

# College Football

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Tom Shatel

## Most in Dark About NU

Lawrence, Kan. — They were already the invisible men of college football, but this was ridiculous.

This was the night the lights went out in Kansas. With 9:36 left in the second quarter at Memorial Stadium, the banks of lights on two of the four standards went ka-bloey, leaving the Huskers and Jayhawks on a half-lit field like overzealous 12-year-olds playing in the back yard at night to the glow of a porch lamp. The power outage didn't last long, but it was only appropriate.

Most people are in the dark when it comes to Nebraska's latest top-ranked offering.

The Huskers, who won a soggy 35-0 game over KU, might be the quietest No. 1 team in the history of No. 1. They are the best unassuming team in the history of unassuming teams.

To most of the country, the boys in red are the Lochness Monster of college football. Their legend is widely known, but nobody has actually seen them.

### 3 TV Games

They have now been on TV three times: on the West Coast in an ABC regional telecast at Washington (up against Tennessee-Florida), on FX against Kansas State and Saturday night's Fox Sports telecast around the Big 12 area. Which means that besides Nebraskans, the Huskers have been seen by a few surfers at Lahaina Beach House in San Diego, some disappointed fans of "The X-Files" and the folks of the Big 12, and they already know more than they want about Nebraska.

Nobody is writing stories about how they are "the greatest team in the history of college football." In fact, the national reporters have yet to visit Lincoln this fall (now that the police blotter is void of Huskers). There is no reason to talk, or even anticipate, their games. That's because, thanks to the Big 12, their schedule is as appetizing as week-old ranch dip.

### Fan Experts

The only known experts on this team are the legions of fans who follow them through rain, sleet or snow—or all of the above, in the case of Saturday night's game. Nebraska fans, more loyal than a golden retriever, took over this lovely hamlet en masse.

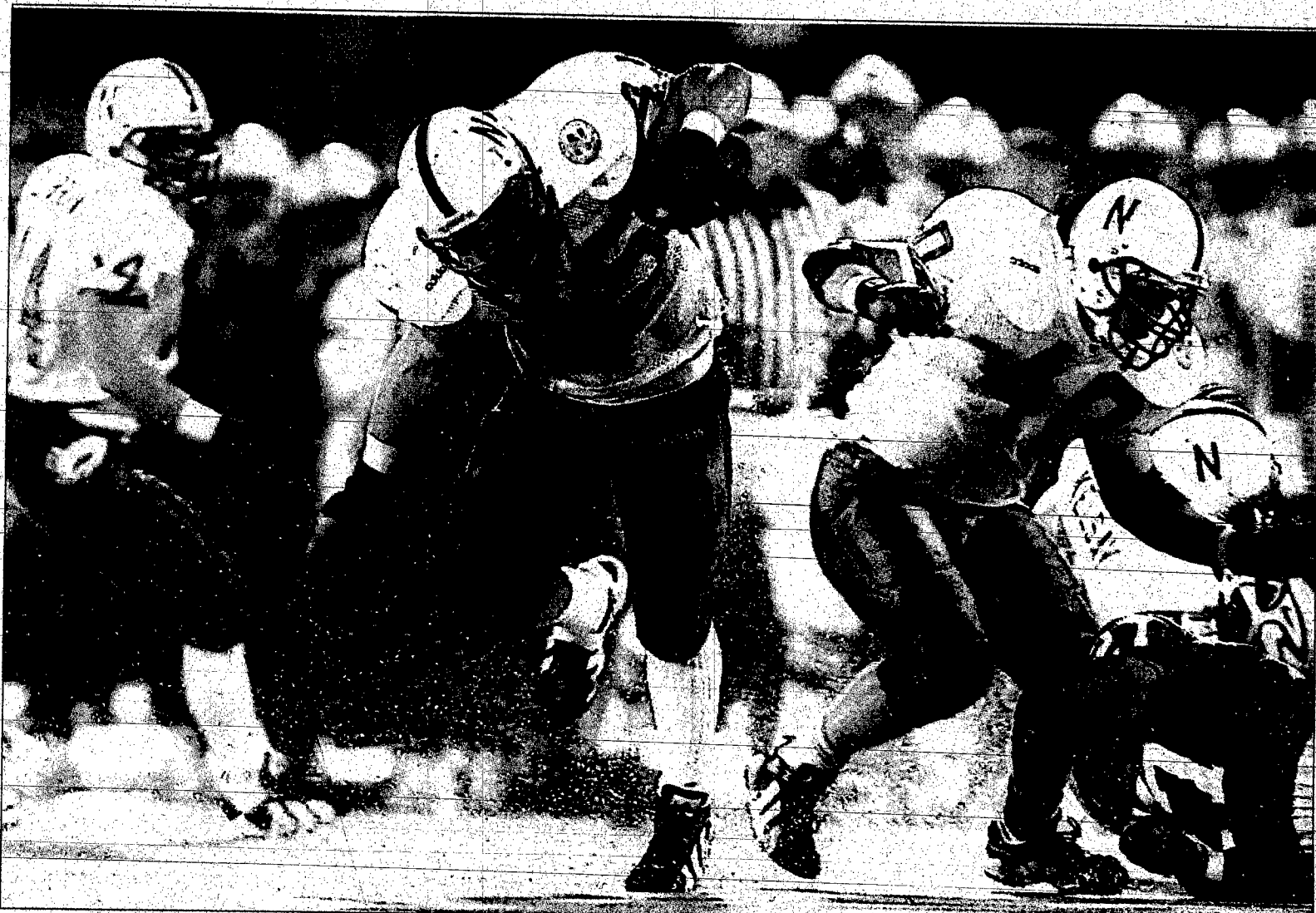
They storm-trooped the local hangout called "The Wheel" before trudging down the hill to Memorial Stadium to sit on sopping wet metal bleachers in a driving rain for three hours. They came in the face of inflated \$40 prices for tickets, which included a package that required purchasers of NU-KU tickets to buy one for another KU game. Nebraska fans are amazing. But if any of them use their extra ticket to come back next Saturday for the Iowa-State game, it may be time to schedule a doctor's appointment for them.

