

# College Football

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BIG TEN, 8

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## Iowa St. Stops Baylor

Iowa State, now 4-0, returns home next Saturday to play top-ranked Nebraska

Waco, Texas (AP) — Iowa State has a simple winning formula: Eanis Haywood rushes for more than 100 yards, and the Cyclones have at least 400 total yards.

That has been the case in every game this season, including Saturday night when Iowa State improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1980 with a 31-17 victory at Baylor.

Haywood ran for 241 yards and two touchdowns, and the Cyclones had 475 total yards.

Haywood had 101 yards and both of his touchdowns by halftime, when the Cyclones (4-0, 1-0 Big 12) already had a 31-3 lead. Iowa State converted three Baylor turnovers into 17 first-half points.

Baylor (2-2, 0-1), which had just three turnovers its first three games, has lost 14 straight Big 12 games. Iowa State has four straight wins in the same season for the first time since 1986.

"No one was satisfied with the second half, but we dominated time of possession and Haywood was outstanding," said Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney. "We are still 4-0 for the first time in 20 years, and I don't want to take away from our kids."

"We feel good about the win, but we know we have to play a more complete game next week to have any chance."

The Cyclones return home next Saturday to play top-ranked Nebraska (4-0), which beat Missouri 42-24 Saturday night. Iowa State has beaten the Cornhuskers only once since 1977.

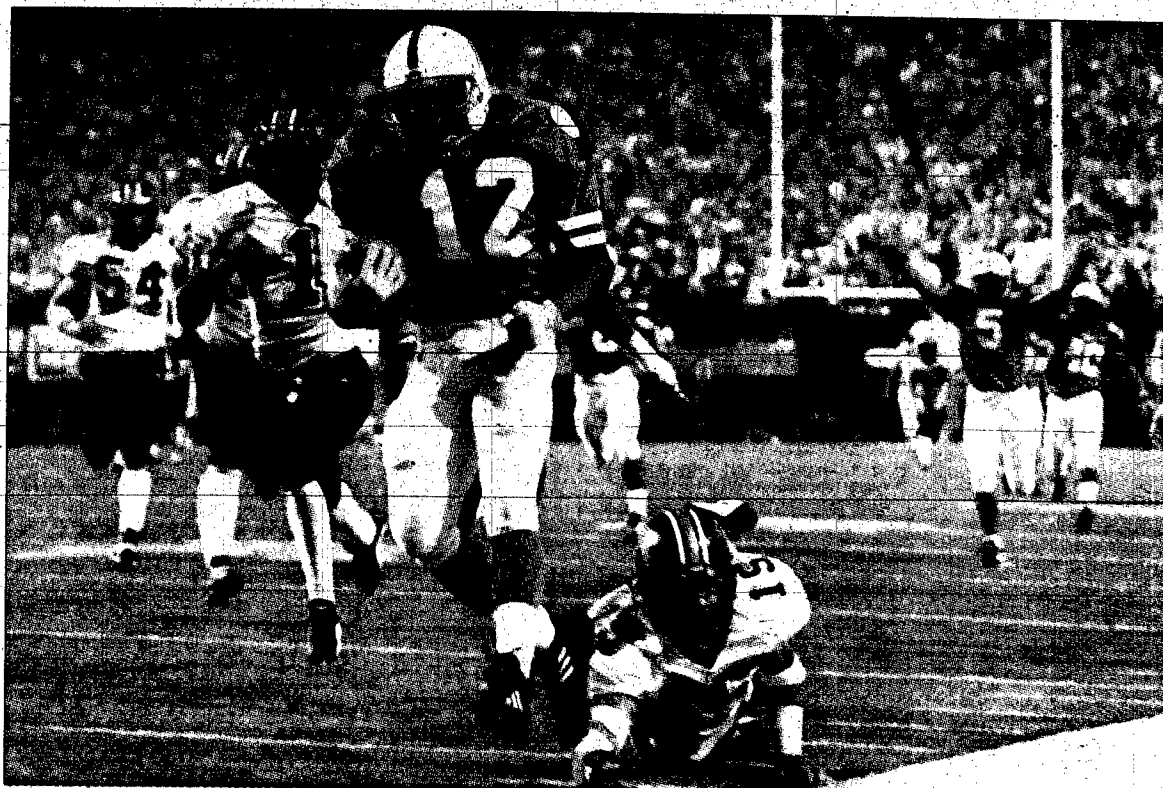
Iowa State, which won only its fifth Big 12 game in five seasons, scored on its last three possessions of the first half, including two touchdowns in 39 seconds.

After Joe Woodley plunged in from the 1-yard line to make it 24-3 with 1:37 left, Baylor had the ball back just one play before Guy Tomcheck was

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## Defense Shelled In Huskers' Win



OFFENSIVE STARS: Nebraska's Eric Crouch, No. 7 at the top, follows Russ Hochstein, No. 55, and Dominic Raiola, No. 54, on an option. Crouch passed for two touchdowns and rushed for one. Above, Bobby Newcombe, No. 12, broke a school record by scoring on a 94-yard punt return.

