



# Husker History: NU Rally Keeps Perfect Season Intact

By the thinnest margin, freshman receiver Matt Davison kept Nebraska's dream of a third national championship in four years alive with his spectacular touchdown catch against Missouri on this day in Husker history, Nov. 8, 1997. Davison's diving grab sent the game to overtime, where No. 1 Nebraska eventually defeated Missouri, 45-38.

To even get into position for the most spectacular of catches was unlikely for Nebraska. Missouri took a 38-31 lead with 4:39 remaining after a 15-yard touchdown pass from Corby Jones to Eddie Brooks. Nebraska took over the ensuing drive at its own 29 and went three-and-out. Missouri then started at its own 22 and appeared to be stopped when a penalty pushed the Tigers from a 3rd-and-1 to 3rd-and-6, but Jones dashed upfield 14 yards to pick up the first down. Three straight Mizzou runs forced the Huskers to burn all of their timeouts, making the road to victory more difficult.

After an MU punt, Nebraska took over on its own 33, with only 62 seconds to score and avoid its first loss of the season.

The first play of the drive provided a glimmer of hope, as Scott Frost hit Kenny Cheatham down the right sideline for a 27-yard gain, but two straight incompletions pushed the Huskers to the brink. On 3rd-and-10 from the MU 40, Frost hit Davison for 13 yards and a first down at the Tiger 27.

Two completions to Cheatham in the next three plays pushed Nebraska to the Missouri 12. Two Frost incompletions ran the clock down to its final seconds. The Huskers had just one more chance.

Frost sat back in the shotgun, with Davison and Lance Brown set wide to the left, Cheatham and Shevin Wiggins set wide right. Three of the four receivers angled in toward the middle of the end zone. Frost looked left at Brown, then rifled the ball right toward Wiggins, who dropped the ball, then deflected it toward the back of the end zone with his foot, where Davison dove to save the ball before it hit the turf for the game-tying touchdown.

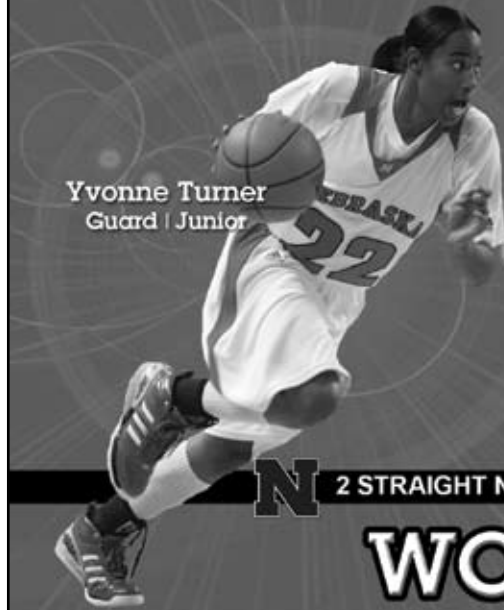
The Huskers got the ball first in overtime, and two Ahman Green runs for 13 yards set up Frost's 12-yard touchdown scamper to give Nebraska the lead. Mizzou took the ball at the NU 25 and gained just three yards on a Jones run and two incomplete

pass attempts. On 4th-and-7, Webb City, Mo., native Grant Wistrom, and St. Joseph, Mo., native Mike Rucker sacked Jones to end the game and give the Huskers one of the most thrilling wins in school history. Nebraska won the final four games of the season and shared the national championship with Michigan, sending Head Coach Tom Osborne out on top in his 25th and final season as coach of the Cornhuskers.



*Matt Davison's diving catch kept Nebraska's unbeaten season alive in 1997. The Huskers went on to finish a perfect 13-0 in Coach Tom Osborne's final season, capping the year with a 42-17 victory over No. 3 Tennessee in the Orange Bowl that gave Nebraska a share of the National Championship.*

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