

# College Football

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**Tom Shatel**

## Win Gives Texas No Joy

Dallas. We're not saying Texas Football Coach John Mackovic's job is in jeopardy, but:

■ During the Longhorns' epic 66-3 loss to UCLA last month, one of UT's so-called power boosters left his suite at halftime and taped a note on the door that read, "Suite For Sale. CHEAP."

■ Texas Basketball Coach Tom Penders told a Longhorn hoops recruit at the UCLA game, "See, I told you we were a basketball school."

■ Longhorn fans weren't wearing "Hook 'Em Horns" buttons before Saturday's Oklahoma clash at the Cotton Bowl. But there were several Texas fans spotted wearing "Mackovic —s" buttons.

■ The Dallas Morning News reached several Texas boosters after last week's 42-16 loss to Oklahoma State, and their sentiments were summed up by one Fort Worth booster who said, "They better start winning now — or else." And that didn't mean or else they'll just give him a two-year contract extension next time.

## Awaiting Ax

If anything, there were plenty of folks in burnt orange golf shirts and sweaters lining up to pull the plug on Mackovic's tenure at Texas. No matter what his Longhorns did against the dreaded Oklahoma Sooners on Saturday, the UCLA loss did it. You don't lose like that at Texas. You don't have players that just up and quit. And then the Oklahoma State loss. The rumor was that with a loss to OU, Mackovic might get the ax right outside the Cotton Bowl at the Texas State Fair midway.

But the sideshow never developed. Texas hung on to win 27-24 in a victory that was only temporary pacification for the posse after Mackovic, the posse rooting for Texas to lose, not Oklahoma to win. How unpopular can a guy get?

If Mackovic were smart, he would add an "a" to the end of his name and move to Nebraska.

Whatever happened to last year? To Mackovic the genius who shocked Nebraska in the inaugural Big 12 championship game in St. Louis? He's gone. The Nebraska game is history. The fourth-and-one play forgotten. It was buried by the UCLA debacle. On Saturday, Mackovic was a long way from St. Louis. His tanned face looked leathery, worn and almost gaunt. Even in victory, over Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl, he did not smile. His voice was void of emotion.

## Embattled?

The first question was, "Does this take the word 'embattled' off your name?" Mackovic stared emptily at the inquisitor and said, "I never had it."

But he did. And still does. Texas won on Saturday, but that was all. The Longhorns' defense allowed 291 yards (an OU record against Texas) by DeMond Parker, who ran 66 yards for a touchdown on third-and-eight with 2:42 remaining. The Texas offense showed life with 188 yards passing, but the Horns fumbled twice and didn't look impressive or inspired. This was not a feel-good game, a momentum game for Texas. It was a relief game. The Horns, who didn't show up at Oklahoma State, showed some effort, a little heart.

The secret? It was something the Texas boosters needn't hear.