BY STEVEN PROVAR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln—Nebraska's Blackshirts wore red faces following Saturday's night performance against Missouri.

The top-ranked Huskers were able to extend their mastery of Missouri as their 42-24 victory before 77,744 at Memorial Stadium stretched Nebraska's winning streak in the series to 22 straight games. But that was hardly cause for celebration among the Blackshirts, who gave up 492 yards to a Missouri offense that came into the game ranked as one of the worst in the country.

"We did not play consistently on defense," Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said. "We gave up way too many big plays. We were not able to get them to where it was three downs and out."

"We need to improve on that area. There were individuals who played hard and individuals who made big plays. But as a unit, we need to improve on the defensive end of it."

The Huskers were able to counter their defensive shortcomings with another solid performance by quarterback Eric Crouch and the offense and a record-setting punt return by Bobby Newcombe. Crouch established season highs by passing for 173 yards and running for 110 yards. He scored one touchdown and passed for two more in directing the offense to 484 yards.

Newcombe provided an electrifying moment for the 236th straight sellout crowd when he returned a second-quarter punt 94 yards for Nebraska's third touchdown. The return broke the school record of 92 yards set in 1971 by Johnny Rodgers, the 1972 Heisman Trophy whose upcoming induction in the College Football Hall of Fame was recognized in a pregame ceremony.

"Bobby's punt return was huge," Solich said. "It was very fitting that he did it with Johnny in the stands. Everyone knows what a great player Johnny was."

The Huskers, who improved to 4-0 with their 10th straight win overall, also got a big return from backup middle linebacker Jamie Burrow. He scooped up a fumble midway through the third quarter and rambled 28 yards for the touchdown that gave Nebraska

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## Newcombe Sails on Record Return

- NOV. 15, 1997  
VS. IOWA STATE  
53  
YARD PUNT RETURN TD
- OCT. 30, 1999  
VS. KANSAS  
86  
YARD PUNT RETURN TD
- SEPT. 30, 2000  
VS. MISSOURI  
96  
YARD PUNT RETURN TD

BY MITCH SHERMAN  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Nebraska experienced a special-teams revival Saturday in its 42-24 win over Missouri.

Spearheaded by an old special-teams hero who had been dormant this season until Saturday, NU appeared to correct many of the problems that plagued it in the kicking game this month.

Senior wingback Bobby Newcombe broke for a school-record 94-yard punt return in the second quarter, sparking all areas of the team as NU won its

conference opener for the 26th straight year.

Newcombe's return of a 55-yard punt by Jared Gilpin gave Nebraska a 21-7 lead with 3:34 to play in the first half. It marked the fourth punt returned for a score of Newcombe's career and topped his previous career best of 86 yards against Kansas last season.

"I was set up at the 15-yard line," Newcombe said, "and I just wanted to catch the football and run. I'm probably going to get in trouble

Monday, for fielding it at the 6-yard line, but I didn't know where I was. Our guys did a great job of blocking, and I just ran."

Newcombe first moved to his right toward the center of the field. He broke through a pack of Tigers and raced down the east sideline as NU players and coaches celebrated behind him.

"At first when I got to the end zone, I looked back and for some strange reason, I thought there would be a

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## No. 5 KSU Clobbers CU

BY LEE BARFKNECHT  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Boulder, Colo. — Whether fifth-ranked Kansas State made a statement with Saturday's 44-21 thumping of Colorado depended on who you asked in the Wildcat interview room.

At least five players and one assistant coach thought scoring on the game's first two possessions, building a 21-point halftime lead and cruising from there to quiet a Folsom Field sellout crowd of 51,896 was worth a smile.

"We walk out of here with a good feeling," said junior split end Aaron Lockett, whose 49-yard punt return set up the game's first touchdown. "We beat a good team in a tough place to play."

"I think people will have to realize that we're a pretty good team."

The doubters had lined up from coast to coast after Kansas State (5-0, 1-0) had steamrolled four earlier opponents who were a combined 1-16 by a 212-27 total.

"People have challenged our kids because of the schedule we've played," Offensive Coordinator Ron Hudson said. "We heard it again this morning on ESPN."

"So I think there was a feeling of confidence with this performance." But Kansas State Coach Bill Snyder wasn't among those smiling.

He engaged in a series of short-answer replies to reporters' questions. Perhaps he was grumpy that the total yardage count showed KSU with 446 and CU with 404, though the game wasn't that close, or that the Wildcats had an extra-point blocked, bobbled a punt and lost two fumbles.

"I don't know if we've proven anything," Snyder said. "We're a 5-0 football team. That's about all I can say about us right now."

That's a lot more than Colorado can say.

