

**Sports Opinion**

By Don Pierson  
The Chicago Tribune

**Bears' Edge: Easy Schedule**

It's halftime of the National Football League season and statistics are marching in, along with the New Orleans Saints.

The 7-1 Saints, Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals and Buffalo Bills are now jockeying for home-field advantage in the playoffs, even though coaches think such talk is premature.

The Bears have the edge in the NFC because their second-half schedule is the "easiest" in the conference, even easier than the New York Giants' in the East.

The Giants have the notoriously easy fifth-place schedule and their remaining opponents currently have a combined record of 28-34-2.

The Bears' opponents are 27-37; the Saints' opponents are 37-27.

In the AFC, the Bills go to Cincinnati to play the Bengals on Nov. 27, which could settle the home field.

**Halftime predictions:**  
NFC Central — Bears.  
NFC East — Giants.  
NFC West — San Francisco 49ers.  
AFC Central — Bengals.  
AFC East — Bills.  
AFC West — Seattle Seahawks.  
NFC Wildcards — Saints and Los Angeles Rams.  
AFC Wildcards — Cleveland Browns and Houston Oilers.

It's easy to be a frontrunner. There also is precedent. Of the 22 AFC participants in Super Bowl history, 19 led or were tied for the lead in their divisions at halftime. Of the 22 NFC participants, 20 led or were tied for first at halftime.

More history: repeat Super Bowl champions have become rare and the Redskins could follow the recent trend of the last four Super Bowl winners failing to win a playoff game the next year.

**Steelers Last Repeaters**

The 1978-79 Pittsburgh Steelers were the last repeat champions. Three other teams repeated Super Bowl victories. Before the Super Bowl, seven other teams repeated NFL titles, so it used to be common.

Only one team ever has skipped one year between titles — the Bears in 1941 and 1943. That's a bad omen for the Giants.

Skipping two years between titles is more in vogue. The 1975 and 1978 Steelers, the 1980 and 1983 Raiders, and the 1981 and 1984 49ers all won Super Bowl titles. Maybe that's why the 1985 Super Bowl champion Bears are now the 3-1 Las Vegas favorite to win in 1988.

**Halftime all-stars:**  
Best quarterback — Boomer Esiason, Bengals.  
Best running back — Roger Craig, 49ers.  
Best wide receiver — Andre Reed, Bills.  
Best tight end — Steve Jordan, Vikings.  
Best outside linebackers — Charles Haley, 49ers; Mike Cofer, Lions.  
Best inside linebacker — Mike Singletary, Bears.  
Best pass rushers — Richard Dent, Steve McMichael, Dan Hampton, Bears; Charles Mann, Redskins; Reggie White, Eagles; Kevin Greene, Rams; Dexter Manley, Redskins. All play in the NFC. Bruce Smith of the Bills missed four games.  
Best cornerbacks — Lewis Billups and Eric Thomas, Bengals (eight interceptions between them).  
Best offensive linemen — Jay Hilgenberg, Bears; Joe Walter, Bengals.  
Best placekickers — Scott Norwood, Bills; Morten Andersen, Saints.  
Best punter — Mike Horan, Broncos.

**Disney-Bound**

After the world champion Los Angeles Dodgers visited the White House, pitcher Orel Hershiser visited Redskin Park, where he met quarterback Doug Williams.

What did the Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl and the Most Valuable Player of the World Series talk about? Commercialism, of course.

"I'm going to Disneyland."

"I'm going to Disney World."

Both players were taped walking off their fields after their victories, "spontaneously" telling the world their next destination.

"We talked about how many takes it took," Hershiser said.

**His Own Man**

Bo Jackson ran twice for 45 yards against New Orleans and came out with a sore hamstring muscle, which didn't surprise close observers of the Kansas City Royals' outfielder in the football uniform of the Los Angeles Raiders.

"I don't give a damn about what people say about Jim Brown and Walter Payton not missing games. I'll do what Bo can do," Jackson said.

Brown never missed a game; Payton missed only one.

Payton was in the Raider camp taping for his British TV feature when asked about Jackson.

Affecting his best British accent, Payton replied: "I say, people have to realize he has to make that decision. I wonder what people would have said if he had gone out there and torn the hamstring and been out the rest of the season."

Payton, of course, played despite injuries to hamstrings, thighs, knees, ankles and toes.

"It will always remain a mystery," Payton said. "If you believe you're a fast healer, you heal fast."

**Cougar Rally Stuns No. 1 UCLA**

Pasadena, Calif. (AP) — UCLA's dream of winning a national championship now appears to be all but gone.

Washington State, a 19-point underdog, rallied for a wild 34-30 upset on Saturday, outscoring the top-ranked Bruins 28-3 after the opening minutes of the second half.