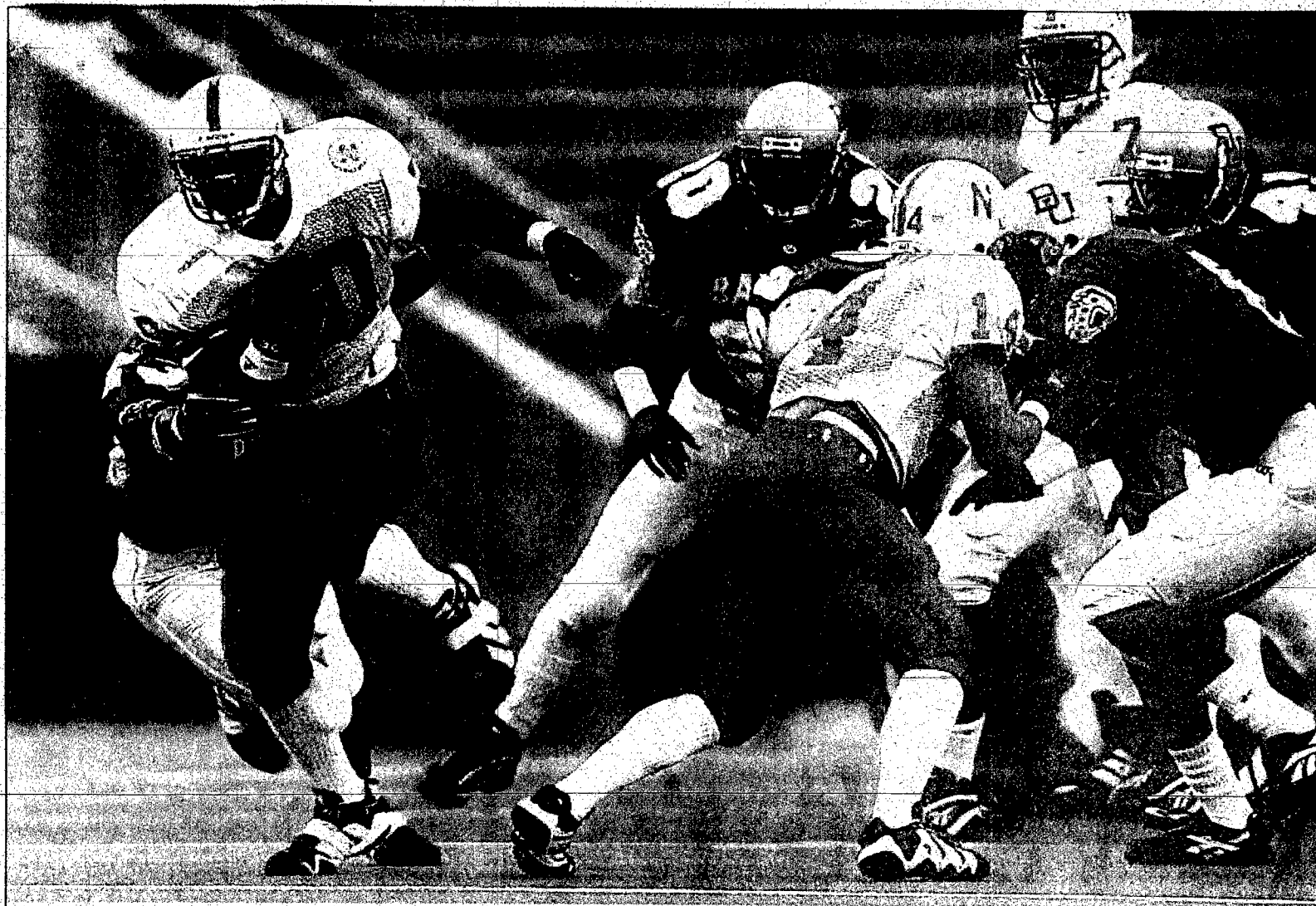
"I give credit to our offensive coordinator (Gene Dahlquist) and our coaching staff," Mackovic said. "The best thing I did was stay out of the way this week."

## Not a Word

"He usually gets right in everything and is yelling at you," said Texas running back Ricky Williams. "But this week he sat back and didn't say one word. It took a lot of pressure off the players."

But nothing made Mackovic's life easier on Saturday than the guy standing across the field from him. Oklahoma, under Coach John Blake, has to be the worst-coached, most ill-prepared team in the country. The Sooners had 10 penalties for 74 yards, almost all of them mind-numbing and ill-timed.

It was a comedy of errors to the end, when Texas could barely run out the clock because it kept getting flagged for penalties, except nobody was laughing, least of all Mackovic. After his news conference, he walked stone-faced up the green-felt ramp to the bus. He didn't look victorious. He looked like a survivor. For how much longer is the question.



OFF AND RUNNING: Nebraska I-back Ahman Green, No. 30, breaks clear behind the block of wingback Lance Brown, No. 14, during a first-quarter carry. Green, rushing for 158 yards on 20 carries, scored four touchdowns for the second straight game and went over the 100-yard mark for the fourth straight game.

# Huskies Inch Closer to No. 1

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Waco, Texas—Nebraska's mix of overwhelming start and underwhelming finish Saturday night against Baylor produced more than a few discouraging words in the Husker camp.

The play of Nebraska's reserves in the final quarter and a half of the 49-21 victory left Husker Coach Tom Osborne "mad." Catching himself in mid-sentence, Osborne toned down his criticism to just being merely "upset."

"We did not finish tonight," Osborne said. "We're not looking for a big score. What we're looking for is execution, and we didn't see it late in the game."

There was no toning down Defense

Coordinator Charlie McBride's disappointment in seeing Baylor score three touchdowns, even if one came when the Bears recovered Husker fullback Willie Miller's fumble in the end zone on the last play of the game.

"Right now, we're a good defense but we're not a national championship defense," McBride said. "We can't let any team put up 20 points on us. That just can't happen. We need our younger players to start stepping up, we need our depth to start stepping up and we need to start tackling better."