During a third straight loss to a Top 10 opponent, the Buffaloes (0-4, 0-1) gave up the most first-half points in 16 years (34) and the most points ever to K-State in the series (the previous high was 38).

"It's pretty simple," CU Coach Gary Barnett said. "We played bad, and they played good."

"It really did surprise me inasmuch as the work we put in with these guys, and what I thought were good motivational techniques. I thought we were in good shape. But it was

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## Will NU Lose Ground in Poll Race?

Lincoln They were driving fast. The first-team offense was hard at work. Their hearts were racing. Their legs were churning. A sense of urgency filled the night air at Memorial Stadium.

Finally, third down and 14. An incomplete pass. A groan from the crowd.

It came to this. Fourth down. Nebraska's going for it. Incomplete. The crowd groans again.

Missouri wins?

Nah. There was 1:42 left in the game. The Huskers were comfortably (?) up, 42-24.

So why the push? Why was senior quarterback Eric Crouch still in the game so late? Why was NU trying to run it up on Missouri? Was Warren Powers back in town?

Nope. It was just the Huskers playing the No. 1 game. When you're



Tom Shatel

No. 2, you try harder. When you're No. 1, you have to win bigger.

A 49-24 spread would have looked that much better to pollsters looking for reasons to drop Nebraska down. Did they find them?

Today we'll find out. Was 42-24 over Missouri—a 1-3 Missouri, a Missouri team that lost to Clemson 62-9—good enough to keep NU's No. 1 ranking for another week? Probably. But don't be surprised if the Huskers start losing

ground. At this point, it would be justified. Nebraska doesn't look like the best team in the country. Heck, the Huskers don't even look like the best team in the Big 12 North.

This was the rebuttal game for Nebraska. The gauntlet was dropped earlier in the day, by ESPN's Chris Fowler, a voter in the Associated Press poll. Speaking of Nebraska, Fowler looked into the camera and said that if the Huskers didn't start playing better, he was going to drop them. Fowler added that he would not be the only one.

He's right. Nebraska wasn't just playing against a brawling Missouri team on Saturday night. The Huskers were competing against Florida State, Virginia Tech and, yes, Kansas State.

First, the No. 2-ranked Seminoles set

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TIGER CATCH: Nebraska's Dion Booker, No. 14, tries to break up a 25-yard pass to Missouri wide receiver Justin Gage.



STOP RIGHT THERE: UNO junior Melvin Estes is sandwiched by St. Cloud State's David Knutson, top, and Josh Williams returning the second-half kickoff.

## Sweet and Simple: No. 16 Mavs Squash Lowly St. Cloud State

BY RICH KAIPUST  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

One of UNO's strengths since its football resurgence started in 1996 has been its knack for taking care of undermanned opponents.

The Mavericks usually keep it simple by running the football, relying on their defense and avoiding anything fancy. When it works, games last 2 1/2 hours or so and UNO gets its win and goes on to the next week.

Saturday was such a day.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha dominated St. Cloud State to pick up a 36-0 victory at Caniglia Field. The Mavs' defense logged its first shutout since 1996. Adam Wright ran for 217 yards, and Troy Severson kicked a school-record four field goals.

By taking care of the Huskies, UNO improved to 21-2 over the past five seasons against teams in the lower half of the 10-team North Central Conference.

"We just try not to overlook any team," UNO senior Tim Sullivan said. "Even if teams haven't fared very well against us in the past, we've still got to look at each team like it's North Dakota State coming at us. We've got to prepare every week like it's no different than the previous one."

"You can't take anybody for granted, in the NCC. Teams can play off one week, play unbelievable the next."

No. 16-ranked UNO robbed winless St. Cloud of any unpredictability from the opening kickoff Saturday before a crowd of 4,100. The Huskies (0-4, 0-3 NCC) had negative yardage and no first downs in the first half as UNO (4-1, 3-0) rolled to a 30-0 halftime lead.

"We go into halftime and they don't have a first down?" UNO defensive end Chris Cooper said. "That's the best we've ever played. I think we wanted to try to go the whole game with it, but I think we just kind of slipped a little bit in the second half."

Not very far, though.

St. Cloud finished with 140 total yards, but 128 of those came on two fourth-quarter drives that stalled in UNO territory. One ended with Melvin Estes tackling SC's quarterback Keith Heckendorf short of a first down on a fourth-down scramble, the other when Ahmad Austin intercepted a Heckendorf pass.

"I think it just kind of started with our first drive," Heckendorf said. "We had a few penalties, and that was the start of trouble. We'd get out there and be stuck deep, and going 70 or 80 yards in 80-degree heat is not quite what St. Cloud's used to."

St. Cloud started all 13 of its drives on its own side of the field, including 10 inside its own 25-yard line. In the first half, the Huskies punted five times and took two safeties.

UNO opened a 10-0 first-quarter lead as Severson kicked a 44-yard field goal and Trey Gundry threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Sullivan. The lead

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