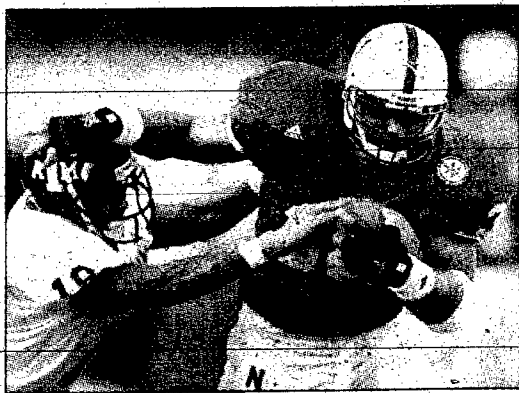


College Football

BIG 12, 2
SCORES, SUMMARIES, 6

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 7, 1999

PAGE 1-FOOTBALL



JEFFREY Z. GARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

NU's Sack Attack Shuts Out Aggies



Tom Shatel

Table's Set For K-State

Lincoln
 Don't inscribe "Kansas State" on the Big 12 football championship trophy yet.

But if you want to vote for Mike Brown for All-American, go ahead and use ink.

General Bill Snyder — the Kansas State coach — and the Purple People are coming to Lincolnland next Saturday, loaded with confidence. Big 12 title game reservations and dreams as big and wild as a millennium celebration in New Orleans.

They'll have to go through Nebraska. And M. Brown.

That's what the Huskers, and their senior rover, seemed to intimate, in no uncertain terms, in a 37-0 victory over Texas A&M that was all about statements and soup.

Chicken soup. That's what this victory was for a Husker team that was teetering in the polls, the Big 12 North race and, more important, in its own mirror. The Huskers lost at Texas. They had to come from behind to win at Kansas. The Huskers needed to get well: A shutout of Texas A&M, with the crowd alive and the stadium rocking, heading into the Amen Corner of their schedule, was food for the soul.

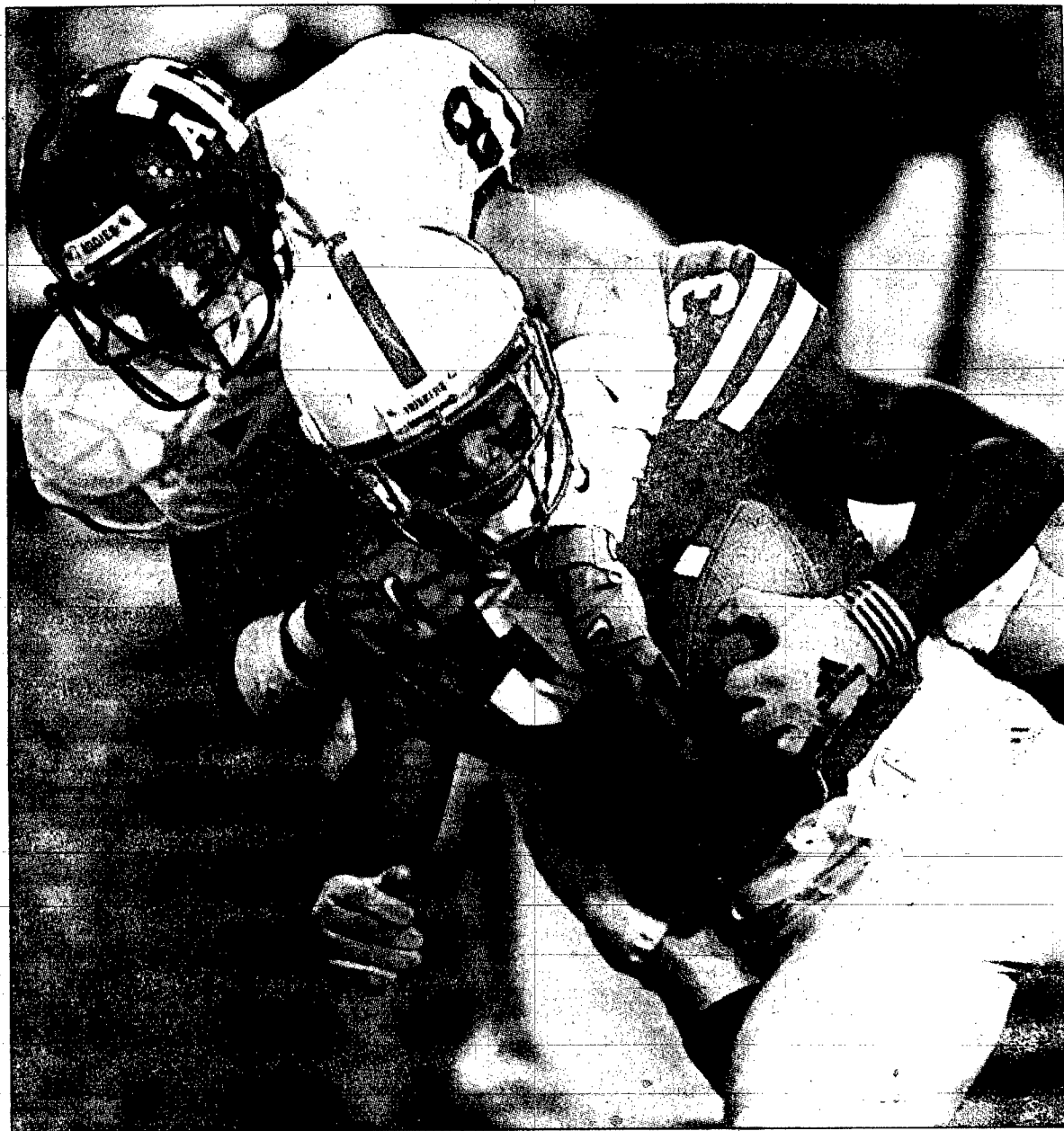
Mmmm, mmmm, good.