### No. 1 Business

What they saw was a Nebraska team that took care of No. 1 business. The Huskers were as pretty as the weather but just as relentless. Before the game I predicted KU's listless offense would have five first downs (ask KKAR's Gary Java); the Men In Black not only held them to four, but they allowed just 48 total yards, the worst production in KU history. The best KU move of the night was when a fan threw down Herbie Husker at halftime. Rumor was, the fan was immediately given a uniform and told to block Grant Wistrom.

Offensively, Nebraska was Nebraska. In the type of weather that wrecked the Edmund Fitzgerald, the Huskers showed why their offense was built for the Midwest: low to the ground and sturdy. NU rushed 65 times for 382 yards. This was not the night to work on the nation's 107th-ranked passing game. Against a KU defense weakened by suspensions, this was a night to reinforce the theory that the Huskers are the greatest blocking program in the history of college football. Even I-back Ahman Green flew out of a hole on one play like a trained assassin, looking for somebody to block into the turf.

This was Husker weather, on the Huskers' night. It showed early, when KU blocked a Jesse Kosch punt and fullback Joel Makovicka scooped it up and ran 38 yards for a first down. It was 21-0 when the lights went out and the only question then was whether NU would score enough points to stay at No. 1. Which they did. Let's hope the rest of the nation caught it on "SportsCenter."



TURNAROUND: Nebraska fullback Joel Makovicka turned Kansas' first-quarter punt block into a 21-yard gain on fourth down after he picked up the loose ball at the Husker 30-yard line and returned it to the Kansas 32-yard line. The Jayhawks' Jason Harris had blocked Jesse Kosch's punt, which was snapped from the NU 47-yard line. Makovicka finished with 82 yards and two touchdowns in 10 carries.

JEFFREY Z. CARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

# NU's Defense Swamps Kansas

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lawrence, Kan. — Like art, the beauty in Nebraska's 35-0 win over Kansas on Saturday night was in the eye of the beholder.

The Husker defense turned in a masterpiece-quality performance, holding the Jayhawks to 48 total yards in notching back-to-back shutouts for the first time since the 1979 season.

Offensively, Nebraska's final product had more of a paint-by-numbers look. The Huskers scored on three of their first four possessions, gained just 28 yards on their next six, then finished with a flourish with a pair of fourth-

quarter touchdowns.

"We didn't execute great on offense tonight," Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost said. "We got it done, but we could have done it better. It was kind of ugly, like painting your house pink. You get it painted, but it's kind of ugly when you get it done."