"The biggest thing about this team, we get beat by Arizona State last week at our place and everybody writes us off," Washington State Coach Dennis Erickson said. "And we come back and beat the No. 1 team in the country."

"How can you talk about anything but a great effort? I'm still in shock. This is the biggest win I've been involved with."

Rich Swinton's 1-yard touchdown run with 6:21 remaining capped the remarkable Washington State comeback, but the Cougars needed a goal-line stand in the final minute to put the Bruins away.

The Bruins got to Washington State's 6-yard line with 35 seconds remaining, but Troy Aikman threw four straight incompletions.

"We were the No. 1 team in the country and on-track to the Rose Bowl and a national championship and we lost," Aikman said. "Words don't describe how I feel."

Washington State, which had lost its last two games, has a 2-3 Pacific-10 Conference record and a 5-3 overall mark. UCLA fell to 4-1 in Pac-10 play and 7-1 overall.

After Alfredo Velasco's 30-yard field goal with 11:39 to play put the Bruins ahead 30-27, Washington State drove 80 yards in 13 plays — all on the ground —

to score the winning touchdown.

The march was aided by two personal foul penalties against UCLA.

On the ensuing kickoff, Washington State kicker Jason Hanson recovered a fumble by Brian Brown at the UCLA 37-yard line.

The Cougars then marched to the Bruins' 19, where the drive stalled, and Hanson was wide left on a 36-yard field goal attempt with 3:16 remaining.

UCLA then moved to the Washington State 45-yard line, but Artie Holmes intercepted an Aikman pass at the

Washington State 38 with 1:59 left.

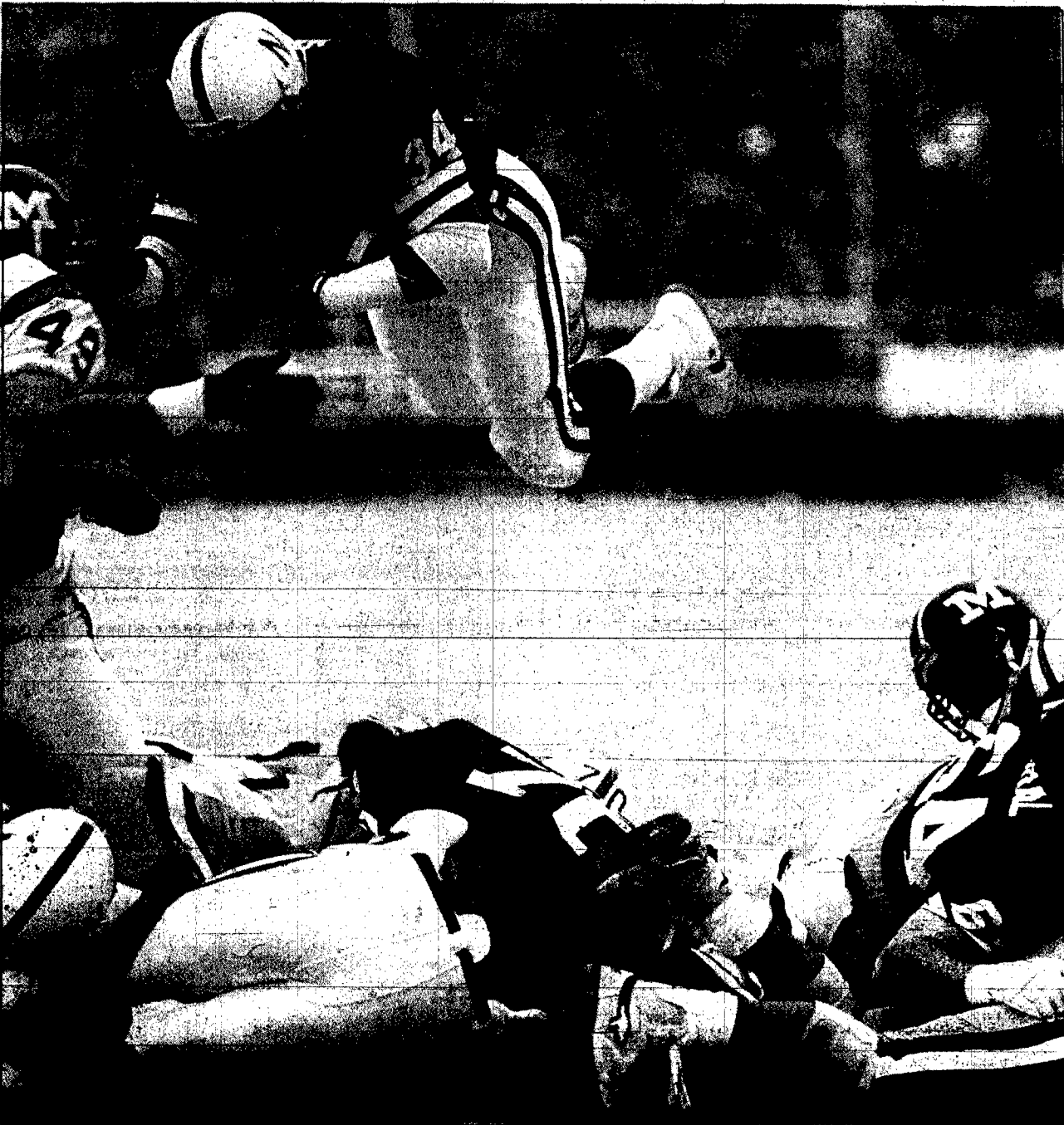
"I read the quarterback's eyes, I read him perfectly," said Holmes, describing the play. "Coach told me, 'We need a turnover,' so I got it."

