

College Football

Tom Shatel



NU Preaches On Defense

Lubbock, Texas — God is great. And the Blackshirts aren't so bad themselves.

These are the things Byron Hanspard, the best running back on the pulpit, surely is repeating this morning. While he licks his wounds, the Texas Tech junior, an ordained minister, is also the sorest member of the cloth heading to a church this morning.

Hanspard ran the ball 31 times for the hardest-earned 107 yards in the country on Saturday. And he was a major factor in the outcome, though not like he had planned. Hanspard committed two sins, both fumbles, that led to 14 Nebraska points in a 24-10 Husker victory. And as he sat hunched over in his locker, staring straight ahead, he already was repenting.

"I feel like I lost the game," Hanspard said. "Two fumbles, and they capitalized. I will try to get my head back on and get to the level of a great back. You take the good with the bad. God will still give me glory."

Hanspard No Match

Forgive Hanspard for his sins. As everyone could see, he ran into an ungodly defense.

Hand him an ice pack, not the Heisman. What was billed as a bout between one of the best running backs in the nation against one of the best defenses in the same 50 states was indeed a mismatch. The Nebraska Blackshirts won in a knockout, even while their offense kept trying to give Texas Tech smelling salts.

It is Oct. 20, and we now see a definite trend to how the rest of the Nebraska football season is going to go: Blackshirts carry the team, offense tries to develop, Huskers win. Defense drives, offense sits in the back seat, all roads still lead to New Orleans.

This is their season. Finally. After so many years where the names like Tagge, Rodgers, Gill, Rozier, Taylor and Frazier dominated the conversations, the Blackshirts are the celebrities. Tomich, Farley, Williams, Minter. These may be the best Blackshirts ever, but that will be better measured in January, if and when they can carry this team to a third national championship.

As we saw again on a blustery West Texas Saturday, that is the task before them. My, don't they run fast for chaps lugging heavy baggage?

Title Hopes

"We don't feel like we have to carry the team," rush end Grant Wistrom said. "But we want to. We think we have a good offense."

That they do, against Colorado State and Baylor. But when the competition gets a little salty, the Husker offense still sputters and spits. This is not necessarily a big problem, except that Husker fans still have big dreams. They cheered mightily on Saturday when two first-quarter scores flashed on the scoreboard: USC-14, Arizona State-9, Purdue-14, Ohio State-0.

Both mirages, as it turned out. Arizona State and Ohio State still are undefeated. But rather than worry about those two, Nebraska ought to take a look in the mirror and ask itself a question:

Are we a national championship team?

Yes and no. National championship defense and special teams. But that is not a national championship offense. Not yet. But later this season? Not a lot of hope was found in the plains of West Texas.

Penalties, Fumbles

In one of the sloppiest NU games in recent memory, the Huskers had five turnovers and 11 penalties. Crazy things. Four defensive offsides penalties. A couple of personal fouls. A blocking-in-the-back penalty. Things you don't expect a Tom Osborne-coached team to do. Not on Oct. 19, not ever.

There was a serious lack of concentration going on at Jones Stadium on Saturday. What gives?

