

RACERS ROLL

The Omaha Racers give a standing-room crowd something to cheer about as they beat the Tri-City (Wash.) Chinook 103-97 before a franchise-record crowd of 5,625 for their second straight victory. Page 15.

LANCERS END SKID

The Omaha Lancers treat Coach Dave Morinville to a 4-3 victory over the Waterloo Black Hawks on his 38th birthday and end a three-game losing string. Eddie MacDonald scored the winning goal. Page 15.

Sunday World-Herald
Sports

SIoux BEAT UNO

The North Dakota Fighting Sioux score on drives of 96 and 99 yards while handing the University of Nebraska at Omaha a 28-13 setback. The Mavericks drop to 5-4 overall and 3-1 in the North Central Conference. Page 5.

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SECTION C



Tom Shatel
NU Reels In A 'Big One'

Lawrence, Kan. Stop the presses in Boston, New York and L.A. Spread the word. On a beautiful, unassuming November day, Nebraska finally did it.

Win a big game, that is. So the final score was Nebraska 59, Kansas 23. So that was "KU" on those blue helmets, not a Seminole arrow or a buffalo. No matter. After one quarter at KU's Memorial Stadium on Saturday, this game was as big as they come.

How does 17-0, Kansas, grab you? "We got a pretty good scare today obviously," said Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, not understating the situation this time. "At the end of the first quarter I thought we'd have a hard time winning it and had no idea we'd be able to put it away."

No idea, indeed. No, this was a situation that not even Colorado, the luckiest team in Division I-A, could have pulled out. A seriously-improved Kansas team with some serious momentum. And a Kansas team that thought it should have won last year's game.

Bang-Bang

"It all happened so fast," said Nebraska middle guard Pat Engelbert. "It was like, bang-bang."

Bang-bang. Kansas blocks a Mike Stigge punt and gets a 19-yard field goal. Bang-bang. Chip Hilleary burns the Husker secondary for a 50-yard touchdown pass. Bang-bang. Hilleary turns into Jack Mildren, darting and dodging for a 34-yard touchdown. The people on KU's Mount Oread stop their cook-out and turn their heads to the barbecue taking place on the field.

It was only the end of the first quarter, but it was bleak, folks. This wasn't Nebraska falling behind Missouri, 3-0. It looked like the Huskers, getting beat off the ball, were lifeless. It looked like they forgot how to run the option. Frankly, it looked like trouble.

Adding injury to insult: senior defensive leader Mike Petko was already straddling the metal bench with a knee sprain. And Kansas had finally found a way to stop sophomore I-back Derek Brown — poke him in the eye. Brown left the game for good early in the second quarter with blurry vision.

The rest of the team was in a fog. "I thought the odds were good we weren't going to win," Osborne said. "Things were just snowballing. We made every mistake we could make — and survived it. I think this team has a lot of character."

Character and depth. That was Nebraska's survival kit on Saturday.

Central Tradition

A Heisman Trophy candidate leaves. His backup rushes for a school-record 294 yards and a Big Eight record six touchdowns. That's Calvin Jones, the redshirt freshman from Omaha Central who in this bizarre turnaround left Mike Rozier, Barry Sanders, Terry Miller, Steve Owens, etc., in his rear-view mirror. In the shadow of the Gale Sayers name (painted in the corner of Memorial Stadium), the Omaha Central tradition continued in high style.

Jones' first touchdown, which came with 11:15 left in the second quarter, was his biggest. It ended an 80-yard, 15-play drive that put Nebraska on the board and broke the ice. Not that anyone outside of T.O.'s headset was worried, of course.

"The attitude in the huddle was like, 'We know what we're in for, we know what we need to do, let's just keep our poise,'" said Nebraska quarterback Keithen McCant. "Everything will take care of itself."

That air of confidence — and the depth to unleash a Jones-like day — are Nebraska trademarks of another time. Before Husker-bashing was in vogue from coast to coast. Before the 0-4 bowl record. Would last year's team have done this?