Not even top-ranked Florida's 28-21 loss to Louisiana State, which likely will lead to Nebraska's promotion from third to second in the national polls today, could get the Huskers too excited.

Rush end Chad Kelsay was one of several Nebraska players who said they would have rather seen second-ranked Penn State lose to Ohio State instead of having the Gators fall.

"Penn State and the Rose Bowl complicates things a bit," Kelsay said. "To be the best, we're going to have to beat the best. If we keep winning, we'll obviously get to play a good team in the Orange Bowl. Obviously, it would have been nice to see both of them lose so that we could move up to No. 1."

The Huskers will have plenty of opportunities to improve their standing in the polls in the coming weeks. If they play as they did in the first 35 minutes of Saturday night's game, few teams, if any, should be able to stop them.

Nebraska scored on seven of its first 11 possessions, with I-back Ahman Green getting four touchdowns for the second straight game, to take control of the Big 12 Conference game that drew a crowd of 38,175 to Floyd Casey Stadium. The turnout, almost half of which were Husker fans, braved rainy conditions to watch Nebraska improve to 5-0, 2-0 in the conference.

Except for getting burned by an 80-yard scoring run by Jerod Douglas, Nebraska's first-team defense dominated Baylor's offense. Baylor's 33 offensive snaps against the Blackshirts produced four first downs, two sacks, two lost fumbles, 11 incompletions and a total of 92 yards—80 coming on Douglas' run.

"We came out with the attitude tonight that we were going to kill anything that moves," said linebacker Tony Ortiz, who alternated with starter Brian Shaw.

Douglas spoiled the Huskers' plans for pitching a third straight shutout at the Bears—Nebraska won 13-0 in 1990 and 49-0 last season. His run, the longest against a Nebraska defense since Frank Madu of Washington State ripped off an 87-yarder in 1995, allowed the Bears (1-4, 0-2) to pull into a 7-7 tie midway through the opening quarter.

Nebraska failed to convert a fourth-and-one play from the Bears' 22 on its next possession, fueling the upset.

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## Cowboys' Comeback Sweet for QB, Coach

BY LEE BARFKNECHT  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Stillwater, Okla. — The quarterback and the coach who were spurned by Colorado got their payback Saturday night.

Oklahoma State's Tony Lindsay, a redshirt freshman from Denver who didn't get a CU scholarship offer, ran for a touchdown and threw for another in the fourth quarter to lead the 20th-ranked Cowboys to a 33-29 comeback victory over the No. 24 and 25 Buffaloes.

The win pushed OSU's record to 6-0 for the first time since 1945 and brought tears to the eyes of Coach Bob Simmons.

Three years ago, when Bill McCartney resigned at Colorado, Simmons was CU's associate head coach. McCartney recommended Simmons, a seven-year assistant, for the job. Instead, it went to first-year Buffs assistant Rick Neuheisel.

But Simmons earned the latest batch of bragging rights when Lindsay hit tight end Alonzo Mayes with a 19-yard touchdown pass with 1:56 left in the game.

"I've been associated with a lot of big victories," said Simmons, who was at Colorado for the Buffaloes' national title run in 1990. "But this is one of the biggest ever."

Simmons said he and Neuheisel re-

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## UNO Roars Past Augustana With Strong Defense, Rushing

BY RICH KAIPUST  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Sioux Falls, S.D. — UNO made the turning point come awful early Saturday against Augustana.

Despite starting off into a stiff wind, the Mavericks chopped through the 40 mph gusts for long touchdown drives on their second and third possessions. UNO never allowed Augustana to recover and rolled to a 35-6 North Central Conference victory.

"If we could get out of the first quarter even, we felt we'd have a great chance," University of Nebraska at Omaha Coach Pat Behrns said. "We just got two good drives and got up 14-to-nothing."

Junior tailback Jeff Herdzina rushed for a career-high 149 yards and sophomore tight end Brian Benjamin tied a school record with three touchdown catches for the Mavs. The win kept UNO in a three-way tie for second

place in the NCC.

No. 15-ranked UNO (5-1 overall, 3-1 in the league) packaged a strong running game with its best defensive effort of the season to punish Augustana. The Mavs held the Vikings to 26 yards rushing and 156 total — both top-marks through six games — before a crowd of 4,257 at Howard Wood Field.

It was a needed turnaround coming off a 35-24 loss at North Dakota.

