

# College Football



## NU, OU See Rivalry Die

Norman, Okla. — Sometime early Saturday morning, when this proud, old rivalry still had its last breath, Jerry Tagge walked onto the sun-splashed field at Memorial Stadium and took a step back in time.

Here was the place where Tagge, the former Nebraska quarterback, and so many others had been immortalized on a cold, gray day so long ago. How long? Twenty-five years ago. And 25 years since Tagge had been in this stadium. Like an old soldier returning to a field of battle, he could feel the memories, maybe see a few of the old ghosts still running around out there.

Johnny Rodgers turning a punt return into a magic carpet ride. Jack Mildren to Jon Harrison. Rich Glover grappling with Tom Brahaney. And the frantic, breathless last drive of "The Game of the Century," with Jeff Kinney dragging himself into the end zone for Nebraska's 35-31 victory.

"I had goose bumps," said Tagge, the man who led that final drive to destiny. "I got to the 50-yard-line, and I remembered being there 25 years ago on that spot. It gave me goose bumps."

### No Emotion

And then Nebraska-Oklahoma, circa 1996, started. And Tagge's trip into the Time Tunnel became a jaunt through the Twilight Zone. As a sideline reporter for the Husker radio network, he had news to report.

"When I was down there, I could tell they didn't have the same emotion we had," Tagge said.

This just in: The Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry is officially dead.

It died a very slow, and mostly sad, death Saturday. It had lived a full life, starting in either 1962 or 1971, depending on your perspective (the OU-Nebraska rivalry definitely took on a new life, though, in 1971). It was a rivalry built on championships and coincidence, not geography. It was as American as apple pie. Dessert on Thanksgiving.

But a quarter of century later, and countless great moments and thrills later, the poor thing was beyond recognition. Early November date. The worst Oklahoma ever. And the carnage. Oh, the brutal carnage.

### Records Fall

Never mind the particulars, the missed tackles, the incompetence of Oklahoma's offense, the general ineptitude of Sooner football. The score, for once, said it all. Nebraska 73, Oklahoma 21. Yes, the biggest victory by Nebraska over Oklahoma ever. Yes, the worst defeat for Oklahoma ever. Worse than a 45-point loss to Oklahoma A&M in 1945. The most points ever scored on Oklahoma. The most points scored by Nebraska since the 73 put up against Iowa State last year.

So now Oklahoma stands by Iowa State in the annals of Nebraska football. How appropriate. Because this game has become just another game. Exactly 25 years after "The Game."

