

**The Top 25:
How they
Fared**

The Associated Press ratings

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Penn State (7-0) beat No. 21 Ohio State 53-14	Colorado (7-1) lost to No. 3 Nebraska 24-7	Nebraska (8-0) beat No. 2 Colorado 24-7	Alabama (8-0) beat Arkansas 31-14	Florida (5-1) played Georgia, late	Miami (6-1) beat No. 13 Virginia Tech 24-3	Texas A&M (7-0) tied SMU 21-21	Alabama (8-0) did not play	Florida State (6-1) beat No. 16 Duke 59-20	Michigan (5-3) lost to Wisconsin 31-19	Arizona (6-2) lost to Oregon 10-9	Utah (8-0) beat Texas El Paso 52-7	Va Tech (7-2) lost to No. 8 Miami 24-3	Syracuse (6-1) did not play	Washington (6-1) did not play	Duke (7-1) lost to No. 9 Florida St. 59-20	Colorado State (7-1) did not play	Virginia (6-1) did not play	Texas (5-3) lost to Texas Tech 33-9	BYU (7-2) lost to Arizona St. 36-15	Ohio State (6-2) lost to No. 1 Penn St. 63-14	Washington State (5-2) played California, late	Kansas State (5-2) beat Oklahoma 21-20	North Carolina (6-2) beat NC State 31-17	Southern Cal (5-2) did not play

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NU Rolls: Why Not No. 1?

Tom Shatel



Osborne Lets Actions Talk

Lincoln
Nebraska is the No. 1 team in the country. But don't quote Tom Osborne on that.
"I don't much care about the polls," said Nebraska's football coach minutes after his team showed that it did by thumping Colorado, 24-7. "I care about them in the sense that they may dictate where you go for a bowl. But I'll let you guys decide that."

On a day when the No. 2 (coaches poll) and No. 3 (writers and broadcasters) ranked Huskers decisively narrowed the national championship chase to them and Penn State...

Moments after he put the finishing touch on perhaps his best coaching job in 22 years and staked a claim for his first national coach-of-the-year award...

And in a political process that often puts as much emphasis on press conference performances as on-the-field statements...

No More to Say

Maybe the best move Osborne made all day was excusing himself from his press conference.

"Anything else I say," Osborne said, "might be counterproductive."

Perhaps the Oz approach is the right approach. There's already too much lobbying for college football's top prize. But with No. 1-ranked Penn State headed to the Rose Bowl and stating its case with a 63-14 rout of Ohio State, the least Osborne could do is hold up an index finger for the cameras.

Then again, maybe that wasn't necessary at all.

Osborne's political team of punishing offensive linemen, frighteningly quick linebackers and a gutsy junior quarterback named Brook Berringer — among others — presented all the evidence anyone needed Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Overpowering Line

The Huskers are No. 1 because of an offensive line that seems bent on destroying any and all moving objects in its path, including Hurricanes.

They are No. 1 because of a defense that continues to show a championship form in the biggest games. The Huskers have to hope whoever said "defense wins championships" wasn't lying.

They are No. 1 because they took the annual Colorado hype, crushed it into a ball and tossed it in the nearest trash container. If Colorado was the No. 1 team in the country, as some were suggesting because of the Buffs' schedule, then the Huskers deemed themselves 1-A.

Mostly, they are No. 1 because Tommie Frazier, arguably their most valuable player, has been wearing jeans shorts to games since Sept. 24. Whether or not Penn State could perform the same trick without a top gun is as unknown as who would win Nebraska vs. Penn State.

Dumas: No Doubt

The Huskers could only try to make the process as subjective as possible.

"We're No. 1, plain and simple," linebacker Troy Dumas said. "Everyone who downgrades us can't do that anymore if they saw this. If we're not No. 1, something is ridiculous."

Said senior offensive tackle Zach Wiegert: "I hope all the voters watched this game. They say we don't play a tough schedule, but today we beat the team that supposedly played the toughest schedule, and it wasn't close. They say we can't win a big game but was there a bigger game in college football this season than this one?"



