

**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
Florida State (3-0) beat NC State 17-17	Nebraska (3-0) beat Kentucky 53-17	Texas A&M (2-0) beat Tulsa 52-9	Florida (3-0) beat Tennessee 62-37	Auburn (2-1) beat LSU 12-6	Southern Cal (1-0) beat Houston 14-0	Penn State (2-0) beat Temple 16-14	Tennessee (2-1) beat Florida 62-37	Colorado (3-0) beat NE Louisiana 66-14	Ohio State (2-0) beat Washington 30-20	Michigan (4-0) beat Boston College 23-13	UCLA (2-1) beat Oregon 38-31	Alabama (2-1) beat Arkansas 20-19	Oklahoma (2-0) beat SMU 24-10	Texas (2-0) beat Pittsburgh 38-27	Virginia (3-1) beat Georgia Tech 41-14	Arizona (2-1) beat Illinois 9-7	Washington (1-1) beat Ohio State 30-20	Miami (1-1) did not play	Oregon (3-0) beat UCLA 38-31	Air Force (2-1) beat Colorado St 27-20	Kansas State (2-0) did not play	Georgia (2-1) beat N. Mexico St 23-13	Notre Dame (2-1) beat Vanderbilt 41-9	Northwestern (1-1) beat Miami 30-28

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NU Remedy: Big Victory

Lincoln
Just what the Doctor ordered. That is, Dr. Tom Osborne, Nebraska's football coach who holds a doctorate in psychology. His patients were 75,000 Nebraskans in need of some good medicine for the spirits, if not a good shrink. They should have got all the positive reinforcement they needed from Nebraska's 77-28 victory Saturday over Arizona State.

Call it group therapy.

Here in the land of the Game of the Century, three national championships, the Outland-spewing weight palace and the bottomless nine-win season — where the victories are reaped as routinely as crops — there had never been a week like it. Never.

The Heisman Trophy candidate at I-back was suspended indefinitely, a second I-back was arrested, the national columnists and broadcasters were trashing NU and suddenly, everywhere, Nebraska was being grouped with such model citizens as Miami, Florida State and Alabama.

Childs Breaks Out

Every time you turned on TV, you either saw the Husker logo or Osborne, defending his program. When you make Jay Leno's monologue, you know you've made it — and the Huskers did. The collective head of the state was spinning.

Time for a sanity check.
Time for a football game.

It began at 1 p.m. It was over at 1 p.m. First play: Clinton Childs, the senior starting his first game, took a pitch and went 65 yards for a touchdown. With 11 seconds gone, the balloons were released, along with six days of anxiety, embarrassment and pain.

The avalanche would include a school record 63 first-half points and 508 yards. But in that 11 seconds, it was obvious that NU not only had the ability to overcome the loss of I-back Lawrence Phillips, it had the mind over matter, too.

"They were ready to play," Osborne said. "I think they were right."

Good Focus

The Huskers scored 77 points with 686 total yards and 394 rushing yards, numbers that were conservative out of boredom. On this day, the Huskers could have scored 100 points and run to Grand Island and back.

But 77 were enough points to make.

"With everything that happened this week, we wanted to come out and prove things on the field," sophomore offensive tackle Eric Anderson said. "I think we had good focus this week. We just wanted to play well."

"And silence people."

Most likely, this new criminal rap will follow them most everywhere they play this year, which is, by the way, unfair. To the eyes outside the fish-bowl, it all seems so extreme because Nebraska has never gone through this — and so much has hit at once. But what? When you look at them closer, the cases involving Reggie Baul and Damon Benning aren't worth mentioning. And Riley Washington may in fact be innocent. That would water down the rap pretty quickly.

In a spooky, unintentional way, the Nebraska press guide cover says it all: "Staying Focused" with a large photo of Phillips in the middle. On Saturday, there were other focuses.

