

Husker History: NU Runs Past Buffaloes in 1987

Behind a strong running game and a dominating defensive effort, Nebraska went into Boulder, Colo., and earned a 24-7 victory over the Buffaloes on this day in Husker history, Nov. 28, 1987.

The Huskers were looking for revenge against the Buffaloes, as Colorado defeated Nebraska, 20-10, the previous season, also at Folsom Field. That loss snapped a series-best 18-game win streak for the Huskers. Nebraska was back in Boulder for the 1987 meeting and the Huskers made sure a second upset wasn't in the cards.

Nebraska ran for 419 yards on the day, averaging 6.8 yards per carry. I-back Keith Jones ran 26 times for a career-high 248 yards and two touchdowns. Jones' 248 yards marked the third-best single-game rushing total in Husker history, while his work on the ground led ESPN commentator Lee Corso to describe him as "all-universe" following the game. Jones single-handedly outgained the Buffalo offense, as the Blackshirts limited CU to just 226 total yards.

Leading the defensive effort was Neil Smith, who totaled 12 tackles, including nine solo stops and two tackles for 15 yards in losses. For his effort against Colorado, Smith was named the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Week.

After a scoreless opening quarter, quarterback Steve Taylor found the end zone just 1:06 into the second period, scoring from five yards out. Place-kicker Chris Drennan added a 50-yard field goal with 3:41 remaining in the half to give Nebraska a 10-0 lead at the break.

The Huskers extended the lead to 17-0 when Jones scampered 50 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter. Colorado then found the scoreboard for the only time in the game when quarterback Mark Hatcher connected with George Hemingway on a four-yard touchdown pass.

Jones answered the touchdown and capped the scoring with a 44-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter.

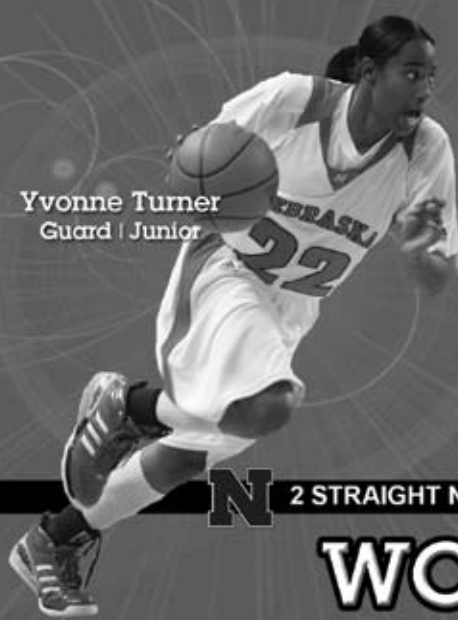
Nebraska passed just six times on the day, completing only three passes for just three yards. Colorado threw for 79 yards, but the Buffaloes were intercepted twice, as they committed three turnovers to the Huskers' two.

The 1987 win over Colorado would prove to be Nebraska's last win in Boulder until 1993. The victory came one week after Nebraska suffered its only loss of the season, when the top-ranked Huskers fell to second-ranked Oklahoma, 17-7 in Lincoln. Nebraska went on to finish the 1987 season with a 10-2 record and a No. 6 national ranking following a three-point loss to Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl.



Keith Jones ran 26 times for a career-high 248 yards in the Huskers' 24-7 win at Colorado. The 248 yards ranked as the third-best single-game rushing total in Nebraska history at the time. The total ranks seventh in Husker history today.

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