DOWN THEY GO: Nebraska fans topple the goal posts following the Huskers' 24-7 home victory over No. 2- and 3-ranked Colorado, the eighth time in Memorial Stadium history that the posts were torn down. The Huskers (9-0) dominated the first half while taking a 17-0 lead and holding a 234-to-89 edge in total yards.

NU Defense Stampedes Buff Quarterback

BY ERIC OLSON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — For all the fancy, technical schemes football teams employ in playing defense, it was the sport's most basic element that led to Nebraska's success Saturday against Colorado.

The Blackshirts simply hit the Buffaloes, and hit them hard.
"We pounded away and punished

them from the first snap until the last," strongside linebacker Troy Dumas said after the 24-7 victory.

The Huskers showed a couple of different wrinkles, most notably a pass rush that had the outside linebackers loop around and attack from the inside.

But, for the most part, the Blackshirts figured that if they could get into quarterback Kordell Stewart's head — by way of some shots to his body — they

could disrupt the previously unbeaten Buffaloes.

Stewart has succumbed to NU's defensive pressure before. He completed only 8 of 28 passes in NU's 21-17 victory at Boulder last year. Among his misses were three interceptions, including one late in the game that killed the Buffs' comeback hopes.

Saturday, Stewart hit 12 of 28 passes (43 percent) for 150 yards. It marked the

first time this season that Stewart, a 65-percent passer coming into the game, had completed fewer than half of his attempts. He ran 14 times for 24 yards, his second-lowest rushing total of the season.

Stewart's 174 total yards were far off his seven-game average of 253.6 yards, which had ranked first in the Big Eight. Please turn to Page 11, Col. 5

3 Seniors Lift Norfolk Hopes For First State Football Title

BY STU POSPISIL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Norfolk, Neb. — They strike at any time, anywhere on the football field.

Curtis Miller with his passing and his option running. Chad Bell with his two-step acceleration from his full-back position. Kyle Eberhardt with his durability and elusiveness on kick returns.

No one has stopped the Norfolk Panther offense in a 9-0 season. And the three seniors — each a major college prospect — hope no one does during a possible roll through the Class A playoffs to a first-ever Norfolk state championship in football.

"This offense gives us such a wide variety of things we can do," Miller said. "When you have the threats like Chad and Kyle behind you, if defenses don't honor those two, we'll just run all over them."

"And if they load up on the line, we'll throw over them."

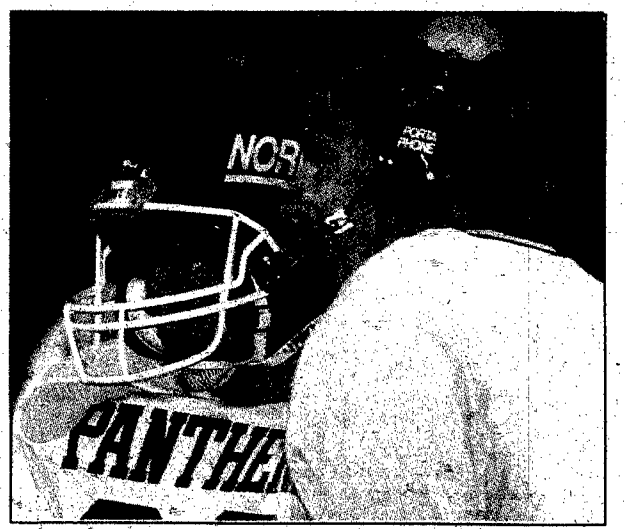
Norfolk is averaging 41.6 points per game, with four games of 50 or more points.

Bell has rushed for 1,059 yards. Eberhardt needs 144 yards for his 1,000-yard season. Miller is 75 yards short of 1,000 yards passing.

"They have everything offensively," Lincoln Southeast Coach Chuck Mizerski said after a 35-7 loss to Norfolk. "They have a big, strong line and a great fullback. Their quarterback runs the option as well as anyone you'll see, and he has several who he can pitch it to."

"They execute their offense very well, and it will be difficult for anyone to beat them."

Their play is exciting the northeast Nebraska city of 21,476, which has



PLAYOFF-BOUND: Norfolk Coach Dan McLaughlin, right, confers with Scott Macholan during a victory over Lincoln East in Lincoln.