Boring

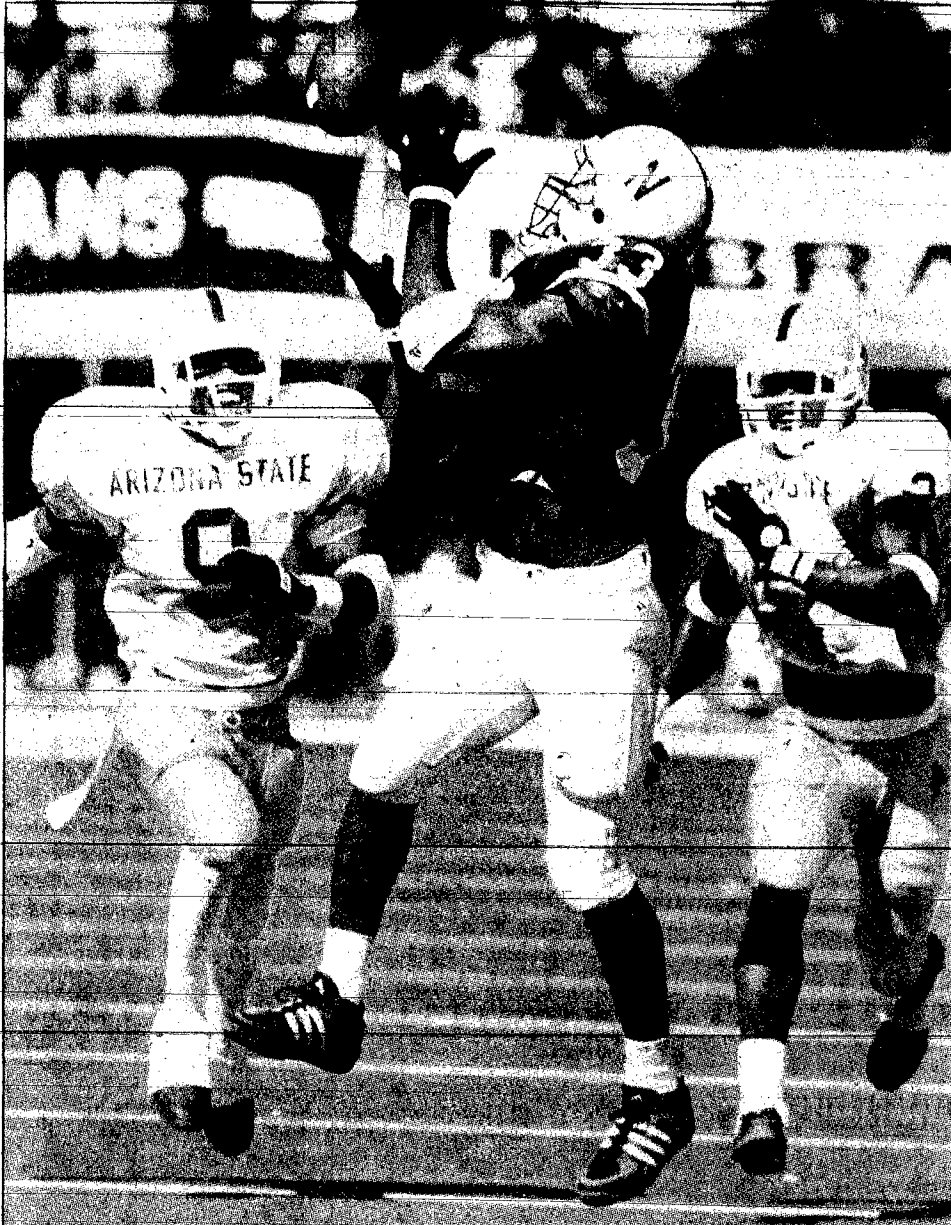
The 18-wheelers up front continued to show they may be as good, and at least quicker, than last year's monster trucks. The I-backs, led by former fourth-team fullback Childs and a budding star in freshman Ahman Green, don't exactly fall off the cliff.

The alarms were few. NU's secondary gave up enough big plays Saturday to send Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel's mind into overdrive. And Osborne, who played the first-team offense well into the third quarter, apologized profusely for an excuse-me touchdown pass at the end.

But this wasn't a day to nit-pick about defense or worry if ASU had its feelings hurt (just tackle better) or if 77 were enough to keep pace in the polls. This was a day to make sure the jerseys hadn't turned pink and the stadium hadn't crumbled.

"I don't think anyone was distracted or disturbed," Osborne said. "But we've come to expect the unexpected around here."

And sometimes, boring is good.



BIG CATCHES: Clester Johnson grabs a 61-yard pass from Tommie Frazier with 4:41 left in the first half, behind Arizona State's Lee Cole, No. 2, and Thomas Simmons. Johnson had four catches for a career-high 129 yards and a 28-yard touchdown.