"I don't like talking about last week, but it was feeding off last week that made this week," UNO linebacker Demetrius Richards said. "There were a lot of people out there who were mad about what happened. We didn't play physical and we weren't intense last week."

The Mavs took out plenty of their frustration in the first quarter Saturday.

UNO moved 80 yards in 15 plays — See MAVERICKS Page 4

## How The AP Top 25 FARED

1. Florida (5-1) lost to No. 14 LSU 28-21.
2. Penn State (5-0) beat No. 7 OSU 31-27.
3. Nebraska (5-0) beat Baylor 49-21.
4. Florida St. (5-0) beat Duke 51-27.
5. N. Carolina (6-0) beat Wake Forest 30-12.
6. Michigan (5-0) beat Northwestern 23-6.
7. Ohio St. (5-1) lost to Penn St. 31-27.
8. Auburn (6-0) beat Louisiana Tech 49-13.
9. Tenn. (4-1) beat No. 13 Georgia 38-13.
10. Washington (4-1) beat California 30-3.
11. Michigan St. (5-0) beat Indiana 38-6.
12. Washington St. (5-0) did not play.
13. Georgia (4-1) lost to No. 9 Tenn. 38-13.
14. LSU (5-1) beat No. 1 Florida 28-21.
15. Texas A&M (5-0) beat Iowa State 56-17.
16. Stanford (4-2) lost to Arizona 28-22.
17. Iowa (4-1) did not play.
18. UCLA (4-2) beat Oregon 39-31.
19. Air Force (7-0) beat Navy 10-7.
20. Okla. St. (6-0) beat No. 24 Colo. 33-29.
21. BYU (3-2) lost to Rice 27-14.
22. Kansas State (4-1) beat Missouri 41-11.
23. Va. Tech (5-1) beat Boston College 17-7.
24. Colo. (2-3) lost to No. 20 Okla. St. 33-29.
25. Georgia Tech (4-1) beat N.C. State 27-17.

## LSU Comes Alive To Shock Gators

Baton Rouge, La. (AP) — Florida's reign as the nation's top-ranked team expired at Death Valley.

Cedric Donaldson returned an interception 31 yards for a touchdown, and Herb Tyler scored on an 11-yard run during a 93-second span in the fourth quarter as No. 14 LSU shocked the Gators 28-21 Saturday night.

"The team's probably not quite near as good as everybody thought a No. 1 team should be," Florida Coach Steve Spurrier said.

The Tigers (5-1, 3-1 SEC) beat defending national champion Florida (5-1, 3-1) for the first time since 1987 and avenged last year's embarrassing 56-13 loss to the Gators.

"Our defense won tonight," Donaldson said. "If their defense was good, ours was better. If their offense was good, ours was better. We had a total team effort and that's what it takes."

LSU, criticized by Coach Gerry DiNardo after last week's 7-6 win over Vanderbilt, responded with an inspired performance against Florida. The Tigers snapped the Gators' two long Southeastern Conference winning streaks — 25 games overall and 19 straight on the road.

"We were sick and tired of hearing that we had no chance to win this game," LSU running back Kevin Faulk said. "They scored 56 points on us last year and we only beat Vandy by one. We came out and won this game and nobody can say anything about that. Nobody can take that away."

Florida's loss should vault No. 2 Penn State back into the top spot. The Nittany Lions, who beat No. 7 Ohio State 31-27 Saturday, started the season No. 1 but fell to No. 2 on Sept. 21 after Florida beat then-No. 4 Tennessee.

When the game ended, LSU fans in the capacity crowd of 80,677 stormed the field and tore down both goalposts to celebrate the Tigers' first victory



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## Next No. 1?

Penn State quarterback Mike McQueary celebrates after the second-ranked Nittany Lions defeated Ohio State 31-27 to stake a claim to the No. 1 rating. Story, Page 3.

over a top-ranked team. LSU snapped a 14-14 tie with the two quick scores early in the fourth quarter.

Donaldson picked off Doug Johnson's pass and returned it all the way to put the Tigers up 21-14 with 13:13 left before the second-largest crowd ever at Tiger Stadium.

On the ensuing kickoff, Florida's Bo Carroll fumbled and Troy Twillie recovered for LSU. Four plays later, quarterback Tyler ran 11 yards untouched for the score to make it 28-14 with 11:40 remaining.

Florida pulled to 28-21 on Fred Taylor's third touchdown of the game, a 3-yard run with 6:44 left.