"I wouldn't want to be the next team UCLA plays."

A 31-yard punt return by Darryl Henley and a 33-yard pass from Aikman to Charles Arbuckle put the Bruins in position to win the game, but the Washington State defense came

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**Carpenter Hammers Door Shut as NU Finally Solves Missouri's Blitzing Defense**



Chris Young/World-Herald

Nebraska's hopes soared when I-back Tyreese Knox leaped over teammates Doug Glaser, No. 70, and John Roschal, No. 64, and past Missouri's A.J. Miller, No. 49, for a 1-yard touchdown run with 6:32 left in the third quarter. The touchdown put NU ahead 14-9, and the lead changed three more times before Bryan Carpenter's 49-yard TD run gave NU the lead for good with 8:24 left.

By Lee Barfknecht  
World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln — Missouri dusted off a 7-year-old defense Saturday to nearly dust off fifth-ranked Nebraska.

The 34-point underdog Tigers raged into the Nebraska backfield all afternoon with a three-man blitz, forcing five fumbles out of Husker quarterback Steve Taylor and holding the nation's No. 1 rushing offense to 8 yards through three quarters.

But Taylor heaved an 82-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to tight end Todd Millikan for Nebraska's first score.

He launched a 59-yarder to split end Nate Turner to set up the field goal that put the Huskers ahead after three quarters.

And after Missouri took the lead again in the fourth quarter, Taylor changed plays and read the correct option handoff, allowing fullback Bryan Carpenter to explode 49 yards for the eventual winning touchdown in Nebraska's 26-18 victory before 76,316 fans at Memorial Stadium.

The win boosted Nebraska's record to 8-1 overall and 4-0 in the Big Eight. Missouri fell to 2-5-1 and 1-3.

"Let me tell you, that wasn't easy," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "I'm very proud of our team for winning this game."

"People will be upset with us because we didn't make the point spread. But that was the most ridiculous point spread I've ever seen in my life."

"I know what Missouri has got. They have lost to some teams big. But when they play well, they have got the people to play with anybody."

The Tigers proved it Saturday, using the same blitz they used in 1981 to confound Nebraska and its quarterback, Turner Gill, until the final 23 seconds, when fullback Phil Bates scored from the 3 for a 6-0 NU win.

"They went back to their 1981 game plan," Osborne said. "They knocked the tar out of Turner Gill all day and blitzed from every angle."

Carl Reese was Missouri's defensive coordinator under Warren Powers in 1981. Reese, after coaching in the United States Football League, returned to the Tigers last year.

Osborne said the Huskers prepared heavily last year for Reese's "Houston blitz," but saw little of it.

"This year, we worked on it a little bit," he said. "But they went entirely away from everything they had done defensively today. And you've got to work on what they show you."

What Missouri unveiled was a blitz involving two of its three linebackers, plus the strong safety. What made it difficult to defend, Osborne said, was that two of the blitzers always came through the same gap.