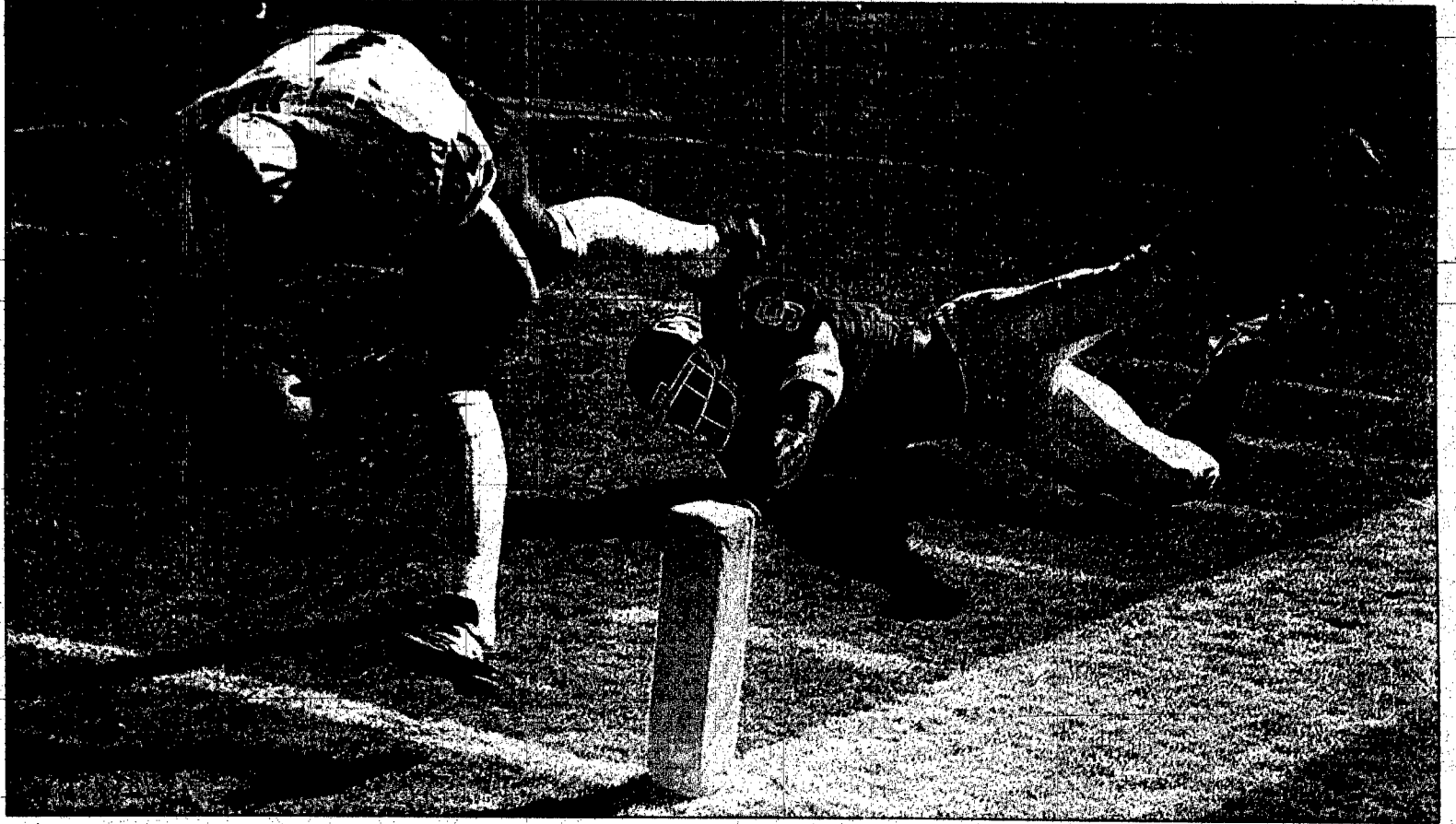
How ironic. How sad. It has been that way now for several years, and it's all Oklahoma's fault, of course. Slowly, but surely, the Sooners have fallen behind Nebraska in the rear view mirror. Saturday just made it official.

### Bad Memories

But the coroner will show this was a slow, painstaking death. Twenty-five years ago, these two programs had the world's attention all the way to an incredible final drive in the chess match. Twenty-five years later, it ended with both teams' subs trading garbage touchdowns. Sad. Nebraska fans booed when Jay Sims was called down 1 yard shy of the end zone. Sad. ABC began showing plays from a rugby match across the street. Sad. No wonder Keith Jackson, ABC's main announcer, was at Penn State.

Sad. Sad. Sad. So there will be few tears shed in Nebraska. Feel sorry for the Sooners? You might as well hug Saddam Hussein. How many times did the brass bunch from down south strut into Lincoln and ruin a season—shoot, an entire calendar year? How many, bone-chilling, gray Saturdays did the bad guys in white tease and taunt and then pull away victory from Cornhusker fans as if on a string?

If this was the worst Oklahoma defeat, then there were those among the estimated 12,000 Big Red fans who surely said it couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of Okies. When replays



SCORING EXPLOSION: Sophomore wingback Lance Brown scoots past Anthony Fogel, No. 9, and dives for the end zone to score the fourth of Nebraska's 10 touchdowns against Oklahoma, this one coming on a 41-yard pass from Scott Frost with 3:59 left in the third quarter. NU's 73 points were the most ever surrendered by an OU team.

# Huskers Scorch OU for 73 Points

BY LEE BARFKNECHT  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Norman, Okla. — Have you ever seen a team punt the first six times it had the ball and then score 73 points?

Fifth-ranked Nebraska did it Saturday, surviving a first-half struggle to inflict an unprecedented 73-21 beating on Oklahoma before a sellout crowd of 75,004 at Owen Field.

OU fans in that throng were going berserk watching their defense — running a new scheme — hold the fifth-ranked Huskers to 7 yards and no points almost to the midway point of

the second quarter.

But NU, to the delight of the estimated 12,000 Husker fans in attendance, scored 10 touchdowns and a field goal in the final 38 minutes to stick the Sooners with:

■ Their worst margin of defeat in history. The 52-point spread topped the 47-0 loss to Oklahoma A&M in 1945.

