



CHRIS MACHIAN/THE WORLD-HERALD

FRIDAY NIGHT MIGHT

After efficient offense and timely defense subdue Illinois, the Huskers know heavy lifting against Wisconsin awaits

By SAM MCKEON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Chants of “Husker Power!” in one corner. Chants of “Go Big Red!” in the opposite corner.

Memorial Stadium in downstate Illinois sounded a lot like Memorial Stadium in Lincoln as Nebraska knelt out an easy 28-6 win over the Illini. NU quarterback Tanner Lee, fresh off the best game of his early NU career, slapped his hands in satisfaction and started finding teammates to congratulate. It was, unlike so many other

Husker games this season, anticlimactic. It was a “ho-hum” Big Ten win in a season that’s had a lot of “oh boy.” Maybe Nebraska football should play all of its games on Friday night. (Just kidding, high schools.)

Still, the short week of preparation seemingly suited the Huskers. As it has for the last 14 quarters, coordinator Bob Diaco’s defense did its part, but it was Nebraska’s offense, near-flawless in the first half, that had coach Mike Riley smiling.

NU had just three first-half drives and scored touchdowns on all of them.

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NEBRASKA 28
ILLINOIS 6

NU ran the ball well in closing out Friday’s win, but it seeks more consistency throughout. **Page 10FB**

UP NEXT

7 p.m. Oct. 7 vs. Wisconsin, BTN; 590 AM, 92.3 FM

MORE ONLINE

Replay postgame interviews with coach Mike Riley and select players. **Omaha.com/bigred**

Chris Weber celebrates his sack of Illinois quarterback Chayce Crouch, one of five Nebraska had Friday night.

In Whisky week, NU may be ready for hard stuff



Tom Shatel

COLUMNIST

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Ready or not, here they come.

And here THEY come.

Preliminary skirmishes are over. The appetizer portion of the 2017 Nebraska football season is complete. The Huskers are 3-2 and looking a little more like what they hoped they would be — what they’re going to need to be — from this point forward.

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