

## Thunderation: 'Boomer' NU

Champaign, Ill.

Thunderation. Are the Nebraska Cornhuskers that good?  
"I just don't know," Coach Tom Osborne said after NU's thundering 59-14 victory over Illinois. "We've got to measure ourselves against what we've got to do down the road. Before it's over, we're going to have to be a very, very good football team."

Before it's over, the Huskers have to play the Oklahoma Sooners.  
Nebraska didn't play a perfect game Saturday, but it sure was a good one. In the season-long preparation for Oklahoma, this victory will do.

The Huskers arrived in town Friday, and were greeted by lightning, thunder and torrential rain. On Saturday night, they stormed into Memorial Stadium at the University of Illinois and scored in torrents.

Boom! Brian Davis intercepted a pass and scored. Crack! Broderick Thomas recovered a fumble and Steve Taylor scored. Flash! End Zone Jones ran 78 yards for another. Rumble! Michal Heibel bulled in from the 5.

Just over 12 minutes into the game, it was over. The 28-0 first-quarter lead ended any thoughts of Illinois riding a wave of emotion to an upset.

## Letting Loose

This was the night Illinois retired Dick Butkus' jersey and honored two Rose Bowl teams. Orange pompons were placed on nearly every seat — and Illinois was 4-0 in previous "pompon games."

If this was a trap, the Huskers were wary. Even a false fire alarm in their hotel at about 3 a.m. that disrupted their sleep the night before the game didn't disrupt their concentration — or their own emotion.

"We're going out each week and letting loose a little more," said Davis, who scored his touchdown with the ball held aloft, punching the air toward some of the 4,000 Husker fans at the game.

Not long ago, such displays were unheard of at Nebraska. But then Osborne told the players they had misunderstood — they could show emotion. Just don't show up the opponent or do something that would cause a penalty.

After Keith Jones' two touchdowns, he did a low-five hand-slap routine with teammate Rod Smith. Have some fun, guys. Let it out.

End Zone said it all helps.  
"Definitely," he said. "It gets your teammates fired up and gets the individual fired up. Coach Osborne pretty much turned us loose. It's more of a relaxed feeling the players have right now."

## Emergence of Jones

Negatives? Well, the Huskers had 70 yards in penalties Saturday, and that's too much. And the passing game wasn't real good. The Huskers will need to pass well to beat Oklahoma.

But for the most part, the score was probably a good indication of how well Nebraska played.

For Husker fans, one of the most heartening signs was the emergence of Jones. After he rushed for only 38 yards against Florida State, some people wondered whether he could adequately replace Doug DuBoise, whose college career ended on a knee injury.

Not only did Jones, NU's fastest player ever, bust off Kevin Lightner's block for a 78-yard touchdown. Jones also got some tough yards, some extra yards inside.

The Husker option game won the opener against Florida State. The power game, the basic move-the-line-of-scrimmage stuff, helped defeat Illinois in front of a national cable TV audience.

Lightner, a junior from Hastings, said guard Stan Parker sealed off one defender, and "I came around untouched."

"With a guy like Keith Jones back there," Lightner said, "if I can just get a piece of a guy, I know he's gone. It was great to see Keith flying by."

## Is It Osborne's Best?

Illinois made sure sophomore quarterback Taylor didn't run wild, as he did against Florida State. Taylor gained 21 yards and completed 1 of 5 passes.

Backup quarterbacks Clete Blake and McCathorn Clayton saw a lot of action, and that experience will come in handy if Taylor gets hurt. Clayton, last year's starter, ran 26 yards on one play and hit Willie Griffin with a 21-yard touchdown pass.

A writer from a newspaper not in Nebraska asked Osborne if this could be his best team. He didn't say yes.

