

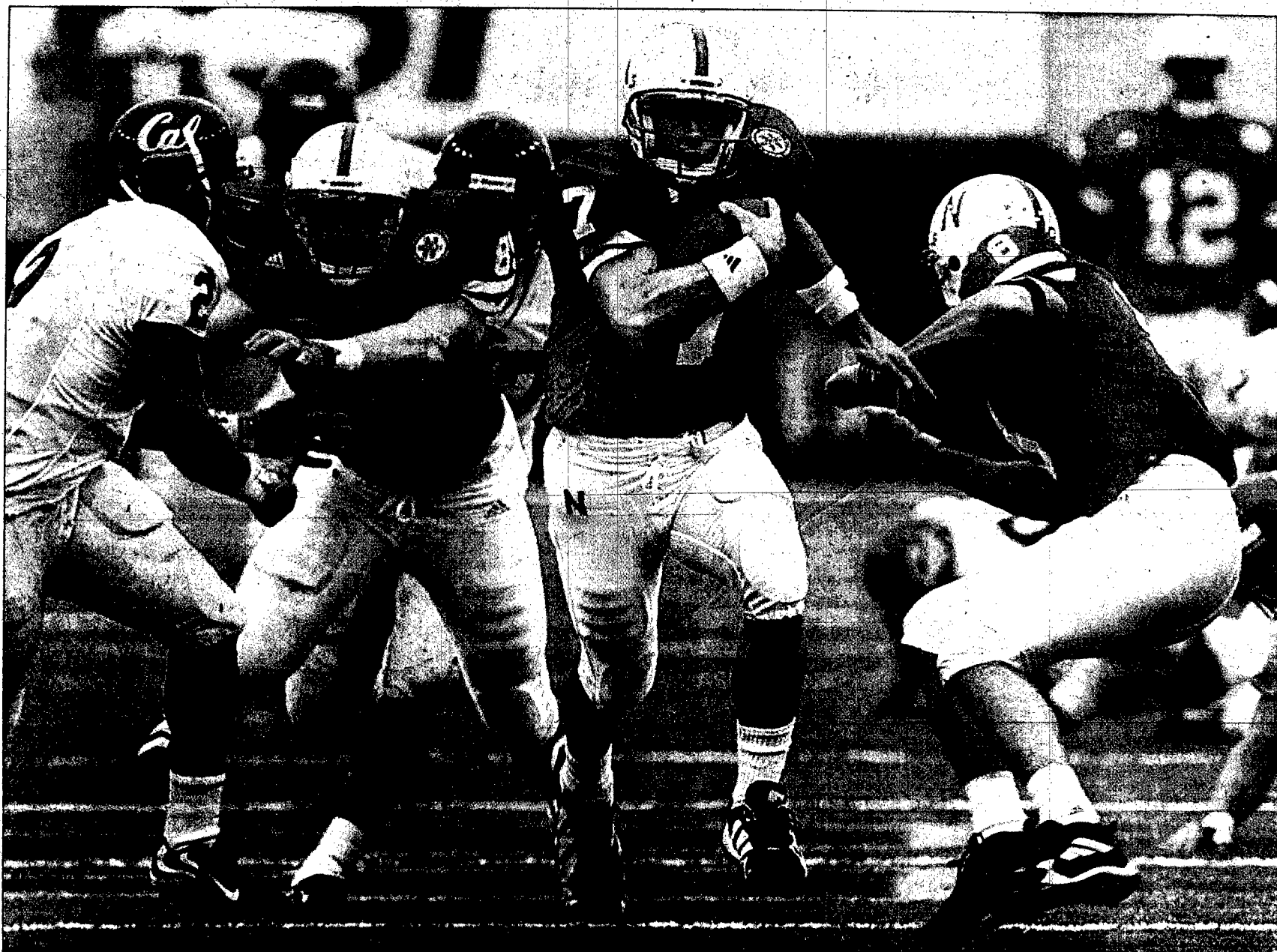
College Football

BIG 12, 2
SCORES, SUMMARIES, 5

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999

PAGE 1-FOOTBALL

Blackshirts Maul Bears



SIX POINTS: Nebraska tight end T.J. DeBates, left, and wingback John Gibson clear a path for NU's Eric Crouch on this 60-yard TD reception from Bobby Newcombe.

BILL BATSON/THE WORLD-HERALD

NU's New Triple Threat: Crouch Steals Show Again

Lincoln
 Good morning, Sunday morning quarterbacks. Let's play "three questions."

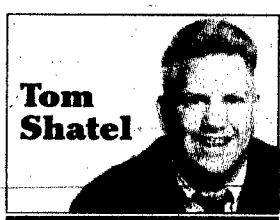
(1) Before the season, which Nebraska Cornhusker would you have guessed would have thrown, run and caught a touchdown in the same game?

(2) Back in those dog days of August, which Husker would you have said would be ABC's "Player of the Game" on consecutive weeks?

(3) Just a couple of weeks ago, which one of the boys in red would you have sworn on a stack of playbooks would be the team's most valuable player this season?

If you said "Bobby Newcombe," well, congratulations, you're as smart as the rest of us. If you said "Eric Crouch," you're going to jail for lying under oath.

There may have been a few



Tom Shatel

bleacher creatures who predicted greatness for Crouch this season. But he wasn't one of them. Not two weeks ago, when he drew the No. 2 straw in the quarterback race. Thank goodness Crouch's family and friends believed in their favorite son.

"They told me, 'Things could be worse,'" Crouch said. "They were right. I'm still playing for the Huskers, and I'm blessed with the See SHATEL Page 9-Football



JEFF BEIERMANN/THE WORLD-HERALD
INCOMPLETE: Nebraska's Julius Jackson separates California's Joel Young from a first-quarter pass.

