

Sports

Friday, September 1, 1995 Page 23

Tom Shatel

First Glimpse At '94 Kings

Stillwater, Okla. — First impressions from the first game after the first national championship (in the Tom Osborne era):

First prediction to come true in Nebraska's 64-21 win over Oklahoma State: a hot time in the old town. It was 99 wonderful degrees at kickoff, the highest game-time temperature at Lewis Stadium in 20 years. No, it wasn't a dry heat.

First season-opening victory on an opponent's field: Osborne.

First play of the 1995 season: a pitch-out left to I-back Lawrence Phillips, for a 1-yard loss.

First oops: a fumble by Phillips on the first series, recovered by OSU at the Huskers' 49 with 12:23 left.

First wisecrack in press box: "Couldn't the NCAA have delayed that decision one more week?" The NCAA ruled Tuesday that Phillips was eligible to play.

First sign that the defense might be OK this year: Jared Tomich's 11-yard sack of quarterback Tone' Jones to force the first OSU punt.

First touchdown: Phillips on a 3-yard run up the gut.

First balloon of the season: the hot air balloon looming high over Lewis Stadium in the first quarter. Immediately, there was speculation that Oklahoma Coach Howard Schnellenberger was manning the balloon, scouting the Huskers and providing the hot air.

Fan Confusion

First sign that fans are confused by the Bowl Alliance: After the first NU touchdown, nobody threw oranges. Then again, nobody threw a bag of Tostitos, either. The national championship will be decided in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

First bad omen: when freshman kicker Kris Brown's first extra-point attempt nearly hit the Leslie O'Neal sign on the OSU Coaches Building — which meant it was way wide left.

First home game: Nebraska? Well, not exactly. An estimated 5,000 to 6,000 Husker fans were out in force, obviously hungry for a football game since Jan. 1. There were more than a couple of "National Championship" shirts in Lewis Stadium. OSU fans countered with "Final Four" shirts.

First quarterback change: Brook Berringer entered the game with 9:53 left in the second quarter.

First quarterback debate: When Phillips ran 80 yards for a score on Berringer's first play from scrimmage, and it was noted how well Berringer moved the offense.

Celebration Penalty

First celebration penalty: After Reggie Baul's 76-yard touchdown catch from Tommie Frazier in the third quarter, Baul shook his arms in the air. After the officials gave Baul a penalty (the latest NCAA rule to make college football no fun), Osborne shook his fist at Baul.

First run to Eskimo Joe's, a watering hole: When Nebraska went up 36-7 with 59 seconds left in the first half.

First Nebraska punt: Jesse Kosch's foot didn't touch the ball until 6:38 left in the third quarter — a 53-yarder. Darin Erstad who? Erstad, NU's punter-kicker last year, is playing baseball in the California Angels' organization. And who needs a punter, anyway?

First Ahman Green sighting: With 2:41 left in the third quarter, the freshman from Omaha Central ran 18 yards down the left sideline.