■ The most points allowed in history. The former mark had been 59 in a 59-21 loss to Kansas State in 1969.

■ The worst margin of defeat by either team in the NU-OU rivalry. The biggest deficit previously had been 48 points in Oklahoma wins over Nebraska

in 1949 (48-0), 1954 (55-7) and 1956 (54-6).

The game's transformation from barnburner to blowout left many of the Huskers shaking their heads.

"I was worried about losing this game," NU middle linebacker Jon Hesse said. "Really, I was. No matter what the records coming in, this was Oklahoma."

"I can't believe we scored 73 points. I never thought I would ever see Oklahoma give up 73 points."

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne also wasn't quite sure what to make of it. "In some ways, it wasn't our best

game," he said. "But in some ways, if you look at the final score, it was kind of amazing."

The one constant in the game that allowed Nebraska (7-1 overall, 5-0 in the Big 12 North) not to worry too long about being upset by Oklahoma (2-6, 2-3 in the South) was defense.

"When you beat somebody 73-21 and you say the key to the game was defense, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense," Osborne said. "But we played very well defensively through most of the game."

Nebraska shut out Oklahoma for three quarters, and the defense had a

hand in four of the touchdowns — including freshman cornerback Ralph Brown's 83-yard interception return — that helped the Huskers build leads of 17-0 at halftime and 45-0 entering the fourth quarter.

"Our defensive line ate their offensive line alive," Hesse said. "When those guys play that well, it's almost impossible to move the ball on us."

Defensive tackle Jason Peter started the surge on the game's first play by sacking OU quarterback Justin Fuente for a 7-yard loss. Nebraska held Oklahoma to 19 yards in the first quarter. 1

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## Mavs Own First Place In the NCC

BY RICH KAIPIST  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

If UNO's football rebuilding project isn't quite over just yet, the Mavericks' 30-19 victory over St. Cloud State on Saturday night pushed it a little closer to completion.

For now, anyway, it left the Mavs in first place in the North Central Conference.

"It's an unusual feeling," University of Nebraska at Omaha Coach Pat Behrns said. "That's a place we haven't been in quite some time."

No. 5-ranked UNO's sixth straight win moved it past South Dakota State, and into sole possession of the NCC lead with two weeks left. A win over the Jackrabbits next Saturday would give the Mavs the first outright league championship in school history.

"It doesn't make it any more easier," UNO tailback Melvin McPhaul said. "Now next week is for all the chips."

The Mavs (8-1 overall, 6-1 in the NCC) avoided looking ahead by jumping on St. Cloud State for 28 first-half points Saturday night before a Caniglia Field crowd of 3,600. They barred the door shut early on Huskies senior back

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NOWHERE TO RUN: St. Cloud State's Randy Martin is tackled by UNO's Damon Hansen in the first quarter. Martin was held to a season-low 48 yards on 25 carries.

## Doxzon Hurt in ISU's Loss

### Cyclones' QB Injured Trying to Make a Tackle in Freak Play

BY COREY ROSS  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Ames, Iowa — Todd Doxzon's luck ran out Saturday.

Iowa State's often-injured quarterback suffered his first injury of the season on a freak play in the 34-31 loss to Kansas.

ISU running back Troy Davis fumbled on a two-point conversion try in the fourth quarter. Cornerback Tony Blevins scooped up the ball and tried to score two points for Kansas. Doxzon pursued Blevins, but ended up getting hit rather than making one.

Replays showed teammate Dennis DiBiase's knee hit Doxzon in the helmet while DiBiase made the tackle. But that was news to Doxzon.

"I don't have a clue what happened," said Doxzon, a Millard North graduate.



Doxzon

"I was just trying to make the tackle, but he had three blockers."

"When I came off the field, I heard the announcer say, 'I was hurt and I saw the trainers coming at me, so I knew something was wrong.' Doxzon said he was dizzy after the hit and had blurred vision, but trainers told him he didn't have a concussion.

Doxzon completed 9 of 18 passes for 165 yards. He rushed five times for 8 yards, but scored Iowa State's first touchdown on a 14-yard scramble.

The injury forced Doxzon to reluctantly sit out Iowa State's last two

drives.

"I wanted to (go in), but I couldn't see anything," he said.