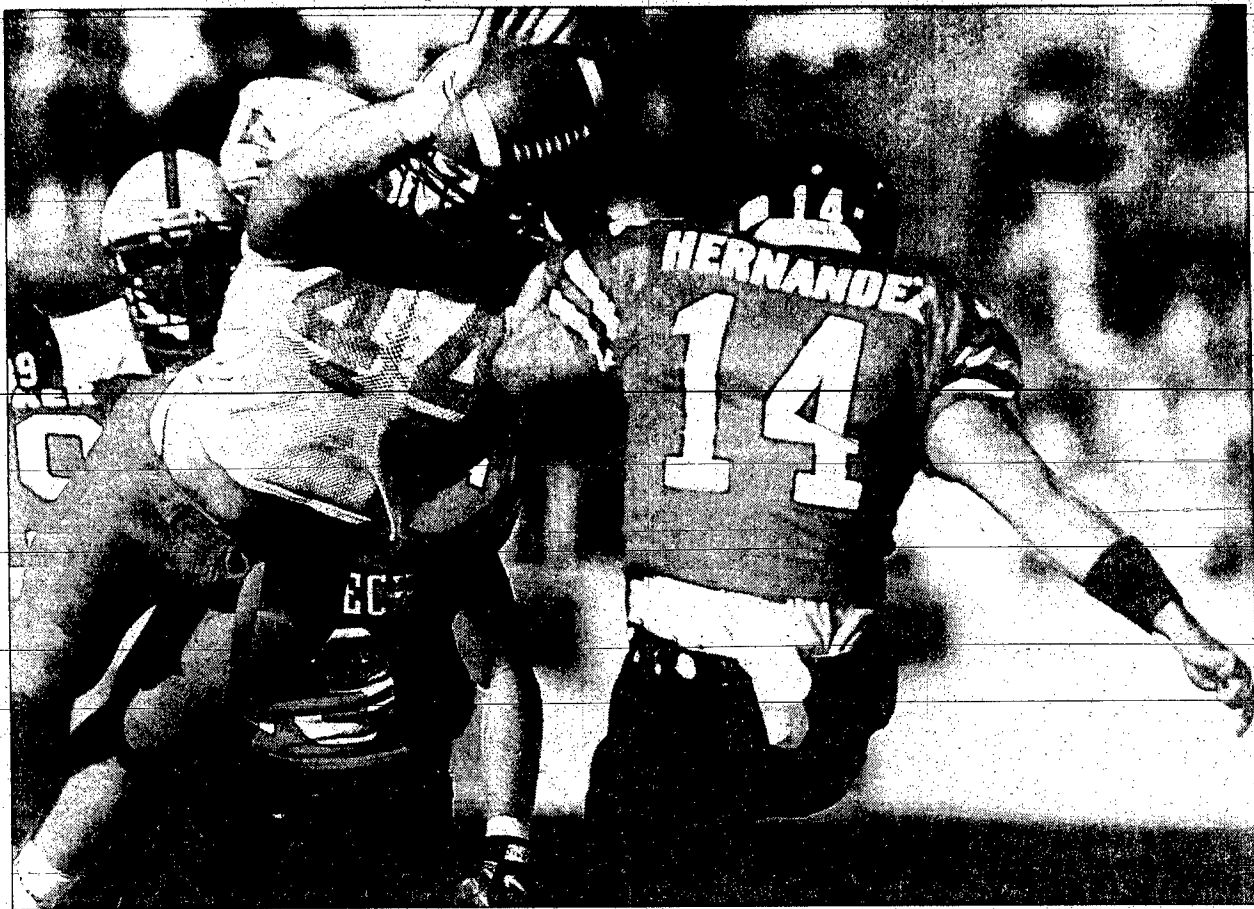
"At some positions, we are a pretty young team," said Wistrom, a junior and third-year starter. "Getting ready for games like this, there is a certain lack of maturity. There are some players who still aren't sure about the approach you have to take to big-time college football. They are learning, though today was a little bit of a setback."

Are to mention any names, Coach?

"No," said Wistrom, laughing. "But guys are the experts."

The starting point in offensive evaluation, fair or no, is quarterback.

Defense Steers NU Out of Trouble



JEFFREY Z. CARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

BLOCKED PUNT: Nebraska middle linebacker Jon Hesse deflects Texas Tech punter Jeremy Hernandez's kick with 5:42 left in the third quarter, the Huskers' third blocked punt of the season. NU's special-teams play Saturday included Damon Benning's 51-yard punt return.

5 Turnovers, 11 Penalties Slow Huskers

BY LEE BARFKNECHT

Lubbock, Texas—Nebraska committed more penalties Saturday than it had in 24 games, lost more turnovers than it had in 31 games and fumbled more times than it had in 96 games.

And still won. The fourth- and fifth-ranked Huskers survived all of that by stretching their streak of quarters without allowing an offensive touchdown to 14 and dominating the kicking game in a 24-10 victory over Texas Tech.

"We shot ourselves in the foot a bunch of times," NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride said. "They shot themselves in the foot a bunch."

"By the end, it was one of those games where everybody just wanted to go home."

The game between Big 12 North Division leader Nebraska (5-1 overall, 3-0 in the league) and South Division leader Texas Tech (4-3, 3-2) had been billed as a measuring stick.

Playing on regional ABC television, the Huskers were looking to impress poll voters and show they remain a legitimate national title contender. The Red Raiders had hopes of pulling the biggest upset in school history and boosting the Heisman Trophy hopes of tailback Byron Hanspard, the nation's leading rusher.

"But it's hard to measure anything with this game," Husker quarterback Scott Frost said.

NU lost four of seven fumbles, had

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Iowa Defense Upsets Penn St.

State College, Pa. (AP) — Maybe Joe Paterno needs a new halftime speech.

His No. 10 Penn State team was sluggish in the second half — again — and against Iowa's stingy second-half defense, it cost the Nittany Lions dearly. The Hawkeyes (5-1 overall and 3-0 in the Big Ten) shut out and shut down Penn State (6-2, 2-2) after halftime for a 21-20 upset in rainy conditions Saturday.