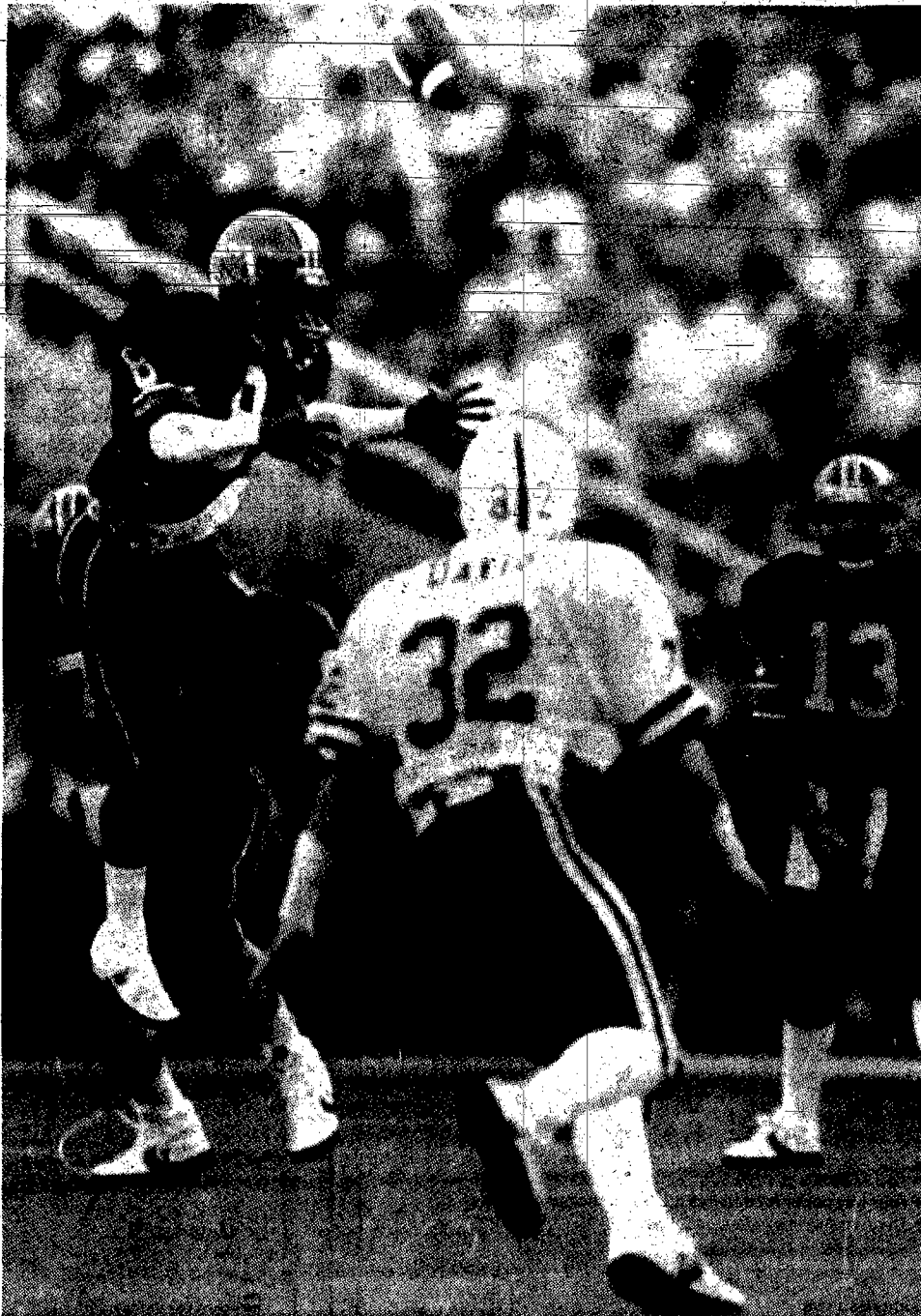
He didn't say no.  
The Huskers, he said, have some skill at quarterback, an improved option game, good fullbacks and "great threats" at wingback, a good defense and a good kicking game.