Defense, Big Passes Make The Difference in 45-0 Win

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Nebraska's combination of a versatile Eric Crouch and a vicious defense Saturday put the squeeze on California's upset bid.

Crouch became the first Nebraska player in 26 seasons to catch, run and throw for a touchdown in the same game. As it turned out, the Huskers needed just one of those scores as the defense again put on a dominating show in the 45-0 victory, which drew a record crowd of 77,617 for the dedication of the \$36.1 million Memorial Stadium improvement project.

The defense and Crouch helped the fifth- and sixth-ranked Huskers overcome a running game that was missing in action against California's aggressive defense. Nebraska

finished with just 114 yards rushing, with third-string I-back Dahrren Diedrick leading the way with 29 yards on five late-game carries. Starting I-back DeAngelo Evans and No. 2 Dan Alexander were held to 5 and 26 yards, respectively.

"That doesn't make a lot of sense if you look at it from an offensive standpoint," said Crouch, referring to the high point total and the low rushing output. "But if you watched the game, you saw what our defense did for us. They put us in great position and they did that all day long. That made it easy on the offense."

Nebraska, which finished with 301 yards, limited I-1 California to 145 yards, 73 of which came in the first 15 minutes. The Golden Bears gained just 40 yards rushing, on 35 carries, and averaged 2.4 yards on

their 61 offensive plays. California got no closer than 14 yards to the Nebraska goal, and saw its only chances to score bounce away when kicker Ignacio Brache twice hit the left upright on field-goal attempts.

"We'll take it," Nebraska rover back Mike Brown said. "You always need a little luck in football."

Nebraska needed little Saturday, relying instead on a defense that has yet to be scored on this season. The only touchdown Nebraska has allowed in its two wins came when Iowa blocked a punt and returned it for a score in the Sept. 4 game at Iowa.

In two games, the Huskers have allowed a pair of offensively challenged opponents to gain a total of 314 yards and average a measly 2.7

See HUSKERS Page 7-Football

Mavericks Escape UNK With Comeback Victory

BY RICH KAIPUST
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Kearney, Neb. — The UNO team bus couldn't have gotten loaded up and out of town fast enough for the Mavericks after their 29-26 victory Saturday night over the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Like breaking out of jail, you don't look back once you've escaped.

UNO was outplayed for the first half and put in several precarious positions in the second half before a crowd of 7,512 at Foster Field. But the Mavs somehow found themselves listening to a relieved — instead of irritated — Head Coach Pat Behrens afterwards.

"Before you can win them all, you've got to win the tough ones," Behrens told his players. "And I don't know if we've ever been in a tougher one."

The University of Nebraska at Omaha held UNK scoreless in the second half to overcome a 26-14 deficit. The win extended the Mavs' winning

streak over the Antelopes to five games and left them at 2-0 heading into their North Central Conference football schedule.

"That took guts, fortitude. . . whatever," Behrens said. "That was a tough situation to be in out there. We could have gave that thing up."

UNO was able to disarm UNK quarterback Justin Coleman just enough in the second half to keep the Lopers out of the end zone. UNK's last two threats ended with kicker Volker Olbrich missing field goals of 43 and 55 yards.

UNO avoided a major letdown after easily handling No. 1-ranked Northwest Missouri State 40-17 in its season-opening game.

"It would have been a hard thing to take," UNO linebacker Jason Bartling said. "They always say it doesn't matter what you do for your first win, but it's how you react after your first win. If we had come in and lost this one, if we had come in and lost this one, if we had come in and lost this one, if we had come in and lost this one. See MAVERICKS Page 6-Football



BRAD NORTON FOR THE WORLD-HERALD
TOUGH YARDAGE: UNK tailback Eric Jorgensen stumbles as UNO defenders Mike Comer, left, and Jason Bartling, No. 46, move in.

Davis Cramps Hawks' Style With Repeat 200-Yard Game

BY COREY ROSS
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ames, Iowa — Iowa State running back Dahrren Davis overcame leg cramps to once again be a pain in Iowa's side.

Davis led the Cyclones to their second straight victory over Iowa with another 200-yard rushing game against the Hawkeyes in a 17-10 victory Saturday night. A crowd of 50,402, the largest ever in the current configuration of Jack Trice Stadium, watched Davis rush for 235 yards and one touchdown on 38 carries.

As a junior, Davis rushed for 244 yards and a touchdown on 37 carries to help snap Iowa's 15-game winning streak in the series in a 27-9 Cyclone victory.

His encore had an added touch of drama Saturday. After rushing for 118 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries in the first half to lead ISU to a 14-0 half-time lead, Davis limped off the field three times in the second half with leg cramps. He kept coming back to lead Iowa State to its first 2-0 start since 1985.

Iowa State offensive lineman Ben Bruns said Davis gave the Cyclones the physical and emotional lift they needed.

"It's great to see a guy giving his all like that," Bruns said. "I told him afterward that I have all the respect in the world for him."

"It was all guts," Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney said of Davis, "and a good dose of talent."

Davis used a little of both on his biggest gain of the game. He returned from injury for the second time late in the third quarter to put Iowa State in position for its final score. Davis bolted through a blitzing Iowa defense for the 54-yard gain which set up Mike McKnight's 32-yard field goal for a 17-7 Iowa State lead.

The extra points put more pressure on a struggling Iowa offense. The Hawkeyes could only manage a 47-yard Tim Douglas field goal in the fourth quarter with 6:36 remaining.

The Hawkeyes had a chance to tie when Davis went out for the third time. He limped off with 5 minutes, 22 seconds left. See CYCLONES Page 10-Football