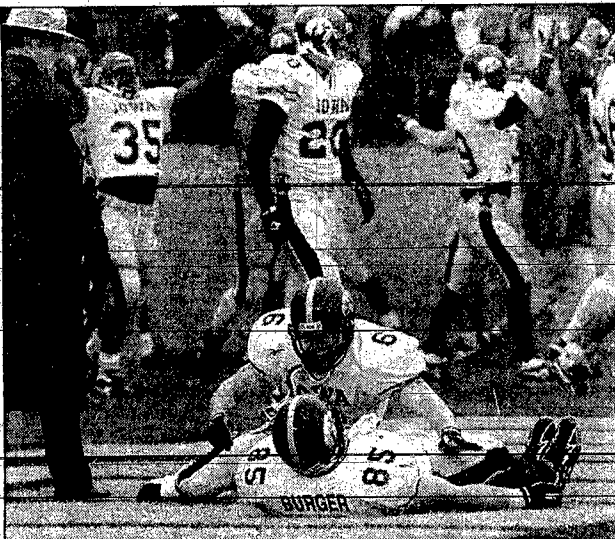
Iowa, which has given up just three fourth-quarter points all year, allowed just four first downs and 76 total yards in the second half. This season, Penn State has scored just 58 of its 219 points in the second half.

Paterno, whose team led 20-14 at the half, said he couldn't explain the late-game breakdowns. "That's about the third time that's happened to us," the Penn State coach said. "I thought our defense played a great 60 minutes, but obviously our offense did not have it in the second half for whatever reason."

Penn State led 20-14 at the half. Matt Hughes and Damien Robinson each had 14 tackles for Iowa.

"It's extremely difficult to win up here, and to win the game the way we did is super," Iowa Coach Hayden Fry said. "Big play after big play."

Offensively, the Hawkeyes were led by Tavian Banks, who was starting for an injured Sedric Shaw. Banks ran 26 times for 116 yards and two touch-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CELEBRATION: Iowa's Tim Dwight jumps on top of teammate Michael Burger after the Hawkeyes' win over No. 10 Penn State. The Hawkeyes beat the Nittany Lions for the first time since 1983.

downs — including the game-winner with 12:39 to play.

His 8-yard touchdown run was set up by quarterback Wally Richardson's second fumble.

Iowa split end Tim Dwight returned a first-quarter punt 83 yards for a touchdown, and he set up Banks' 5-yard TD run in the second quarter with a 65-yard reception.

How The AP Top 25 FARED

1. Florida (7-0) beat No. 16 Auburn 51-10.
2. Ohio State (6-0) beat Purdue 42-14.
3. Florida State (5-0) did not play.
4. Arizona State (7-0) beat USC 48-35 20T.
5. Nebraska (5-1) beat Texas Tech 24-10.
6. Tennessee (4-1) did not play.
7. Alabama (7-0) beat Mississippi 37-0.
8. Notre Dame (4-2) lost to Air Force 20-17.
9. Colorado (5-1) beat Kansas 20-7.
10. Penn State (6-2) lost to Iowa 21-20.
11. North Carolina (5-1) did not play.
12. Miami (4-2) lost to East Carolina 31-6.
13. Michigan (5-1) beat Indiana 27-20.
14. Northwestern (6-1) beat Wisconsin 34-30.
15. West Virginia (7-0) beat Temple 30-10.
16. Auburn (5-2) lost to No. 1 Florida 51-10.
17. LSU (4-1) beat Kentucky 41-14.
18. Brigham Young (6-1) at Tulsa.
19. California (5-0) at Wash. State.
20. Virginia (5-1) beat N.C. State 62-14.
21. Kansas State (6-1) beat Texas A&M 23-20.
22. Georgia Tech (4-2) lost to Clemson 28-25.
23. Wyoming (8-0) beat Fresno State 42-21.
24. Utah (6-1) beat Texas Christian 21-7.
25. Washington (4-2) beat UCLA 41-21.

Defense Gives Colorado Win Its Zestfulness

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR

Lawrence, Kan. — Colorado's defense packed enough punch to spice an otherwise vanilla performance in Saturday's 20-7 win over Kansas.

The ninth- and 10th-ranked Buffaloes limited Kansas to 190 yards in setting a school record with their ninth-straight road win.

"It was a great, great day for our defense," Colorado linebacker Matt Russell said. "They couldn't run on us, they couldn't throw on us. We were next to dominant on defense."

"I hate to say we were dominant, but we were pretty darn close."

In spoiling homecoming for the Kansas fans in the turnout of 48,500 at Memorial Stadium, Colorado improved to 5-1, 3-0 in the Big 12 Conference's North Division. Kansas, misfiring on offense in losing its second straight home game, dropped to 3-3 and 1-2.

"We're pressing," Kansas Offensive Coordinator Golden Pat Ruel said. "Offensively, we're out of rhythm, and we don't know the tune. We look like a bunch of guys who can't do the 'Macarena' right now."