"Overall," he said, "I was pleased with the performance of the football team."

The 2-0 Huskers might slip up between now and the final regular-season game against Oklahoma. But with games coming up against Oregon and South Carolina, and with the rest of the Big Eight Conference not looking strong this year, it's entirely possible the Huskers could be 4-0 when they face OU.

In that one, they might need to play a nearly perfect football game.

# Huskers' Early Punch Floors Illinois



Nebraska cornerback Brian Davis, No. 32, draws a bead on a deflected Illinois pass before grabbing the ball and scoring on a 32-yard interception return 12 seconds into the game... The pass of Shane Lamb, No. 13, bounced off receiver Darryl Usher, No. 8, to set up the interception that ignited NU's 28-point first quarter.

## Illinois' Turnovers Are Key To NU's 28-Point 1st Period

By Lee Barknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Champaign, Ill. — Instead of retiring Dick Butkus' jersey Saturday night, Illinois should have asked the Hall of Fame linebacker to put it on and help try to stop Nebraska.

The 2-0 Huskers, ranked fifth and sixth nationally, scored 12 seconds into the game, rolled up a 38-7 halftime lead and went on to blast the Illini 59-14 before a sellout Memorial Stadium crowd in Champaign of 75,865.

Nebraska scored on the game's first play from scrimmage when cornerback Brian Davis intercepted a pass and returned it 32 yards for a touchdown.

The NU offense then scored on its fourth, 10th and 15th plays from scrimmage to build a 28-0 first-quarter lead.

Nebraska's defense went just as wild early in the game.

The Blackshirts held Illinois to 28 yards in the first quarter and forced three turnovers. The results of the Illini's first 10 snaps of the game: interception, 1-yard gain, 5-yard penalty, fumble, minus 2 yards, minus 1, minus 2, 3-yard gain, incomplete pass and sack.

The final statistics reflect Nebraska's domination throughout the game. The Huskers outgained Illinois 543 total yards to 207 and held the Illini to 3 yards rushing, NU's best effort against the run since the Huskers stopped Oklahoma State on a minus 13 yards rushing in 1980.

"I was naturally pleased with the way we played," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "We got an awful lot of help

early. The first play — that interception for a touchdown — and an early turnover and another quick score made it hard to know what the strengths of the two teams were."

Junior I-back Keith Jones, who rushed for a career-high 168 yards in 16 carries, got 127 of that and two touchdowns — including a 78-yarder — in his first 10 carries to help build the NU advantage to 38-7 at halftime. That was the most Husker points in a first half since NU had 38 in last year's 56-6 win over Kansas.

After getting 93 total yards from the I-backs against Florida State, Osborne said Jones' effort was a key.

"I was really pleased to see Keith Jones get a lot of good plays," he said. "We needed production out of our I-back."

That's because Illinois keyed on quarterback Steve Taylor. The sophomore, who rushed for 139 yards against Florida State, had just 21 yards in 7 carries Saturday.

"After the Florida State game, they obviously weren't going to let the quarterback run loose," Osborne said. "Steve got knocked around — nothing illegal, he just got hit hard. He was shaken up a couple of times in the first half."

But by halftime, Taylor wasn't needed. Even Butkus figured the game was over.

After he was presented his retired No. 50, the former Chicago Bears star gave a short speech, then rolled his

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## Dose of Confidence Fuels Jones to 168-Yard Effort

By Steve Sinclair

World-Herald Staff Writer

Champaign, Ill. — Nebraska I-back Keith Jones said all he needed was a little confidence.

"The difference is that the other game was basically the ice-breaker for me as far as getting my feet on the ground and being a starter," Jones said Saturday night after rushing for 168 yards on 16 carries against Illinois in his second career start.

Jones helped break open NU's 59-14 victory over the Illini with a 78-yard touchdown in the first quarter — the Huskers' longest scoring play since fullback Tom Rathman's 84-yarder last season against Colorado.