Heisman Steps

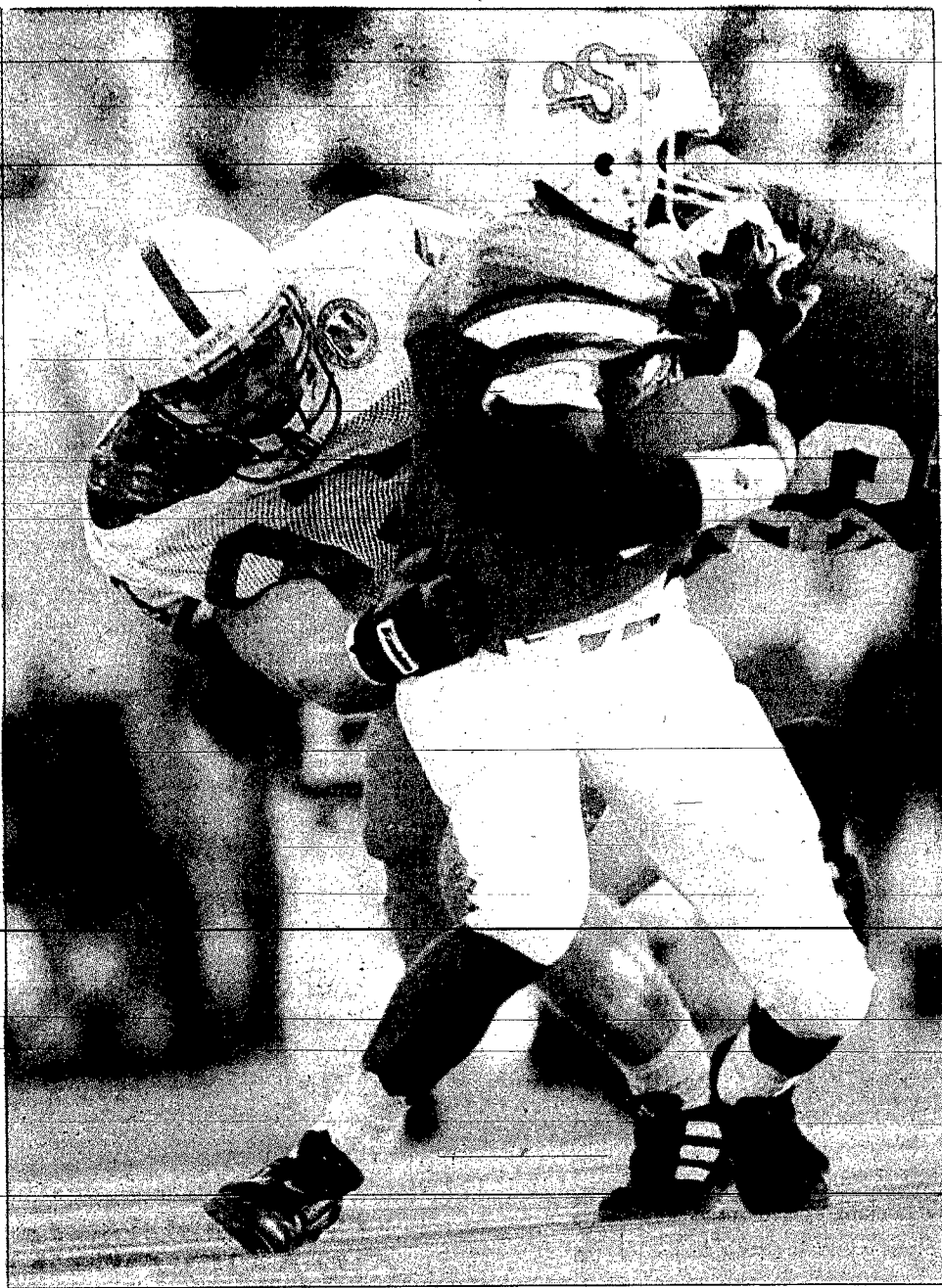
First steps toward a Heisman: Phillips' 153 yards and three touchdowns, including the 80-yarder in which he eluded three OSU defenders with two separate stop-and-go Barry Sanders moves — right here on Barry's field. Sanders won the Heisman in 1988.

First impressions: What did the Huskers prove against the Cowboys' young guns (nine true freshmen played)? Everything and nothing.

The offense showed an ability to both grind and strike quickly. Both Frazier and Berringer looked sharp, the backfield ran for 513 yards and the offensive line looked familiar. The passing game was hot and cold, missing on some downfield connections and hitting on one big 76-yarder.

The first-team Blackshirts (three interceptions and four sacks) showed that not all the big play-makers left on the 1994 train. Nebraska dominated and toyed, wasn't too sloppy (six penalties, one fumble) and left town without a major injury. Kicking? After hooking his first PAT attempt, freshman Brown never missed again.

First step to another national title: too early to tell. The calendar, and thermometer, said August.



RUSH IS ON: Nebraska linebacker Jared Tomich sacks Oklahoma State quarterback Tone' Jones for an 11-yard loss at the OSU 36-yard line in the first quarter.

NU Runs, Over, Past Cowboys

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Stillwater, Okla. — Big plays led to a big blowout Thursday night as defending national champion Nebraska opened the 1995 season with a 64-21 thumping of Oklahoma State.

The second-ranked Huskers bit off huge chunks of yardage while scoring 44 points in an 18-minute span covering the second and third quarters. For the game, NU finished with 671 total yards — 513 rushing and 158 passing.

"Our offense has so many weapons that you can't key on one guy," quarterback Tommie Frazier said. "If a defense takes away one guy, we've got two or three others who can make big plays."

Among the biggest ground-gobblers on a 99-degree night, the warmest at Lewis Field in 20 years:

■ I-back Lawrence Phillips. On his way to 153 yards in 12 carries, the junior Heisman Trophy candidate sprinted for touchdowns of 80 (a career best) and 27 yards.