"We came out to play today," said Mike Brown, who played more and better than anyone. "We wanted to show people we're a good team."

People?

This was for people of the purple persuasion. This was a statement for everyone south of Beatrice. Forget Nebraska senior corner Ralph Brown and his guarantee of

See **SHATEL** Page 9-Football



JEFFREY Z. GARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

KEY PLAYERS: 1-back Dan Alexander, top, helped power a 335-yard Nebraska rushing attack with 135 yards and a touchdown, while cornerback Keyuo Craver, No. 3, picked off the last of the Huskers' four interceptions during a defensive effort that also saw the Blackshirts collect eight quarterback sacks.



JEFF BEIERMANN/THE WORLD-HERALD

TURNOVER: NU's Mike Brown, No. 21, set up a field goal with a 20-yard interception return late in the first half.

Alexander, Crouch Top 100 Yards

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Nebraska's defense tuned up for a showdown Saturday by tearing apart Texas A&M.

The Huskers left the 18th- and 21st-ranked Aggies bruised, bewildered and blanked in posting a 37-0 victory before the 232nd consecutive sellout crowd of 77,705 at Memorial Stadium. Nebraska held Texas A&M to 118 yards, including just 2 yards rushing, forced five turnovers and registered eight quarterback sacks in-handing the Aggies their first shutout loss in 142 games dating back to 1988.

"This is as good a defensive performance as we've had since I've been here," Husker senior rover back Mike Brown said. "Today, we came out and dominated. And a game like this gets the momentum going again."

"We've struggled the last two weeks. This game gives us something to build on. If we build on this momentum, we can be pretty good next Saturday."

That's when sixth-ranked Kansas State invades for a game that could decide the North Division's representative in the Big 12 Conference championship game, Saturday's win.

See **BLACKSHIRTS** Page 9-Football

Loss Ends UNO Quest For Playoffs

BY RICH KALPUST
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Sioux Falls, S.D. — There won't be any talk this week about UNO needing help to get into the NCAA Division II playoffs.

It won't matter after the Mavericks forgot to take care of themselves Saturday.

Augustana held No. 16-ranked UNO scoreless in the second half and used Eric DeGraff's third touchdown pass to upset the Mavs 31-24 in North Central Conference football. UNO tumbled to its third straight road loss and completely out of the playoff picture.

"We couldn't finish it today," UNO Coach Pat Behrens said. "We had some chances to do it and just couldn't."

The University of Nebraska at Omaha was outscored in the second half for only the second time all season as it blew a 24-14 lead. The blame could be shared by both the Mavs' offensive and defensive units:

■ After three punts and a missed field goal to start the second half, the Mavs' final two offensive series ended with Augustana cornerback Shannon Poppinga intercepting passes by Kwanzi Watts. The first one came in the end zone with the score tied 24-24.

■ Augustana bit into the UNO defense at an opportune time, scoring 14 points in the final six minutes. DeGraff moved the Vikings 76 yards in six plays and 80 yards in seven plays.