The pressure produced mind-numb-

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**How the Top 20s Fared**

AP/UPI	Next Opponent
1/ 1 UCLA (7-1) lost to Washington State 34-30	Oregon
2/ 2 Notre Dame (8-0) beat Navy 22-7	Rice
3/ 3 Southern Cal (7-0) beat Oregon State 41-20	California
4/ 4 Miami (6-1) beat East Carolina 31-7	Tulsa
5/ 6 Nebraska (8-1) beat Missouri 26-18	Iowa State
6/ 7 Florida State (7-1) did not play	South Carolina Nov. 5
7/ 6 West Virginia (8-0) did not play	Cincinnati
8/ 8 Oklahoma (7-1) beat Kansas 63-14	Oklahoma State
9/ 9 Auburn (7-1) beat Wake Forest 38-21	Southern Mississippi
10/ 10 Wyoming (9-0) beat Colorado State 48-14	Texas-EI Paso
11/ 11 Arkansas (8-0) beat Rice 21-14	Baylor
12/ 12 Oklahoma State (6-1) beat Kansas State 45-27	Oklahoma
13/ 15 Louisiana State (5-2) beat Mississippi 31-20	Alabama
14/ 14 Michigan (5-2-1) beat North Western 62-7	Minnesota
15/ 18 Clemson (6-2) beat North Western 62-7	North Carolina
16/ 13 Syracuse (6-1) did not play	Navy Nov. 5
17/ 17 South Carolina (7-1) beat North Carolina State 23-7	Florida State
18/ 20 Georgia (6-2) beat William & Mary 59-24	Florida
19/ 16 Alabama (6-1) beat Mississippi State 53-34	LSU
20/ 19 Oregon (6-2) beat Arizona State 21-20	UCLA

**Ready for Colorado, Oklahoma Mills Says Defense Showed True Colors**

By Doug Thomas  
World-Herald Staff Writer

Lincoln — Nebraska turned in its best defensive game of the season against Missouri, outside linebacker Jeff Mills said.

"The defense has been much maligned," he said after the Huskers' 26-18 victory Saturday. "I really feel we stepped to the forefront and showed people our true colors."

The defense, in its first test against the triple-option wishbone attack, held Missouri to 156 rushing yards in 55 carries, gobbling up five turnovers and thwarted two big opportunities for Missouri touchdowns.

Fumbles by Steve Taylor gave Missouri the ball at the NU 23 and the NU 4. But the Tigers came away with just two field goals, and they could build only a 9-0 lead before the Huskers' offense got untracked.

"Our defense played a hell of a game," NU center Jake Young said. "They kept us in it."

"I don't know how many yards they got," defensive tackle Willie Griffin said. "But we had them kicking field goals all day."

"I thought we held up pretty good. We played the option and held the fullback down pretty well. I think we're ready

for Colorado and Oklahoma."

The Buffaloes and Sooners, the Huskers' last two regular-season opponents, also run the wishbone. NU players said they worked on the formation several Mondays before the week of the Missouri game.

"So we were ready for it," linebacker Chris Caliendo said. "We just put things together. Everybody played their keys. Everybody played their gaps."

"We played as a unit on defense. And we played well."

Caliendo led the Huskers with 11

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**Bieniemy Runs Buffs Past ISU**

Boulder, Colo. (AP) — Statistics don't impress Eric Bieniemy; victories are what turns him on.

The stubby Colorado running back got his statistics — 166 rushing yards and a touchdown — Saturday and they provided the impetus for the Buffaloes to gain a 24-12 Big Eight Conference victory over Iowa State.

The victory raised CU's Big Eight record to 2-2, 6-2 overall, while Iowa State dropped to 2-2 and 4-4 overall.

"Stats and post-season honors are nice," said the 5-foot-6, 190-pound Bieniemy, "but I am more focused on how we do as a team. I'm just looking

**Inside Sports**

**Prep's Playoff Game Will Start at 5 p.m.**

Omaha Creighton Prep and North Platte agree to a 5 p.m. kickoff at Kinnick Stadium for their first-round game in Wednesday's Class A high school football playoffs.

**DEAL REACHED:** Former University of Florida Coach Charley Pell said he had a secret agreement with school president Marshall Criser to accept the blame for NCAA charges against the football program in 1984.

**Inside Scores**

Notre Dame	22
Navy	7
Oklahoma State	45
Kansas State	27
Indiana	45
Iowa	34
LSU	31
Mississippi	20
Arkansas	21
Rice	14

**St. Cloud Calls Harry, But UNO Lacks Answer**

By Eric Olson  
World-Herald Staff Writer

St. Cloud, Minn. — Need a yard? Call Harry.

Need a touchdown? Call Harry.

Need a victory? Again, call Harry.

St. Cloud State called on Harry Jackson 30 times Saturday, and the school's all-time leading rusher answered with 187 yards and the game-winning touchdown in the Huskies' 20-17 victory over the University of Nebraska at Omaha before 2,065 fans at Selke Field.

"He's a load to bring down," Mavericks' coach Sandy Buga said. "You have to gang tackle him and hit him directly."

"But we had our opportunities to win the game, and we couldn't cash in on them offensively or defensively."

The loss dropped UNO to 3-4 in the North Central Conference and 5-4 overall. St. Cloud State, 4-3 and 6-3, kept alive its national playoff hopes with the win.

The Mavs, who trailed 13-0 early in the second quarter, led 17-13 after three quarters. But the Huskies, led by Jackson's 81 yards in the fourth quarter, ground out two long drives in the final period — one for a touchdown and another that chewed more than eight minutes off the clock and left the Mavs

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