Hot NU Half Burns Devils For 63 Points

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Arizona State should be careful about what it asks for.

The Sun Devils raced into Memorial Stadium before Saturday's game against second-ranked Nebraska carrying a flag with the words "Bring the Pain."

That is exactly what ASU got for the next 3½ hours as the Huskers broke the school record for points in a half and gained 686 total yards during a 77-28 rout before 75,418 fans.

It took Nebraska all of 11 seconds to show that a week of national publicity about the suspension of star I-back Lawrence Phillips was no distraction to the players.

Clinton Childs, Phillips' replacement, took a handoff on the game's first play and sprinted around left end for a 65-yard touchdown. Childs, a senior out of Omaha North, finished his first career start with a career-high 143 yards and two touchdowns in 12 carries before leaving with a knee strain.

"I think we made a statement right away," NU quarterback Tommie Frazier said. "Even though we lost a great player, we're going to move on."

The Huskers went on to score eight touchdowns in nine more first-half possessions to explode to leads of 28-0, 49-14 and — with 39 seconds left in the second quarter — 63-21.

The previous NU record for points in a half was 55 in the second half of a 69-19 win over Colorado in 1983. The NCAA record is 76 by Houston in a 100-6 victory over Tulsa in 1968.

Nebraska's outburst, Frazier said, was in response to Coach Tom Osborne's pregame message. It included talk of Phillips' suspension for his alleged assault of an ex-girlfriend and the attendant national attention.

"Coach Osborne said adversity is

Husker Heat

- Highlights of Nebraska's 77-28 victory over Arizona State:**
- **Most points scored**—77. Tied for eighth all time, matching 77-7 victory over Army in 1972. Tied for second in post-World War II era.
 - **Most points scored in a half**—63. Previous mark: 55 points in 69-19 victory over Colorado in 1983.
 - **Most points in the first quarter**—35. Tied 1988 mark set against Oklahoma State in 63-42 victory.
 - **Total yards**—686. Ranks No. 10 all time.
 - **Passing yards**—292. Tied for No. 6 all time with 1973 total against Missouri.

going to come to every team," said Frazier, who passed for 191 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 35 yards and two touchdowns. "Last year, it happened when some guys got hurt and we pulled together.

"Only great teams overcome things like that. So he gave us a challenge. He said, 'Can you be that great team?'"

After a 63-point, 508-yard first half, the answer appears to be yes. But Frazier said showing greatness wasn't the only goal Saturday.

"We really wanted to win this for Coach Osborne," he said. "We all saw he was real hurt at everybody putting him down. People were talking about all you do is recruit violent players."

"This showed that despite everything

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Byrne: Institution, Not Osborne, Sets Return Policy

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne doesn't have the final say on whether football players suspended because of legal problems return to the team.

"That is an institutional decision," NU Athletic Director Bill Byrne said. "Tom can make recommendations to me, and I will visit with the chancellor."

"This is more than just a sports issue. So we keep the people from central administration involved."

Osborne said he hopes to have a decision this week on whether wingback Riley Washington, ordered to stand trial

on an attempted murder charge, can regain his playing status. Washington has been practicing since late August following a 13-day stay in jail. Osborne said witnesses to the incident that he has talked to say Washington is innocent.

Osborne may seek another ruling later this season on Lawrence Phillips, indefinitely suspended following last week's alleged assault on an ex-girlfriend.

The legal problems during the past year of Washington, Phillips and at least four other Husker football players haven't led to new recruiting guidelines at NU, Byrne said, although the process comes under regular review. A New York Times story last week intimated that a review of recruiting at Nebraska would

be something new.

Byrne, as he has said in two World-Herald interviews on the subject the past nine months, stated again that he doesn't disagree with Osborne over the players NU recruits.

"We'll continue to take some students who are at risk," Byrne said, "because if we limit ourselves to taking everyone with perfect ACT scores, all we would have here is a country club."

Byrne said his complaint is with the NCAA over rule changes in recent years limiting contacts between coaches and prospective recruits.

"We used to be able to spend time in the high schools," he said. "Now we're limited to one day per week. We don't get

to know prospective student-athletes like we used to."

Once recruits arrive, Byrne said, they have access to student-support services that cost NU between \$500,000 and \$600,000 annually.

"We've been one of the national leaders in wellness programs and having sports psychologists available for athletes," he said. "And we're working on getting a class that will be available to the entire student body that will go in depth on a litany of issues — anger, diversity, respect, drug abuse and others."