Sophomore Todd Bandhauer entered for the first time this season, losing a year of eligibility. Iowa State Coach Dan McCartney had hoped to redshirt Bandhauer.

McCartney said he planned to start Doxzon against Colorado Saturday, but didn't know how much Bandhauer might play.

It's possible Bandhauer, who is the top option to succeed Doxzon at quarterback next season, could be used to gain experience for next season.

"Whatever coach's decision is, I'll accept that," Doxzon said.

## Detmer Sets Record As Buffaloes Roll

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Columbia, Mo. — A week after getting knocked goofy, Colorado quarterback Koy Detmer passed Missouri dizzy.

Detmer, showing no ill effects from the concussion he suffered seven days ago, broke his own school record Saturday by throwing for 457 yards in the seventh-ranked Buffaloes' 41-13 Big 12 Conference victory over the Tigers before 34,440 at Faurot Field.

"That white boy can throw," Missouri cornerback Shad Criss said. "He ought to win the Heisman."

Detmer, who a week ago would have had trouble spelling Heisman let alone winning one, completed 19 of 33 passes against Missouri. He had touchdown throws of 69 and 34 yards to Rae Carruth and 34 yards to Phil Savoy. Carruth had five other catches, and his 222 yards tied Colorado's single-game record for receiving yardage.

Detmer and Carruth hooked up time and time again and made a lot of plays for us," Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel said. "You hope you get that from big-time performers, but it's always nice to see it happen in the flesh."

The record-setting day by Detmer helped Colorado win its 10th straight road game, improve to 7-1 overall and 5-0 in the Big 12's North Division. Missouri, dropping to 3-5 and 1-4, played the Buffaloes tough for the first 45 minutes.

The Tigers, three-touchdown underdogs, held 3-0 and 10-7 leads in the first half and trailed by just eight points

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## How The AP Top 25 FARED

1. Florida (8-0) beat Georgia 47-7.
2. Ohio State (8-0) beat Minnesota 45-0.
3. Florida State (7-0) beat Ga. Tech 49-3.
4. Arizona State (9-0) beat Oregon St. 29-14.
5. Nebraska (7-1) beat Oklahoma 73-21.
6. Tennessee (6-1) beat So. Carolina 31-14.
7. Colorado (7-1) beat Missouri 41-13.
8. North Carolina (7-1) beat N.C. State 52-20.
9. Michigan (7-1) beat Michigan St. 45-29.
10. Alabama (7-1) did not play.
11. Northwestern (7-2) lost to Penn St. 34-9.
12. Louisiana St. (6-1) did not play.
13. Brigham Young (9-1) beat UTEP 40-18.
14. Kansas State (7-1) did not play.
15. Penn State (6-2) beat Northwestern 34-9.
16. Virginia (6-2) beat Duke 27-3.
17. Wyoming (9-0) beat So. Methodist 59-17.
18. West Virginia (7-2) lost to Syracuse 30-7.
19. Notre Dame (5-2) beat Navy 54-27.
20. Utah (7-2) lost to Rice 51-10.
21. Washington (6-2) beat So. Cal. 21-10.
22. Miami (6-2) beat Temple 37-26.
23. Southern Miss. (8-1) beat Cin. 21-17.
24. Auburn (6-2) beat Arkansas 28-7.
25. Iowa (6-2) beat Illinois 31-21.

## Cal Wins Longest Game, 56-55

Berkeley, Calif. (AP) — The longest football game in major college history finally ended Saturday when Arizona, faking an extra point in the fourth overtime, failed to make a two-point conversion and lost 56-55 to California.

Pat Barnes threw for eight touchdowns and 503 yards, both school records for Cal (6-2, 3-2 in the Pac-10). He had scoring passes in the first, third and fourth overtimes.

Keith Smith threw for five touchdowns and ran for two more for Arizona (4-4, 2-3). Jeremy McDaniel set school records with 14 catches for 283

yards — including two touchdowns. Earlier this season, California needed three overtimes to beat Oregon State 48-42 in what had been the longest game.

In the fourth overtime, Barnes threw a 5-yard scoring pass to Marc Vera and Ryan Longwell added the extra point to give Cal a 56-49 lead.

Arizona then scored on a 1-yard touchdown run by Gary Taylor and lined up for the extra point. But holder Ryan Hesson took the snap and flipped it over his head to kicker Matt Peyton — who was buried by Andre Rhodes at the 3 to end the game.