Not a Ho-Hummer

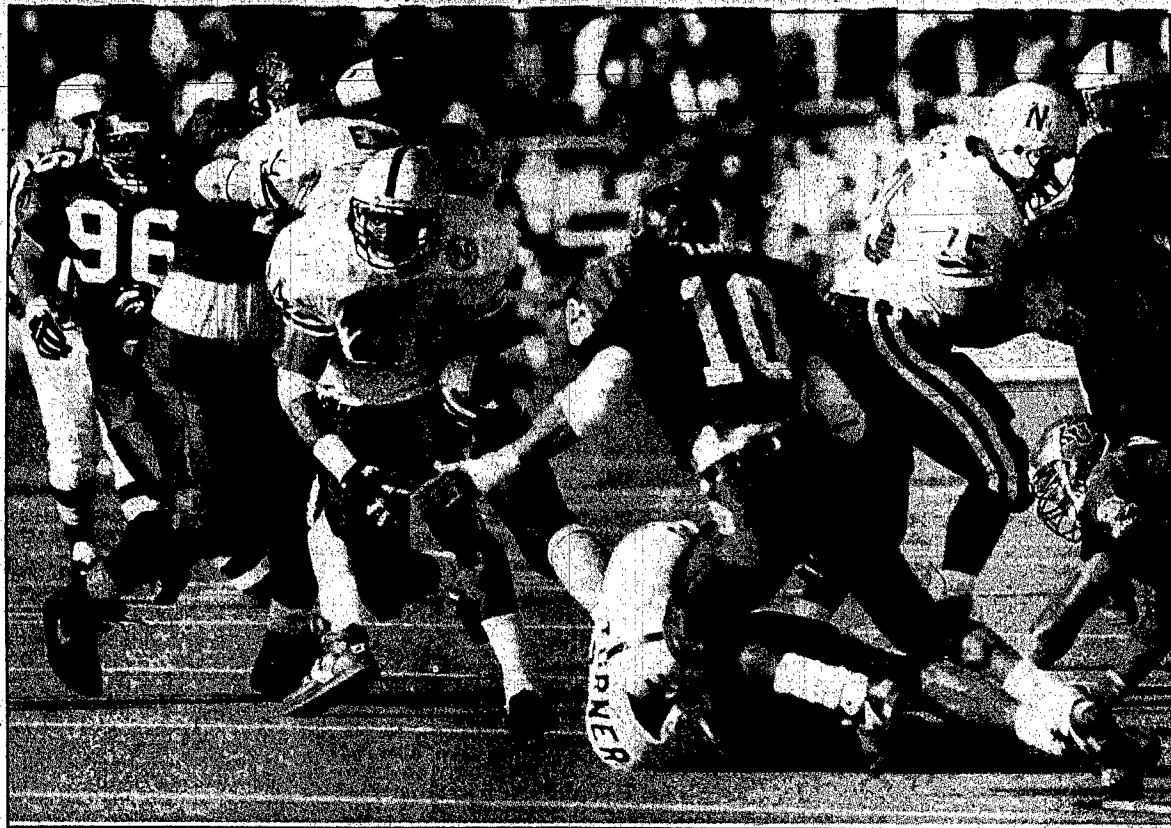
"We can't control what happened last year," McCant said. "We have to take care of this year. The games we lost last year, two years ago, whatever, that's done. That's over with. We have to take care of this year."

Kansas almost took care of this year. "Sometimes I think we tend to take teams a little lightly," Engelbert said. "We've got to learn not to do that. We've got to get just as emotional as we do for the big games."

Fortunately for Nebraska, it will never know how "big" this one could have been. "This will be regarded as another ho-hummer by a lot of people," Osborne said, "but I thought it was a big win. I was really worried whether we would win it or not."

For once, he wasn't alone.

KU Can't Keep Up With Jones



Nebraska's first drive of the second half epitomized the Huskers' day — It was all Calvin Jones, No. 44... Jones, who broke records with 294 rushing yards and 36 points on six touchdowns, darts away from Kansas' Doug Terry, No. 10, on one of his seven carries during a 9-play, 80-yard scoring drive that put NU ahead, 24-20.

Freshman Sails For 294 Yards, 6 Touchdowns

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer Lawrence, Kan. — When things looked bleakest Saturday for 11th-ranked Nebraska — down 17 points in the second quarter and without its injured 1,000-yard I-back — along came Jones to save the day.

Backup I-back Calvin Jones raced off the bench and raced past Heisman Trophy winners Mike Rozier, Barry Sanders and Steve Owens in the school and Big Eight record books by rushing for 294 yards and six touchdowns to lead Nebraska to a 59-23 victory over Kansas.

The redshirt freshman out of Omaha Central dazzled the estimated crowd of 40,000 at KU's Memorial Stadium — including about 8,000 in red — with scoring runs of 1, 3, 9, 12, 47 and 68 yards among his 27 carries.

All of that came in the final three quarters after starter Derek Brown, the nation's No. 5 rusher, left the game suffering from blurred vision.

"Calvin is a great player," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "We knew he could play well."

"He's a big back and he's got speed. Give him a crack and he can go."

Jones' sixth touchdown put Nebraska ahead 45-23 with 10:41 left in the game and boosted his rushing total to 276 yards. That was nine short of Rozier's school record of 285 yards in 31 carries against Kansas in 1983.

Jones returned for the next series, alternating with No. 3 I-back George Achola. The 5-foot-11, 205-pounder

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'Gutsy Call' Lets Buffs Nip Pokes

Stillwater, Okla. (AP) — Colorado quarterback Darian Hagan didn't hurt Oklahoma State much Saturday. But his backup killed the winless Cowboys.