In defense of Frost and company, Saturday was not an easy night to play offense. Temperatures in the 40s and rain, sometimes heavy, made it difficult to hang on to the football. A Kansas defense that refused to give in also deserved credit for keeping Nebraska 101 yards under its nation-leading 516-yard offensive average.

## ABC to Show OU-NU at 2:30

Saturday's Nebraska-Oklahoma football game in Lincoln will be televised by ABC, said Steve Hatchell, Big 12 Conference commissioner.

Kickoff will be moved from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"They had a lot of schemes and gave us a lot of pictures," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "They stunted their linebackers, and once in a while we'd

catch them out of position. We'd get a big play, but the next time they'd throw us for a loss."

"It was difficult to throw the ball, just because of the climatic conditions. That limited us a little bit, although we don't throw it a lot anyway. But overall, it was a satisfying win, one that we're glad to be over with."

In winning before a Memorial Stadium crowd estimated at 42,000 — at least half in red — Nebraska improved to 7-0, 4-0 in the Big 12 Conference. The victory, which assured the Huskers of their 36th straight winning season, came in Nebraska's first game since taking over the No. 1 spot in the polls.

"We were under a lot of pressure, this being the first week that we were defending that ranking," defensive tackle Jason Peter said. "I can only speak for the defensive side, but I'm happy with the way we played."

There was little to be unhappy about if you were a Husker defender. Kansas didn't get a first down in the opening half, never made it into Nebraska territory and finished with what is believed to be lowest total offense total in school history.

According to Kansas sports information department personnel, Saturday's 48-yard output — 21 on the ground, 27

See HUSKERS Page 6

## Cyclones Find Good Reason To Celebrate

BY COREY ROSS  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ames, Iowa — The end of daylight-saving time couldn't have come at a better time for Iowa State's football team.

For once the Cyclones had reason to celebrate Saturday, and the time change gave them an extra hour to do it.

A 24-17 victory over Baylor before 34,404 fans at Jack Trice Stadium snapped a 13-game losing streak, previously the second-longest skid in Division I football behind Western Illinois' 14-gamer. Iowa State improved to 1-6 overall and 1-3 in the Big 12 Conference, the same mark was co-conference cellar-dweller Baylor.

Running back Darren Davis got the celebration started with a 39-yard touchdown run with 1 minute, 35 seconds remaining to give Iowa State a 24-10 lead. Baylor put the party preparations on hold briefly by scoring with 37 seconds left.

After Baylor's on-side kick attempt landed in the arms of Iowa State's Chris Anthony, the crowd began to build around the field for the rush to the goal post that ensued when the clock expired.

It was Iowa State's first victory since beating Missouri 45-31 on Sept. 28 last season. Baylor, now 1-6 and 0-4, also represented the Cyclones' last real shot at victory this season, and Coach Dan McCamey said he was happy for his players that they didn't let it get away.

"A lot of times in the last few weeks the kids could've thrown it in and nobody did," McCamey said. "We just hung together through some real tough times."

"We sure haven't turned the corner, but it sure was a sweet win today."

It was made sweeter by the following: ■ Davis rushed for a career-high 258 yards on 33 carries with two touchdowns. See CYCLONES Page 2.

### How The AP Top

# 25

FARED

1. Nebraska (7-0) beat Kansas 35-0.
2. Penn State (6-0) did not play.
3. Florida St. (7-0) beat Virginia 47-21.
4. N. Carolina (7-0) did not play.
5. Michigan (7-0) beat No. 15 Mich. St. 23-7.
6. Florida (6-1) did not play.
7. Washington (6-1) beat Oregon St. 45-17.
8. Tennessee (5-1) did not play.
9. Ohio State (7-1) beat Northwestern 49-6.
10. Wash. State (7-0) beat Arizona 35-34. OT.
11. Auburn (7-1) beat Arkansas 26-21.
12. Okla. State (6-1) lost to Missouri 51-50.
13. UCLA (6-2) beat California 35-17.
14. Kansas State (6-1) beat Oklahoma 26-7.
15. Mich. State (5-2) lost to No. 5 Mich. 23-7.
16. Georgia (6-1) beat Kentucky 23-13.
17. LSU (5-2) did not play.
18. Iowa (5-2) beat Indiana 62-0.
19. Va. Tech (5-2) lost to No. 21 W. Va. 30-17.
20. Texas A&M (5-2) lost to Texas Tech 16-13.
21. West Va. (6-1) beat No. 19 Va. Tech 30-17.
22. Purdue (6-1) beat Illinois 48-3.
23. Arizona St. (5-2) did not play.
24. Toledo (7-0) beat Bowling Green 35-20.
25. Mississippi (4-3) lost to Alabama 29-20.

