

Husker History: Pelini's Debut Five Years Ago Today

Today, Bo Pelini takes the field at Memorial Stadium for the first time as Nebraska's head football coach exactly five years to the day that he made his debut as the Huskers' defensive coordinator. In his debut as defensive coordinator, his Blackshirts held a high-powered Oklahoma State attack to 183 total yards in Nebraska's 17-7 win over the No. 24 Cowboys on Aug. 30, 2003.

The challenge seemed daunting coming into the game, as No. 24 Oklahoma State not only was coming off a 24-21 win over the Huskers a year earlier, but also returned star quarterback Josh Fields, future NFL running back Tatum Bell and wide receiver Rashaun Woods.

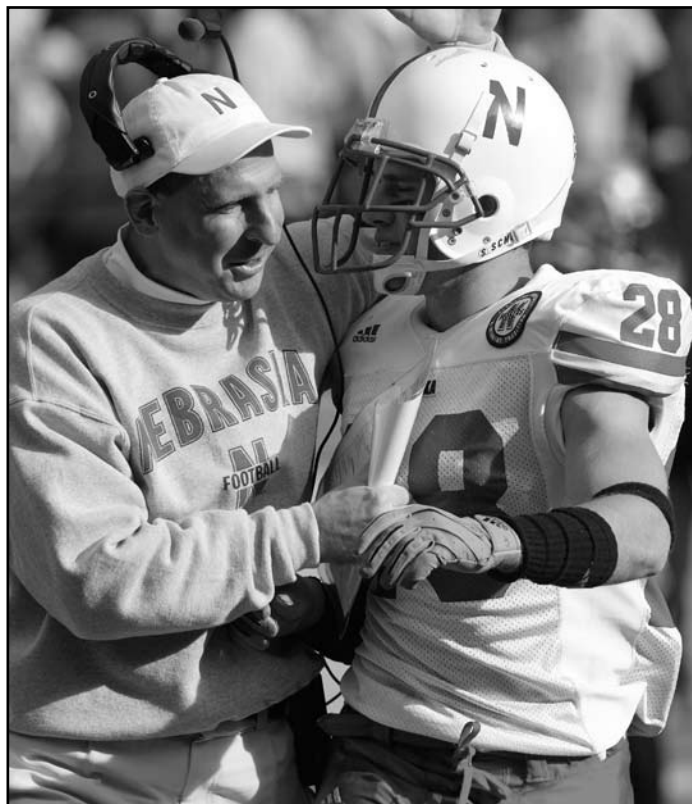
After Oklahoma State built a 7-3 lead in the first half, the Blackshirts took over the game. Pelini's defense was especially dominant in the second half, stifling the Cowboy offense while setting the Husker offense up with good position. The Blackshirts even scored a touchdown of their own.

Oklahoma State had seven drives in the second half and came up empty on each of them. Six of the drives lasted four or fewer plays, with each of those drives resulting in the Cowboys gaining four yards or less. Pelini's defenses are known for creating turnovers, and that ability was on full display in the second half as NU forced four second-half turnovers.

Oklahoma State started the second half with the ball, but turned it over four plays later when Josh Bullocks intercepted Fields at the NU 45. The Huskers went three-and-out on their next set of downs and had to punt to OSU, which took the ball at its own 14. Two plays later, Bell fumbled and Barrett Ruud scooped up the loose ball and took it 15 yards for a touchdown to give Nebraska the 10-7 lead.

Another OSU turnover would set up an insurance score for the Huskers. Jerrell Pippens sacked Fields at the OSU 16, forcing a fumble that Ryon Bingham recovered. Three plays later, Judd Davies rumbled into the end zone to give Nebraska a 17-7 lead late in the third quarter.

Under Pelini's direction, the Husker defense made the lead stand up as NU gave up just 47 yards after halftime and only 21 in the fourth quarter. Pelini's debut still resonates with Husker fans today, as they see Pelini take the helm of the program.



Five years ago today, Bo Pelini's Blackshirts scored a defensive touchdown and limited a potent Oklahoma State offense to 183 total yards in a 17-7 Husker win.

NEBRASKA

Upcoming Home Schedule

Sunday, September 7
UAB
1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 12
Drake
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14
Oakland
1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 19
North Dakota State
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 21
Stephen F. Austin
1:00 p.m.



Shay Powell
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All home games at Nebraska Soccer Field located northeast of Memorial Stadium. All dates and times are subject to change.

For full schedule, ticket, and game-day information visit Huskers.com.