Vance Joseph kept alive the final drive with two huge plays, then Robbie James threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Christian Fauria on a fake field goal with six seconds left to give the 14th-ranked Buffaloes a 16-12 victory.

(Joseph is the younger brother of Nebraska quarterback Mickey Joseph.)

"However long I've been coaching — 25 years or so, I guess — that's the gutsiest call I've ever seen," Oklahoma State Coach Pat Jones said.

"A field goal will win the game. I guess clean living triumphed again with Bill. He's really a nicer guy than I am, always has been."

Colorado Coach Bill McCartney downplayed the call, which came on third and 10. He said if Fauria wasn't open or wasn't far enough downfield for a first down, James would have thrown it away and the Buffaloes would have kicked on fourth down.

"We pride ourselves on our kicking game," McCartney said.

Colorado, 6-21 and 4-0-1 in the Big Eight, was able to keep alive its hopes for a third straight Orange Bowl trip despite six turnovers, including a school-record five in the first half.

Hagan gained just 15 yards on 15 carries and was sacked five times, but had a big scramble in a clutch situation. On third and 7, he squirmed away from three tacklers and picked up 9 yards.

Colorado eventually had to punt, but was able to pin Oklahoma State, 0-8-1 and 0-4-1, at the 10. Three plays netted 8 yards and the Cowboys punted, with the Buffaloes taking over at the OSU 43 with 1:54 left.

"From the sideline, I had turned around to tell our coaches what to do on the punt return," Jones said, referring to Hagan's scramble. "Then I heard a roar and heard one of our kids holler a profanity. I looked up and saw the kid going down the side."

Hagan was shaken up on the second play of the final drive and was replaced by Joseph. Two plays later, on fourth and 14, Joseph scrambled long enough to find fullback James Hill for a 17-yard completion to the 30.

"The designed play was to hit C.J. (Charles Johnson) 20 yards over the middle, but I got pressure early," Joseph said. "I was pushed back 10 or 15 yards, then I found James Hill over the middle for an easy pass."

Said Jones: "We could not get him panned up, we just couldn't. You get in a scramble situation and obviously somebody's got a chance to be open and the guy found him."

Later, on third and 10, Joseph picked up a first down on a quarterback draw.

Then on third down, after the Cowboys had called two timeouts to pressure kicker Jim Harper, James spun out after taking the snap and hit tight end Fauria all alone at about the

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Lincoln SE Shocks Islanders

By Daryl Blue
World-Herald Correspondent

Grand Island, Neb. — Lincoln Southeast did it again to Grand Island.

The seventh-ranked Knights shut out No. 1 and previously unbeaten Grand Island 7-0 Saturday for their third straight Class A playoff victory over the Islanders in four years. This victory, less than a month after a 26-point regular-season loss to G.I., moves Southeast to a Wednesday night semifinal against Omaha Westside.

Southeast's other recent playoff wins over Grand Island were 7-3 in 1988 and 17-9 in 1989. Since 1975, the year the playoffs started, Southeast is 4-1 in postseason games against the Islanders.

The 7-3 Knights halted 9-1 Grand Island's first scoring opportunity when Lindsey Sturgeon blocked a 26-yard field-goal attempt by Jesse Strinz with 2:10 left in the first half.

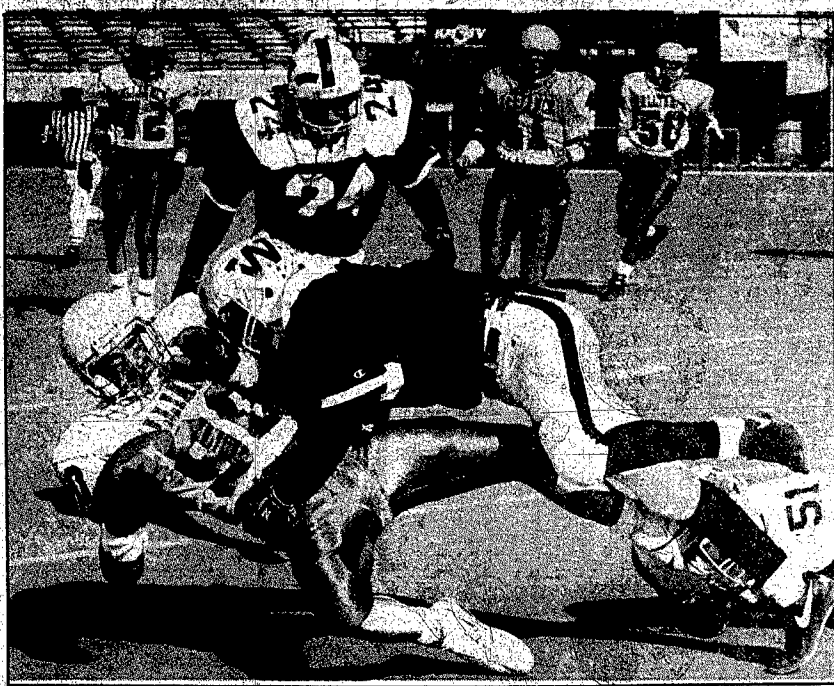
"Southeast played a great defensive game," retiring Grand Island Coach Ken Fischer said. "We knew the field was going to be slick and you couldn't run anything to the middle. It didn't take Southeast long to figure out that we had to run plays to the short side of the field."