"This week, I had a lot more confidence going into the game," Jones said. "I worked real hard all week on

running and accelerating. That also made a difference."

The difference Saturday night is that the Huskers got big yardage from the I-backs, something that didn't happen in the opener two weeks ago against Florida State.

The Huskers finished with 470 yards rushing against Illinois, including 268 by the I-backs. The Huskers rushed for 297 against Florida State.

The I-backs gained 93 yards against the Seminoles, including 58 on 17 carries by Jones.

The I-back rushing totals against Illinois were 168 yards by Jones, 65 by freshman Terry Rodgers, 28 by junior Jon Kelley and 7 by sophomore Jeff Wheeler.

"The first game the I-backs really

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## How the Top 20s Fared

AP/UPI	Next Opponent
1/ 1 — Oklahoma (2-0) defeated Minnesota 63-0	Miami
2/ 2 — Miami (3-0) did not play	Oklahoma
3/ 3 — Michigan (2-0) defeated Oregon State 31-12	Florida State
4/ 4 — Alabama (4-0) defeated Florida 21-7	Notre Dame Oct. 4
5/ 6 — Penn State (2-0) defeated Boston College 28-14	East Carolina
6/ 5 — Nebraska (2-0) defeated Illinois 59-14	Oregon
7/ 7 — Washington (2-0) defeated Brigham Young 52-21	Southern Cal
8/ 8 — Louisiana State (1-1) lost to Miami (Ohio) 21-12	Florida Oct. 4
9/ 9 — Baylor (2-1) lost to Southern Cal 17-14	Texas Tech
10/11 — Auburn (2-0) defeated East Carolina 45-0	Tennessee
11/13 — Brigham Young (2-1) lost to Washington 52-21	Temple
12/12 — Arkansas (2-0) defeated Tulsa 34-17	New Mexico State
13/ — Florida (1-2) lost to Alabama 21-7	Mississippi State
14/10 — Georgia (1-1) lost to Clemson 31-28	South Carolina
15/18 — Florida State (1-1-1) tied North Carolina 10-10	Michigan
16/19 — Texas A&M (1-1) defeated N. Texas State 48-28	Southern Mississippi
17/15 — Arizona (3-0) defeated Oregon 41-17	Colorado
18/17 — Arizona State (2-0-0) defeated SMU, 30-0	Washington State
19/19 — UCLA (1-1-0) defeated San Diego State, 45-14	Long Beach State
20/ — Notre Dame (0-2) lost to Michigan State 20-15	Purdue
14 — Iowa (2-0) defeated Northern Illinois 57-3	Texas-EI Paso
16 — Maryland (3-0) defeated West Virginia 24-3	North Carolina State
20 — Southern Cal (2-0) defeated Baylor 17-14	Washington

## Emotional Miami of Ohio Shocks 8th-Ranked LSU

Baton Rouge, La. (AP) — Long after the game was over, the Miami of Ohio players were celebrating their 21-12 upset of No. 8 Louisiana State Saturday night.

"We just didn't want to leave the field," wingback Andy Schillinger said in a noisy locker room.

Schillinger scored two touchdowns on passes from Terry Morris, including the 82-yard third-quarter scoring play that clinched the game for the Mid-American Conference team. Miami is 2-1, LSU 1-1.

"Once in a while, beating a big opponent keeps the Miami legend alive," Coach Tim Rose said. Since 1912, Miami is 8-1 against Southeastern Conference opponents.

Rose said he was still dazed almost 30

minutes after the game.  
"I've got to go out and check the scoreboard now and see that it's over," he said.

He said he never thought his team had a safe lead. "When it was 0-0, that's when I knew we would win," he said.

LSU contributed to its own demise, giving up five fumbles and two interceptions.

Miami defensive tackle Bob Getz led an opportunistic defense, blocking a punt in the first quarter and recovering one of the fumbles in the third quarter. It was the sixth time in the last seven games that the Redskins have blocked

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## Maverick Offense Shows It's Alive

By Doug Thomas

World-Herald Staff Writer

The offense finally came around Saturday for the University of Nebraska at Omaha football team, and the defense once again came through.