Byrne said the student-support programs also are reviewed regularly.

"We always want to make sure we're

doing all we can for our athletes," Byrne said. "And a case like we've just had makes you look at what you're doing."

"But I'm not sure how much more we can do."

Byrne said some of the national publicity over the Phillips case last week was difficult to digest. ESPN called one story "Scandal in Lincoln." USA Today referred to "Nebraska in Turmoil." Some columnists compared NU to Miami, which has had a long run of legal and NCAA problems.

"We're not like Miami," Byrne said.

"We're Nebraska, and we're darn proud of it."

Mankato QB Sets TD Mark As Mavs Fall

BY ROB WHITE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Mankato, Minn. — John Hebgren's arm and legs provided a rude North Central Conference awakening for the University of Nebraska at Omaha football team.

Hebgren, Mankato State's junior quarterback, passed for 307 yards and a school-record five touchdowns and ran for another 70 yards in a 49-10 victory at Blakeslee Field on Saturday night.

"There are lessons to be learned, and I think we learned a heck of a lesson tonight," UNO Coach Pat Behrens said. "You've got to step it up when you get into these top four or five teams in the conference. If you don't you get embarrassed. We didn't do that, because I just don't believe that we are (39) points worse than they are."

Hebgren, a 210-pounder from Highland, Wis., completed 21 of 41 passes and hurt UNO with his scrambling ability.

John Davis and Tywan Mitchell each caught two touchdown passes, and running back Mark Erickson ran for 118 yards and another score.

"Our quarterback is a good football player, let's face it," Mankato State Coach Dan Runkle said. "And right now we've got some guys who are catching the football well. The thing we've been able to do now is run the ball so we can keep

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INCOMPLETION: Iowa flanker Tim Dwight, No. 6, has the ball batted away by Iowa State defensive back Dawan Anderson in the second quarter. Dwight had one catch for 11 yards.

13 Straight: Hawks Beat Cyclones Again

BY ELIZABETH MERRILL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ames, Iowa — After three quarters on Saturday, the Iowa State Cyclones finally accepted that they weren't big enough or deep enough to compete with in-state rival Iowa.

And when they did, the Hawkeyes were able to claim a 27-10 win over Iowa State in front of a sellout crowd of 49,714 at Cyclone Stadium.

Iowa (2-0), bolstered by Sedrick Shaw's career-best 178 yards on 32 carries, extended the 1-2 Cyclones' losing skid in the annual series to 13 games.

"They wore us out on both sides of scrimmage," Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney said.

"At the half, I felt like we had a chance. I challenged the kids to be different and not wear out. I didn't see anybody quit or put their heads down. Iowa just has so many threats, so many things that can hurt you. They are just a better team."

The Cyclones kept within striking distance of Iowa at 12-10 for most of the third quarter before the Hawkeyes rattled off 15 straight points to put the game away. Tavian Banks started the spree with a 5-yard touchdown run to put Iowa ahead 18-10 with 6:10 to go in the third quarter, then Todd Romano hit a 31-yard field goal in the fourth and Matt Sherman ran in for a 1-yard score for insurance points.

Iowa's defense also clamped down on

the Cyclones, allowing them to drive deep into Hawkeye territory twice in the fourth quarter but denying them any points.

"Their defense did a good job shutting us down in the second half," McCarney said.

"Obviously, we just didn't finalize things as an offensive unit."

One blown offensive opportunity came at the start of the third quarter. With the Cyclones down 12-10, tailback Troy Davis and quarterback Todd Doxon drove the Cyclones 40 yards to the Iowa 40. Doxon, a junior from Millard North, then hit Omaha-Benson graduate Mike Horacek with a 16-yard completion, setting up first-and-10 at Iowa's 24. On the next play, Doxon handed the ball off to Davis, who fumbled.

Iowa's Ed Gibson recovered the ball and took it 67 yards to the Cyclones' 13. Though the Hawkeyes didn't convert the play to a score, it did change the game's momentum. On the Hawkeyes' next series, they scored the first of their two second-half touchdowns.

"I'd never be down on Troy," McCarney said. "He gave us so many chances to win."

Davis, who entered the game ranked second in the nation in rushing yards with 235 a game, finished with 139 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries. He surrendered the spotlight on Saturday to Shaw, who got the Hawkeyes running on

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