Meanwhile, Colorado didn't exactly trip the light fantastic in pursuit of a vic-

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UNO Shares NCC Lead After Big Win

BY RICH KAIPUST

UNO's defense had no choice but to be at its best Saturday night against Northern Colorado.

The Mavericks dismantled the Bears' offensive attack in the second half — limiting Northern Colorado to 37 total yards in the final two quarters — and got just enough support to pull out a 15-14 victory before 5,100 at Caniglia Field.

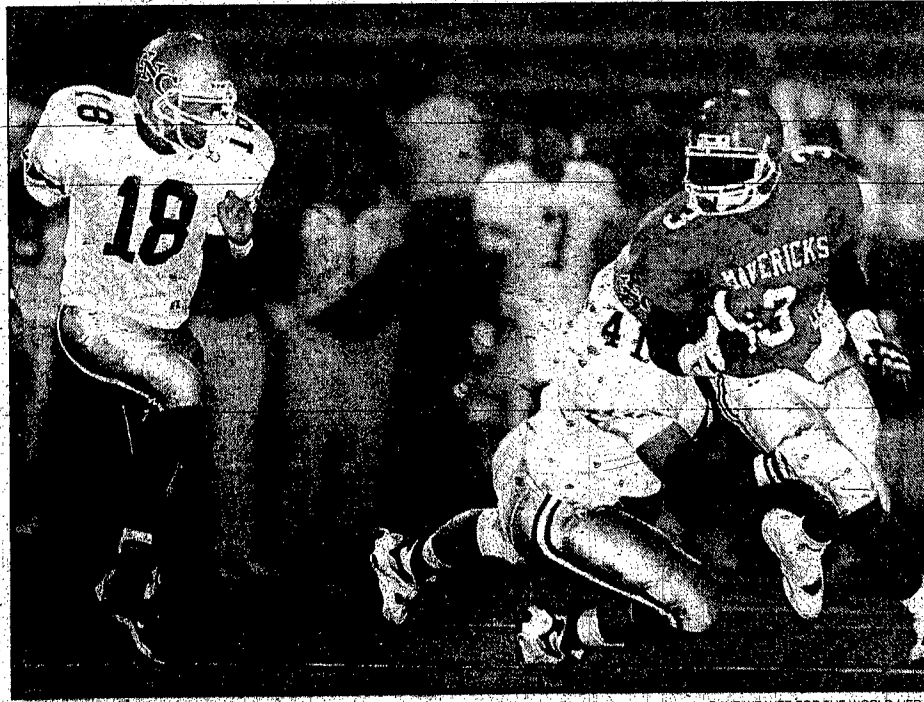
The win sends the University of Nebraska at Omaha, ranked No. 13 in NCAA Division II, into a three-way tie for first place in the North Central Conference. It also sends a message to the Mavs' four remaining opponents that they might want to come with a different offensive game plan.

"Our defense has been giving us opportunities all year," UNO quarterback Ed Thompson said. "They've really showed up every game."

No. 20 Northern Colorado found that out Saturday night. It took the Bears 16½ minutes to get a first down in the second half and 22½ minutes to complete a pass after halftime.

In that time, UNO (6-1 overall, 4-1 in the NCC) battled back from a 14-6 deficit and notched its first lead of the game at 15-14 on Paul Kosel's 28-yard field goal with 7:53 left to play.

"We've said all along, from day back to spring practice, that we've got a



DAVE WEAVER FOR THE WORLD-HERALD

MAV ON THE MOVE: UNO wide receiver Jake Young tries to slip past Northern Colorado's Brian Munroe, No. 41, and Tony Roberson on this first-half play.

Miscues Help Kansas State Stymie A&M

College Station, Texas (AP) — Brian Kavanagh passed for one touchdown and ran for one as No. 21 Kansas State took advantage of five turnovers and held off Texas A&M's 17-point second-half comeback Saturday night for a 23-20 victory.

Kansas State (6-1, 3-1 Big 12) had trouble hearing signals because of the wildly cheering crowd of 64,155. But the Aggies took their crowd out of the game with four first-half turnovers.

The Aggies (3-4, 1-2) scrapped back into the game on a 1-yard touchdown run by D'Andre Hardeman with 10:59 left in the third quarter. Kyle Bryant's 30-yard field goal with 10:51 left in the game and Brannon Stewart's 15-yard touchdown pass to Albert Connell with 3:07 to play.

The Aggies had one final chance when Dante Hall caught an 18-yard pass. But he fumbled, and Kansas State's Mark Simoneau recovered at the Kansas State 17 with 53 seconds left.

The Wildcats put the Aggies in too deep of a hole in the first half.

Safety Mario Smith, who had a 100-yard interception return last week against Missouri, led the Wildcats' first-half assault with an interception and a fumble recovery that set up touchdowns.