UNO freshman Rick Gales ran for 117 yards and the Mavericks' defense made three big sacks and an interception in the fourth quarter to key a 19-13 victory over South Dakota State.

A crowd of 6,300 at Caniglia Field saw UNO win its North Central Conference opener and improve to 2-1 overall. South Dakota State fell to 0-1 in the NCC and 1-2 overall.

UNO, which had scored only nine points in its first two games, scored 19 in the second quarter against the Jackrabbits and finished the game with 261 yards on the ground and 333 overall.

Gales, a West Des Moines Dowling product playing in only his second game, said heavy criticism this week stung the offense.

"It made us want to prove people wrong," he said. "I think we did a pretty good job of it."

"We were a lot more enthusiastic coming into this game, and a lot more confident. I thought we were going to put more points on the board than we did."

They might have if they hadn't fumbled five times. They lost four of them, including two late in the game.

But defense bailed UNO out both times. When the Jackrabbits reached the Mavs' 15-yard line after the fourth fumble, defensive tackle Jim Nekola and outside linebacker Keith Coleman made back-to-back sacks of SDSU quarterback Ted Wahl to drive the visitors out of scoring range.

And after the final fumble gave South Dakota State the ball at midfield, Mike Zeplin blitzed to nail Wahl for a 12-yard loss, then intercepted a deflected pass.

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UNO's Tim Kroft leaps to catch a touchdown pass in the second quarter as South Dakota State's Kevin Michels defends... "We gave them that Hall Mary touchdown," SDSU Coach Wayne Haensel said. "That's inexcusable."

## Inside Sports

### Alabama on 'Fringe of Greatness' in Win

Alabama defeats Florida for the eighth straight time in a game in which Crimson Tide Coach Ray Perkins said his team "touched the fringes of greatness." Page 4.

**SURPRISE THIEF:** Todd Krumm swipes two passes to help Michigan State defeat Notre Dame 20-15. Page 18.

**ROUT:** Chris Chandler passes for four touchdowns and runs for a fifth as No. 7

Washington routs BYU 52-21, the Cougars' worst football defeat in 13 years. Page 11.

**JAYS WIN:** Toronto defeats Boston to cut the Red Sox's American League East Division lead to 8½ games. Page 14.

**THRILLING OPENER:** Hunters bag three large bull elk for an exciting start to the state's first modern-day elk season. Page 21.

## OU Eyes Hurricanes After Rout

Norman, Okla. (AP) — No. 1 Oklahoma received two touchdowns each from quarterback Jamelle Holiway and fullback Lydell Carr and rocked Minnesota 63-0 Saturday "to set up a showdown with No. 2 Miami."

The Sooners, 2-0, meet the Hurricanes next Saturday at the Orange Bowl in Miami. Miami was 1-1 Saturday.

"I believe when we play Miami it will be like a national championship game," Carr said. "It's going to be our national championship ball game. If we beat Miami, there's not a team on our schedule that can beat us if we play like we

should."

Oklahoma, 2-0, tuned up for its meeting with the Hurricanes by rolling up 523 total yards, 458 of it on the ground. The Sooners scored on their first possession and never looked back.

"Oklahoma played 80 players. I'm satisfied they didn't try to run up the score," said Minnesota Coach John Gatzert, who watched his team fall to 1-1.

Carr scored on runs of 40 and 3 yards in the first quarter, and Holiway scored from 5 and 12 yards out as the Sooners ran away to a 35-0 halftime lead.

Among Oklahoma's other scores were a 66-yard tight end reverse by Keith Jackson, a punt return and an interception return.

"It was the speed and quickness of our offensive backs that made the difference," Oklahoma Coach Barry Switzer said. "I don't like scores to get like this, but when talented players like

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