers Niki Lauda of Austria and Carlos Reutemann of Argentina and the team's mechanics and technicians will fly to Argentina in a few days, the company said.

## Football Is Still Growing, Survey of Preps Shows

New York Times News Service.

New York — Despite cries that football at the inter-scholastic level is too dangerous and too expensive, the sport shows the largest increase in participants over the last two years, according to a survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The federation, made up of the athletic associations of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, also has released figures that show basketball the most popular boys' and girls' sport as far as schools sponsoring teams.

The real surprise is that football appears to be overcoming obstacles to keep its place in scholastic athletic programs.

"Football is hanging tough," said Jack Roberts, a spokesman for the national federation. "You hear that football programs are being cut, then you see the figures that football is up more than any other sport."

The figures also show that 4.1 million boys and 1.65 million

girls are participating in inter-scholastic athletics during this school year. Those numbers are up from the last survey, two years ago. However, the rate of growth of high school sports has slowed.

The last survey, for the 1974-75 school year, showed an overall increase in participants of 299,000 boys and 483,000 girls over a two-year period. In this survey, the increases were 39,000 for boys and 345,000 for girls.

So-called lifetime sports — tennis and golf — are also enjoying a boom. For boys, tennis showed the third-largest increase in number of teams and the second largest in participants. Golf had the third-largest increase in participants.

The burgeoning youth programs in soccer are reflected in that sport's gain of 839 schools sponsoring teams and 14,261 participants.

The survey is particularly valuable to dealers in the athletic market and to school athletic directors.

## Sports on Television

Today Channel 3 3:45 p.m., Rose Bowl, Michigan vs. Southern California. 6:45 p.m., Orange Bowl, Colorado vs. Ohio State.	New York Nets. 2 p.m., Sun Bowl, Texas A&M vs. Florida.
Channel 6 1 p.m., Cotton Bowl, Maryland vs. Houston.	Channel 7 1 p.m., "The Superstars," 2:30 p.m., Shrine East-West Football Game.
Channel 7 11:30 a.m., Sugar Bowl, Georgia vs. Pittsburgh.	Monday Channels 32, 36 7 p.m., NHL, Philadelphia at Montreal.
Sunday Channel 3 12:30 p.m., NCAA basketball, Michigan vs. South Carolina. 3 p.m., NCAA basketball, Houston vs. UCLA.	Tuesday Channel 26 8:30 p.m., "Maverick Sports."
Channel 6 Noon, NBA, Philadelphia at	Wednesday Channel 7 10:30 p.m., "Bluejay Basketball."