Western's Surge Defeats Chadron

WORLD-HERALD NEWS SERVICE

Gunnison, Colo. — A blocked punt early in the third quarter started a Western State scoring explosion as the Mountaineers beat Chadron State 43-12 Saturday in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

With Western State ahead 14-6, Sam Courts blocked an Eagles punt in the end zone, and Donté Stewart recovered it to score the first of the Mountaineers' 29 second-half points.

Rimington Unanimous Pick on 'Best Player' List

Edmond, Okla. (AP) — Defensive back Deion Sanders and offensive lineman Dave Rimington were two of seven players unanimously chosen by the Football Writers Association of America as the best players from its 25 most recent All-America teams.

Sanders, who now plays for the San Francisco 49ers, was an All-American at Florida State in 1987-88. Rimington was an All-American for Nebraska in 1981-82.

Other unanimous choices of the writers, announced Saturday, were wide

receiver Anthony Carter (Michigan, 1981-82); offensive linemen Bill Fralic (Pittsburgh, 1983-84), and John Hannah (Alabama, 1972); defensive lineman Lee Roy Selmon (Oklahoma, 1975), and punter Ray Guy (Southern Mississippi, 1972).

Two other former Huskers — offensive lineman Dean Steinkuhler (1983) and kick returner Johnny Rodgers (1971-72) — were also selected.

Also chosen by an eight-member committee of writers for the offense were wide receiver Jerry Rice (Mississippi

Valley State, 1984); tight end Keith Jackson (Oklahoma, 1986-87); lineman Jerry Sisemore (Texas, 1971-72); quarterback John Elway (Stanford, 1982); and running backs Tony Dorsett (Pittsburgh, 1975-76), and Herschel Walker (Georgia, 1980-82).

Other defensive selections were lineman Steve Emtman (Washington, 1991), Randy White (Maryland, 1974) and Jack Youngblood (Florida, 1970); linebackers Hugh Green (Pittsburgh, 1978, 1980); Mike Singletary (Baylor, 1979-80); and Lawrence Taylor (North Carolina,

1980); and backs Ken Easley (UCLA, 1978-80), Ronnie Lott (Southern California, 1980), and Jack Tatum (Ohio State 1969-70).

Tony Franklin (Texas A&M, 1976, 1978) was the place-kicker.

The writers also selected a team for the period between 1920 and 1968. Players chosen included ends Bennie Foster-baan of Michigan and Don Hutson of Alabama; lineman Bronko Nagurski of Minnesota; and backs Sammy Baugh of Texas Christian; Jay Berwanger of Chicago and Red Grange of Illinois.

Nittany Lions Present Case To Stay No. 1

State College, Pa. (AP) — Penn State did all it could Saturday to hold onto its No. 1 ranking by handing No. 21 Ohio State a 63-14 loss, its worst in 48 years.

The Nittany Lions, knowing No. 3 Nebraska already had beaten No. 2 Colorado 24-7, led 35-0 at halftime.

Ki-Jana Carter, who grew up 10 minutes from the Ohio State campus, ran for four touchdowns and left in the third quarter with the score 49-7.

Carter finished with 137 yards on 19 carries. Kerry Collins, the nation's top-rated passer, engineered five long drives and completed 19 of 23 for 265 yards and two touchdowns.

The Nittany Lions (7-0 overall and 4-0 in the Big Ten) sent Ohio State to its most lopsided loss since a 58-6 defeat in 1946. Only a touchdown in the three minutes helped the Buckeyes avoid their worst loss since an 86-0 beating by Michigan in 1902.

Ohio State (6-3 and 3-2) fell two games behind Penn State in the Big Ten.

The Lions' Bobby Engram had six catches in the first half, including one touchdown and a highlight-film grab. With 3½ minutes left in the half, Engram ran a short pattern and slipped, but he was able to recover and make a diving, one-handed catch at the Ohio State 36.

On the next play, Carter burst up the middle and broke Tito Paul's flying tackle for his third touchdown to make it 28-0. Carter also scored on the Lions' first possession, a 20-yard run through the middle helped by blocks from Keith Conlin and Engram.

With 56 seconds remaining in the half, Ohio State quarterback Bobby Hoying

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