"We have the athletes, we have the players... I just don't think our hearts have been there," UNO defensive end

See **MCC** Page 5-Football

Standings

NORTH DIVISION		
Team	League	All
Kansas State	6-0	9-0
Nebraska	5-1	8-1
Colorado	4-2	5-4
Kansas	2-4	4-6
Missouri	1-5	4-6
Iowa State	1-5	4-5
SOUTH DIVISION		
Team	League	All
Texas	5-1	8-2
Texas Tech	4-2	5-4
Oklahoma	3-2	5-3
Texas A&M	3-3	6-3
Oklahoma State	1-4	3-5
Baylor	0-6	1-8

KSU Offense Struggles in Victory

Defense and special teams help carry sixth-ranked Wildcats past Colorado

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Manhattan, Kan. — If defense and special teams truly win championships, sixth-ranked Kansas State appears ready for this week's Big 12 North Division showdown against Nebraska.

In Saturday's 20-14 victory over Colorado, K-State limited the Buffaloes to two snaps in KSU

territory, held them to 214 total yards, set up 10 points with a blocked punt and an interception and saw its kicker stretch his string of consecutive field goals made to 15.

But if solid offensive play also is needed to claim a title, the Wildcats (9-0, 6-0) might have some doubts.

"We were poor on offense — very poor," KSU tailback David Allen said. "We can't go to Lincoln and play that way against them next week or we'll get beat."

Against a Colorado defense ranked 83rd nationally and allowing 389 yards a game, Kansas State gained a season-low 197 yards, converted only 1

of 14 third-down plays and sparked a low rumble of boos from the crowd of 52,077 at KSU Stadium.

The frustration level was high enough for KSU Coach Bill Snyder that he replaced starting quarterback Jonathan Beasley in the third quarter with a 14-0 lead. After the lead grew to 20-0 under backup Adam Helm, the Wildcats gave up fourth-quarter touchdown passes of 64 and 70 yards to see their lead slip to 20-14 with 4:12 to play.

Colorado recovered the ensuing onside kick, but was ruled offside and then kicked deep. Beasley returned at quarterback and led K-State to one

first down, which helped eat up enough yardage and time to prevent CU from mounting a final scoring threat.

"I thought it was pretty ugly," Snyder said. "Maybe ugly isn't the right word. But we were not as efficient or as capable offensively as we need to be."

Playing yo-yo with your quarterbacks one week before facing Nebraska's fifth-in-the-nation defense wouldn't appear to build much confidence.

"It was time for a change," Snyder said, explaining his move in a clipped tone. "We had to see if we could get

See **WILDCATS** Page 2-Football

Gophers Jolt Lions' Title Hopes

Penn State falls after Minnesota completes pass on fourth-and-16 to set up winning kick

State College, Pa. (AP) — With one miracle play, Minnesota may have tipped over No. 2 Penn State's national championship hopes.

The Gophers completed a tipped pass on fourth-and-16 with 1:22 left, setting up Dan Nystrom's 32-yard field goal as time ran out to beat the Nittany Lions 24-23 Saturday.

Billy Cockerham's pass bounced off receiver Ron Johnson's hands and Ariand Bruce dove to scoop it up at the 13-yard line. Three plays later, Nystrom split the uprights to virtually spoil Coach Joe Paterno's bid for a third national title.

"We worked so stinking hard during the offseason. You're sore, your body's absolutely shot, and it comes down to this — a field goal," Penn State's Mike Ceremele said.

Considering Penn State's close calls all season and the upset-happy Big Ten, he might have seen it coming.

But not on a wacky play like this. "I saw it hanging in the air, like 'Come get me! Come get me!'" Bruce said. "I just grabbed it. ... I don't know how I did it."

Watching from across the field, Paterno thought the pass was incomplete.

"I thought we batted it down," Paterno said after his 400th game as a head coach. "Then all of a sudden, on the sideline, they were yelling, 'He caught it! He caught it!'"

Nystrom, a freshman who earlier missed an extra point, said he was confident as he prepared for his

game-winning field goal. That's because he had been practicing with a ladder six yards away to stand-in for Penn State linebacker LaVar Arrington, who had blocked two kicks this season.

"I felt like I was prepared for that in practice," Nystrom said. After Nystrom's kick, the Gophers (6-3, 3-3 Big Ten) jumped for joy as the stunned players from Penn State (9-1, 5-1) walked off the field.

The Gophers' sixth win clinched their first winning season since 1990 and made them eligible for a bowl for the first time since 1986. It was Minnesota's first win over Penn State in five tries, and the Gophers' first victory over a Top 5 team since beating No. 2 Michigan 20-17 in 1986.

The win is also the first over a Top 25 team since upsetting No. 23 Syracuse 35-33 in 1996. They had been

See **PENN STATE** Page 4-Football



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTING THEIR KICKS: Minnesota place-kicker Dan Nystrom, No. 28, goes airborne with the help of holder Ryan Rindels after his game-winning field goal.