When asked if he was trying to make a statement about the Heisman, Phillips said: "Our plan was to make a statement about being No. 1 or No. 2 so we can go to Phoenix and play in the Fiesta Bowl."

■ Frazier. The senior Heisman candidate hooked up with split end Reggie Baul for a 76-yard touchdown. Frazier completed 6 of 10 passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions. He also ran 10 times for 64 yards and one touchdown.

■ Fullbacks Jeff Makovicka, Brian Schuster and Joel Makovicka. They broke runs of 33-, 20- and 39 yards, respectively, on scoring drives.

■ Weakside linebacker Terrell Farley. The junior college transfer intercepted a pass and returned it 29 yards for a touchdown, the first such play by a Husker in two seasons.

■ No. 4 I-back Ahman Green. The true freshman out of Omaha Central

Openers for Osborne

Nebraska has an 18-4-1 record in season openers under Coach Tom Osborne. The year-by-year scores:

Year	Score
1973	NU 40..... UCLA 13
1974	NU 61..... Oregon 7
1975	NU 10..... LSU 7
1976	NU 6..... (tie)..... LSU 6
1977	Washington St. 19... NU 10
1978	Alabama 20..... NU 9
1979	NU 35..... Utah State 14
1980	NU 55..... Utah 9
1981	Iowa 10..... NU 7
1982	NU 42..... Iowa 7
1983	NU 44..... Penn State 6
1984	NU 42..... Wyoming 7
1985	Florida State 17..... NU 13
1986	NU 34..... Florida State 17
1987	NU 56..... Utah State 12
1988	NU 23..... Texas A&M 14
1989	NU 48..... Northern Illinois 17
1990	NU 13..... Baylor 0
1991	NU 59..... Utah State 28
1992	NU 49..... Utah 22
1993	NU 76..... North Texas 14
1994	NU 31..... West Virginia 0
1995	NU 64..... Oklahoma State 21

bolled 18 yards on his first career carry and later added a 13-yard touchdown by breaking three tackles.

While Nebraska ate up the yards on offense, the No. 1 defense barely gave the Oklahoma State offense a taste of success.

The Blackshirts allowed a 79-yard run to OSU tailback David Thompson in the second quarter that set up a touchdown. But the Cowboys averaged less than 2 yards on all other snaps before NU's top unit left the game midway through the third quarter and the Huskers leading 50-7.

"Other than that one long run," Husker coach Osborne said.

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Benson Leaves Little Doubt In 58-19 Rout

BY RICH KAIPUST
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

It didn't take long Thursday night for Omaha Benson to dispel any notions Millard West might have had about coming out a winner in its first Metro Conference football game.

Benson socked the Wildcats with a 37-point first quarter and rolled to a 58-19 win at Millard South's Buell Stadium. The Bunnies struck from a variety of different angles, ending up with seven scoring plays of 30 yards or longer.

It was a tough way to start for Millard West, but not totally unexpected before a crowd estimated by a reporter at 2,200. The Wildcats took the field with mostly untested juniors and sophomores lining up against last year's Class A state runner-up.

"The biggest thing was the difference in athletic ability and speed," Millard West Coach Dan McLaughlin said. "A lot of times we were in the right spot and they just ran by us. There's not much you can do about that."

The big plays mounted in a hurry for Benson. The Bunnies had taken just four offensive snaps and already led 30-6.

"I was happy with a lot of our skill kids," Benson Coach Lonnie Tapp said. "They played pretty well. And our first group up front blocked pretty well. But those were a lot of young kids out there that Millard West had."

Benson sophomore running back Randy Stella took off on a 64-yard



BIG NIGHT: Omaha Benson's Adrian Johnson slips past Millard West's Luke McIntosh on an 87-yard punt return for a touchdown. Johnson scored twice in the first quarter to help boost the Bunnies to the victory.

touchdown run on the second play of the game. When Millard West was forced to punt on its first possession, Adrian Johnson ran the kick back 87 yards for a 14-0 lead.

Benson stopped the Wildcats' next

series on a safety when Lee Gerken sacked quarterback Jeff Dugger in the end zone. The Bunnies returned the free kick to the Millard West 43-yard line, then hit the scoreboard again on the next

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Davis Sets ISU Record; McCarney's Debut a Hit

BY ELIZABETH MERRILL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ames, Iowa — A goal post came down, fireworks shot off and thousands of fans rushed the field at Cyclone Stadium on Thursday night.