A blocked punt in the fourth quarter set up the game's only touchdown. Southeast's Jeff Kenna burst through the left side and blocked Jon Schmidt's punt on Grand Island's 22-yard line. The ball bounced toward the goal line, and the Knights' Jeff Wolgamott covered it on the Islanders' 4.

"We had a punt block on from the right side, but Kenna came through from right tackle," Southeast Coach Chuck Mizerski said.

Jim Mahoney carried two straight times off Southeast's right side for a 1-yard touchdown with 8:13 left in the game. Jon Hesse kicked the

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Omaha Westside's Matt Rysavy takes down Alliance's Bill Mazanec on a first-quarter run... The Warriors' defense held the Bulldogs to 24 yards rushing in the first half and 146 total yards for the game.

Cooper Does It All for Westside

By Eric Olson
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Mike Cooper was simply super Saturday in fourth-ranked Omaha Westside's 21-3 victory over Alliance in the first round of the Class A playoffs at Memorial Stadium.

The junior halfback ran for 180 yards and two touchdowns and intercepted a pass to lead the 9-1 Warriors past the opening round for the first time since 1987. They'll play Lincoln Southeast in a Wednesday semifinal.

More state playoff coverage, Pages 11, 12, 13.

"I had a pretty nice day," Cooper said. "The line opened up some nice seams for me. The only thing about today was that we were a little bit rusty at the start of the game."

The Warriors, who hadn't played since Oct. 23, scored on their first series, on Cooper's 57-yard run down the right sideline, but saw three of their other five first-half possessions end on Mike Eversden interceptions.

The playoff really showed in our passing game," Westside Coach Larry Morrissey said. "I thought Mike threw tentatively at times."

Jim Riley, executive director of the Nebraska School Activities Association, estimated attendance at 1,800 for the first high school game played at Memorial Stadium since 1947. Riley said a total of about 4,300 saw the playoff doubleheader that ended with Papillion-LaVista's 20-6 win over Columbus.

The Warriors' defense helped

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Tennessee Upsets Irish With Miracle Rally

South Bend, Ind. (AP) — Notre Dame, king of the miracle comeback, got a taste of its own medicine Saturday.

Andy Kelly and Aaron Hayden helped 13th-ranked Tennessee overcome a 24-point deficit and beat the fifth-ranked Irish 35-34 when walk-on kicker Rob Leonard missed a 27-yard field-goal attempt as time ran out.

Leonard was called in to attempt his first career field goal after Notre Dame's standout kicker, Craig Henrich, injured his right leg earlier in the game. But the sophomore's kick glanced off the backside of Tennessee's Jeremy Lincoln and sailed wide to the right, ending slim Irish hopes for a

national championship.

Tennessee, 6-2, had taken its first and only lead with 4:03 left when Kelly threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Hayden. The score capped an amazing rally by the Volunteers, who trailed 31-7 before Floyd Miley sparked the comeback by returning a blocked field goal 88 yards for a touchdown with 14 seconds remaining in the first half.

"Words can't express how satisfying this is," Miley said. "This will be the biggest victory in my life."

Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz was downcast after the game.

"This is the most difficult loss I've ever been associated with," he said. "It's the most disappointed I've ever

been in my life. It's very difficult to accept."

After Hayden's TD catch, 8-2 Notre Dame drove from its 25 to the Tennessee 9. The Irish called a timeout with four seconds left before Leonard, whose game experience was limited to one extra-point against Michigan State, attempted the final kick.

"When I hit it, I thought it was good, he said. "But one of their guys came in and got a piece of it."

The loss spoiled Notre Dame's outside chances of playing for the national title in the Fiesta Bowl and virtually guaranteed that the Florida State-Miami winner will go to the Orange Bowl to meet the Big Eight champ.

Henrich, one of the best kickers in Notre Dame history, strained his right knee while trying to tackle Miley on the blocked kick return near the end of the half.

The junior returned in the third quarter and kicked his second field goal of the game — a 20-yarder that put the Irish ahead 34-21. But Henrich aggravated the injury on the ensuing kickoff and had to be helped off the field.

Tennessee, which lost a 34-29 heart-breaker to Notre Dame last year at Knoxville, seemed like it was heading for a blowout loss Saturday after the Irish capitalized on three Vol turnovers

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