### Football Inside

- Tim Dwight has the cure for Iowa in a 62-0 victory over Indiana. Page 2.
- Doane overcomes four first-half turnovers to post a 13-10 victory over Northwestern. Page 4.
- UNO's football game with Northern Colorado is postponed until today at 2 p.m. Page 4.

## Buffaloes Pick on Texas

BY LEE BARFKNECHT  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Austin, Texas — Rumors that petitions calling for the immediate firing of Texas Coach John Mackovic would be circulated outside Royal Memorial Stadium on Saturday proved to be false.

So did hopes that the Longhorns would use their first home game in six weeks to break out of a seasonlong funk.

The defending Big 12 Conference champs virtually eliminated themselves from any hopes of repeating by throwing five interceptions and absorbing a 47-30 beating from Colorado. It was the fifth time in seven games that the Longhorns (3-4 overall, 1-3 in the Big 12 South Division) have allowed 31 points or more.

Colorado (4-3, 2-2 in the North) took the lead for good late in the first quarter, was up 24-17 at halftime and stretched the margin to 40-17 after three quarters.

Yet Mackovic, in a postgame address that left writers shaking their heads, three times talked about how proud he was of his team's effort and twice mentioned the positives that the Longhorns could build on.

Quarterback play won't be one of them. James Brown, the preseason choice



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROUGH DAY: Texas Coach John Mackovic watches his team fall to 1-3 in the Big 12 South Division.

as the All-Big 12 quarterback, may not even start in the next game after going 4 for 15 for 60 yards and throwing four interceptions that turned into 24 Colorado points.

"If you're going to ask me about a quarterback change, I haven't made

that decision yet," Mackovic said. "But clearly we have some questions to answer at that position."

When asked what went wrong, Brown replied: "I don't know. I tried to play my best football, but it seemed like I played my worst."

Brown's first four passes of the day — three incompletions and a 21-yard gain — allowed him to tie his own school record for most consecutive passes without an interception at 82. Then the senior from Beaumont, Texas, made up for lost time by throwing four interceptions in his next nine attempts.

The first set up a 42-yard touchdown drive that put Colorado ahead 17-3 with 8:27 to go in the second quarter. Six minutes later, the Buffaloes scored in three plays after another Brown misfire.

Brown and tailback Ricky Williams, who topped 200 yards rushing for the third straight game with 201 in 29 carries, sparked a comeback just before halftime. Brown hit two passes for 33 yards and Williams scored from the 1 as the clock ran out to cut the Colorado lead to 24-17.

But on Texas' first play of the third quarter, CU free safety Ryan Sutter picked off Brown's pass and returned it 34 yards for a touchdown. Five plays

See COLORADO Page 2

## Missouri Halts Cowboy Streak

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missouri brought No. 12 Oklahoma State's remarkable run to a halt Saturday in Stillwater, Okla.

The Tigers, after blowing a 30-7 lead in the second half, rallied in the final two minutes of regulation to tie the score and then won the Big 12 Conference contest in two overtimes 51-50.

When Missouri stopped Tony Lindsay's scramble well short of the goal line on a 2-point try in the second overtime, Oklahoma State (6-1 overall, 3-1

Big 12) had its first loss of the season and Missouri had one of its biggest victories in years.

"We have been involved in overtime games, but one that wild, I don't know if I have ever been involved in one of those," Missouri Coach Larry Smith said. "All of the credit goes to our football team."

The game included brilliant play by each quarterback and by Oklahoma State tight end Alonzo Mayes. Missouri's Corby Jones threw four touchdown passes and ran for two scores, includ-

ing a 15-yard keeper in the second overtime. Lindsay threw four TDs and ran for one, while Mayes had eight catches for 126 yards and two scores, before leaving the game with a separated shoulder.

The Tigers (5-3, 3-2 Big 12) appeared doomed when Lindsay threw a 9-yard scoring pass to Mayes with 1:57 left in regulation, giving Oklahoma State a 37-30 lead.

Missouri had been held to 29 yards on five possessions after going ahead

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