It was all the aftermath of a 36-21 Iowa State win over Ohio, a win that ended a 13-game losing skid for the Cyclones and saw Troy Davis run into the record books.

Davis, a sophomore tailback from Miami, ran for 291 yards and three

touchdowns in 40 carries to stomp out Ohio's early hopes of ending its own losing skid that now stands at 12 games.

"There will be a lot of tremendous positives that are going to come out of this game," said Dan McCarney, who was making his coaching debut with the Cyclones. "We'll keep building on this one."

Davis needed to take over offensively when starting quarterback Todd Doxzon was ruled out of the game prior to its

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Bream's Big Blast Makes Omaha, Anderson Pay

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Iowa second baseman Scott Bream had a hit to remember Thursday off one of several pitches Scott Anderson would like to forget.

Bream, the former Millard South High School three-sport star, drilled a three-run home run to highlight a six-run fourth inning that carried the Cubs to a 9-7 victory over Omaha and Anderson. The Royals' final regular-season home game drew 2,962 to Rosenblatt Stadium.

Anderson, making his first start since returning from a month's duty with

Kansas City, surrendered nine hits and eight runs in 3 1/3 innings. Iowa outfielder Manny Martinez also hit a three-run homer off Anderson.

"I wasn't really sharp out there tonight," said Anderson, pitching for the first time since a relief appearance with Kansas City on Aug. 19. "I didn't even know I was starting until I got here today, but that's no excuse. I still have to go out there and do the job."

"As a starter, my job is to avoid the big inning. Giving up a pair of three-run homers obviously isn't the way to do

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Friend of Huskers' Washington Testifies at Preliminary Hearing

BY HENRY J. CORDES
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Hours before his Nebraska football teammates began defense of their national championship Thursday, receiver Riley Washington began his own defense in a Lincoln courtroom against an attempted murder charge.

Only one witness — a friend of Washington — testified during the first day of Washington's preliminary hearing in Lancaster County Court. Willis Brown testified that he did not see who shot 22-year-old Jermaine Cole Aug. 2 and that he never saw Washington with a gun either immediately before or after the shooting.

"No, I didn't see who fired the gun," he said. "I just heard a shot."

Brown also suggested that Cole may have been shot by one of his own friends during the confrontation outside a convenience store. He said he thought the shots came from near a garbage dumpster, an area where he said Cole's friends were standing.

Deputy County Attorney Dave Stempson said that when the hearing resumes Sept. 8, Cole and possibly others will testify that Washington shot Cole in a gang-related incident.

Stempson also disclosed in court that Washington is on probation for a gun-related misdemeanor conviction in California. Washington, a 22-year-old junior from Chula Vista, Calif., pleaded guilty in 1993 after police found a loaded shotgun in the trunk of his car.

Washington is free on bail, attending

school and practicing with the Cornhusker football team. He wore a white dress shirt and black tie as he heatedly took notes during Brown's testimony.

Abdul Muhammad, a former NU receiver, also appeared in the courtroom but was sequestered as a witness.

Brown, a former Nebraska player from Edmond, Okla., said the confrontation involving him, Washington and Muhammad and Cole and his friends outside the convenience store was the latest in a long feud between the players and a group of Lincoln men.

"The story is the Lincolinites don't like the football players," he said.

Brown never made clear in his testimony whether the confrontations were gang-related.

Brown was initially silent for several seconds when asked whether he was a gang member, then said, "It's a part of you and part of where you live. Where I live is gang-infested."

"He would not answer when Washington's attorney asked if Brown had ever been initiated into a gang."

Brown also testified that during another confrontation — outside a Lincoln liquor store about an hour before the convenience store shooting — Cole used a slang term indicating he was a member of the Crips street gang.

"To me, that's disrespectful," Brown said.

Brown said Washington and Cole squared off to fight, but no punches were thrown and he and Washington were off.

About an hour later, when Brown, Washington and Muhammad left the convenience store, Brown said, Cole and his friends were there again.

"J.C. (Cole) jumped out and some words were said," Brown said. "Abdul hit him, and they went up against the wall."

Brown said Cole ran toward the gas pumps and then turned quickly, with Brown running after him. When the two were about 12 feet apart, Brown said, he heard a shot.

The police report of a friend of Cole's said Washington walked up to Cole and said, "Your life is gone," before shooting at him. Brown denied that Thursday.

"Riley didn't see anything, page 25."