

HUSKER HISTORY: NU WINS FINAL BIG EIGHT GAME

Florida Atlantic Head Coach Howard Schnellenberger has been on the opposing sideline in two historic Nebraska football games. The first was a heartbreaking 31-30 Husker loss to Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl. When Turner Gill's potential game-winning two-point conversion pass was tipped away at the last second, Schnellenberger won his first national championship, while Husker Head Coach Tom Osborne saw his first national title - and Nebraska's undefeated season - slip away.

Nearly 12 years later, Schnellenberger brought his Oklahoma Sooners team to Lincoln for the regular-season finale on Nov. 24, 1995. The Huskers were once again the No. 1 team in the nation and in the midst of an undefeated season when they faced Oklahoma on the day after Thanksgiving. The game took on added significance as the final Big Eight Conference game ever played (the Big 12 Conference began play the next season).

There would be no upset for Schnellenberger this time in his only previous trip to Memorial Stadium as a head coach before tonight. The 1995 Nebraska Cornhuskers, who many experts believe were the greatest college football team of all-time, cruised to a 37-0 victory that gave the Huskers their third straight unbeaten regular season.

Nebraska jumped out to a 10-0 lead after one quarter thanks to defense and special teams. Kris Brown opened the scoring with a 31-yard field goal 4:16 into the game. Jamel Williams then put the Huskers in front by two scores four minutes later when he intercepted a Garrick McGee pass and returned it 36 yards for the game's first touchdown.

The Huskers took a 13-0 lead into the locker room when Brown added a 27-yard field goal with only one second remaining in the first half. In the second half, the Blackshirts struck again as Tony Veland scored on a 57-yard fumble return to give NU a 20-0 lead.

Following Brown's third field goal of the game, the high-powered Husker offense finally scored a touchdown when Tommie Frazier connected with Jon Vedral for a 38-yard touchdown pass just 48 seconds into the fourth quarter. Joel Makovicka closed the scoring with a 17-yard touchdown run with 44 seconds left on the clock.

It was a strange sight in 1995 for the Husker offense to go three quarters without producing a touchdown. Through the first 10 games of the regular season, Nebraska had scored 66 offensive touchdowns. The Husker offense had been held out of the end zone only six times in 40 quarters and had never been held without a touchdown for an entire half before Oklahoma kept Frazier and Co. out of the end zone for nearly 46 minutes.

Nebraska outgained Oklahoma 407-241 in total yards, thanks to 271 rushing yards for the Huskers. Oklahoma out-passed Nebraska 190-136, but the Huskers racked up 225 return yards compared to just 16 for the Sooners.

The 37-0 shutout continued several impressive streaks for the Big Red. The win was Nebraska's 36th straight regular-season win and 30th straight home victory. The win also gave NU a 23-game winning streak to end the Big Eight era.

The victory secured NU a spot in the Fiesta Bowl where the Huskers would play for a third national title in four seasons. Nebraska captured that third national title - and finished with its second straight perfect season - with a 62-24 rout of No. 2 Florida, which entered the game with a perfect 11-0 record.

Nebraska ran up 629 yards against the Gators - including 524 on the ground - and scored eight touchdowns. Despite those impressive figures not counting toward the national statistical rankings (bowl game statistics were not included by the NCAA until 2002), the 1995 Huskers still finished the season first nationally in scoring at a whopping 52.4 points per game. Nebraska also led the nation with an average of 399.8 rushing yards per game, while ranking second with 556.3 yards of total offense per contest.

No. 1 Nebraska - 37 Oklahoma - 0

Nov. 24, 1995 - Lincoln, Neb.
Memorial Stadium - 75,662
Consecutive Sellout No. 208

	NU	OU
First Downs	26	12
Rushing Yardage	271	51
Passing Yardage	136	190
Total Offense	407	241
Average Per Play	4.9	3.8
Fumbles-Lost	4-1	3-1
Penalties-Yards	3-24	9-97
Time of Possession	32:46	27:14
Sacks-Yards	0-0	2-15



Freshman Kris Brown booted three field goals, as the top-ranked Huskers shut out Howard Schnellenberger's Oklahoma Sooners, 37-0, on Nov. 24, 1995 in the final Big Eight game ever played.

This Date in Husker History - Sept. 5

The Huskers have played on Sept. 5 only twice in the first 120 years of Nebraska football. The second-ranked Huskers defeated Utah State, 56-12 in the 1987 season opener and five years later, No. 11 NU topped Utah, 49-22 in the 1992 season opener. Overall, Nebraska has played 189 all-time games in the month of September, compiling a 147-36-6 record, good for a .794 winning percentage. Nebraska won its first 14 games played in the month of September and has gone undefeated in the month 42 times.

