

# HUSKER HISTORY: NU DENIES KSU THE NORTH TITLE

Tonight we look back at the 1999 meeting between seventh-ranked Nebraska and fifth-ranked Kansas State. Just as is the case tonight, that battled featured the top two teams in the Big 12 North and the winner went on to the Big 12 Championship Game.

KSU was 9-0 on the season and 6-0 in Big 12 play entering the Nov. 13 showdown in Lincoln. After snapping a 29-game losing streak to NU the year before, K-State set its sights on halting a 30-year losing streak inside Memorial Stadium, but it would not happen against the 8-1 Huskers, who at 5-1 in the conference, were looking to prevent the Wildcats from clinching the North Division title.

Kansas State could clinch the title with a win, while the Huskers needed to win each of their two remaining games to earn a spot in the Big 12 Championship Game.

The contest got off to an inauspicious start for Nebraska, but by the end of the first quarter, the Huskers were ahead 16-0. NU back Dan Alexander fumbled on the first play from scrimmage and K-State recovered at the NU 27. But the Blackshirts held and Kyle Vanden Bosch blocked a 40-yard field goal attempt to keep the game scoreless.

That opening series would set the tone for the entire game, as Nebraska was able to overcome 10 fumbles (three lost), and the Huskers recorded three blocked kicks on the day.

NU's first score was set up by a big special teams play, as a long Bobby Newcombe punt return gave Nebraska the ball in K-State territory. Eric Crouch then scored the game's first points when he ran it in from 30 yards out. The Wildcats fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Ralph Brown returned it to the one-yard line. Looking to tack on a second touchdown, Correll Buckhalter fumbled on the next play and K-State regained possession.

But the Husker special teams came up big again, blocking a punt for a safety to put NU on top 9-0. The Husker offense then took the free kick and drove 73 yards on 11 plays, with Crouch scoring his second rushing touchdown of the day to give NU a 16-0 advantage.

Kansas State cut the lead to 16-6 just 1:24 into the second quarter on a one-yard touchdown run. Nebraska answered right back, marching 62 yards for a touchdown when Willie Miller scored from four yards out. The Wildcats added a field goal with 25 seconds remaining in the half to trim the lead to 24-9 at halftime.

Neither team managed to score in the third quarter, but a Kansas State turnover gave Nebraska a short field early in the fourth. The Huskers used the short field to set up a Josh Brown 30-yard field goal that put the Huskers in front 27-9 with 12:34 remaining. The Wildcats again turned the ball over on their next possession and this time NU converted it into a touchdown, as Dahrran Diedrick scored from 46 yards out.

K-State cut the lead to 34-15 on a one-yard touchdown run from Adam Helm with 5:33 remaining. The Wildcats then forced a Husker punt and got the ball back, before NU forced a fumble and Eric Johnson returned it 15 yards for the game's final score.

Crouch led Nebraska with 158 yards rushing, including 124 yards on the ground in the first half alone. Crouch was just 8-of-17 through the air for 69 yards, but his counterpart Jonathan Beasley completed only 3-of-19 passes for 142 yards. Beasley was 0-of-6 in the second half before being replaced by Helm.

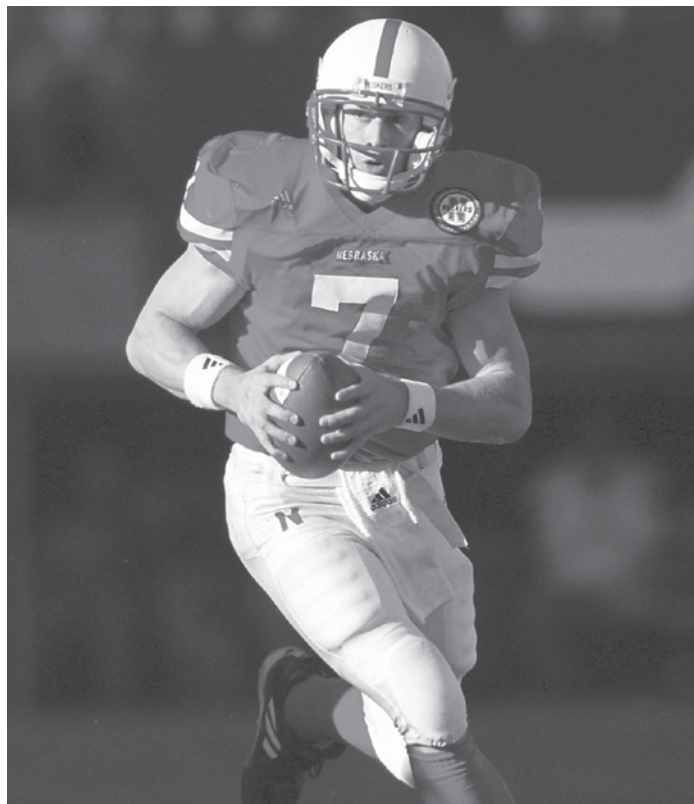
Despite the 10 fumbles, Nebraska actually won the turnover battle. The Huskers lost three fumbles, while the Wildcats lost four fumbles and threw one interception.

Neither team would lose again that season as the Huskers went on to finish 12-1, while Kansas State went 11-1. Nebraska clinched the Big 12 North Division title two weeks later with a 33-30 overtime win at Colorado. The Huskers then avenged an earlier loss to Texas by defeating the Longhorns 22-6 in the Big 12 Championship Game. NU then defeated sixth-ranked Tennessee - the defending national champion - 31-21 in the Fiesta Bowl to finish the year ranked second nationally.

## No. 7 Nebraska 41 No. 5 Kansas State 15

Nov. 13, 1999 - Lincoln, Neb.  
Memorial Stadium - 77,744  
Consecutive Sellout No. 233

	NU	KSU
First Downs	20	11
Rushing Yardage	325	129
Rushing Attempts	61	37
Passing Yardage	69	142
Comp.-Att.-Int.	8-17-0	8-32-1
Total Offense	378	234
Average Per Play	4.8	3.4
Fumbles-Lost	10-3	4-4
Penalties-Yards	1-10	4-40



Eric Crouch scored two touchdowns and rushed for 158 yards, as Nebraska ended Kansas State's dreams of an undefeated season in 1999.

### This Date in Husker History - Nov. 21

The Huskers are 5-6 all-time on Nov. 21, including a 4-2 mark in Lincoln. The last time Nebraska played on Nov. 21 came all the way back in 1987. In what was dubbed as "Game of the Century II" top-ranked Nebraska fell to second-ranked Oklahoma, 17-7 in Lincoln. Overall, Nebraska has played 446 all-time games in the month of November, compiling a 285-146-15 record, good for a .656 winning percentage. Nebraska has posted a perfect November record 28 times, not including four seasons where the Huskers were unbeaten but had at least one tie.

