

HUSKER HISTORY: TAYLOR THROWS FOR FIVE TDs

As Nebraska prepares to celebrate its NCAA record 300th consecutive sellout two weeks from today, we look back at sellout No. 150, a 42-33 Husker victory over UCLA on Sept. 12, 1987.

The game was an early-season battle between two teams expected to compete for the national championship. The Huskers entered their second game of the season with a No. 2 national ranking following a 56-12 season-opening victory over Utah State. The third-ranked Bruins opened with a 47-14 win over San Diego State in their opener.

Highlighting the top-five showdown was a battle of two of the nation's best quarterbacks in Nebraska's Steve Taylor and UCLA's Troy Aikman. Taylor was the star of the day however, throwing for a Big Eight and Nebraska-record five touchdown passes. Aikman completed 14-of-22 passes for 211 yards, but each of the Bruins' four touchdowns came on the ground.

In a game that featured 10 touchdowns and 75 points, both offenses struggled early. Gaston Green gave UCLA a 7-0 advantage with a four-yard touchdown run with only 1:21 left in the first quarter. Nebraska answered back with a touchdown of its own just 2:44 into the second quarter when Taylor found Tom Banderas in the end zone on a nine-yard pass.

The Huskers took the lead for good less than five minutes later, when Taylor and Ken Clark hooked up for an 11-yard touchdown strike. UCLA cut the lead to 14-10 at the half with a 23-yard field goal with 57 seconds remaining until intermission.

In the second half, the Huskers exploded. Clark scored his second touchdown of the game - and Nebraska's lone rushing TD - on a one-yard plunge just 1:51 into the third quarter. The Huskers scored again 1:50 later when Taylor found Rod Smith for a 48-yard touchdown strike.

With Nebraska leading 28-10 and beginning to pull away, Eric Ball scored on a six-yard run with 3:11 remaining in the third quarter to bring UCLA within two scores. But the Huskers had an answer for Ball's touchdown, as Taylor tossed two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to Todd Millikan to put the game out of reach. Taylor and Millikan first teamed up on a 35-yard pass six seconds into the final quarter before connecting again on a 33-yard strike that put Nebraska on top 42-17 with 5:37 left in the contest.

UCLA did not go away quietly, as Green scored twice in the final four minutes - and ran for a two-point conversion each time - to account for the final 42-33 margin. Green rushed for three touchdowns on the game but was held to just 46 yards on 19 attempts.

Neither team had much success on the ground. Nebraska won the rushing battle 117-94, but no Husker rushed for more than 30 yards. UCLA out-passed NU 267-217 and out-gained the Huskers 361-334. On the day, UCLA ran 20 more plays than Nebraska.

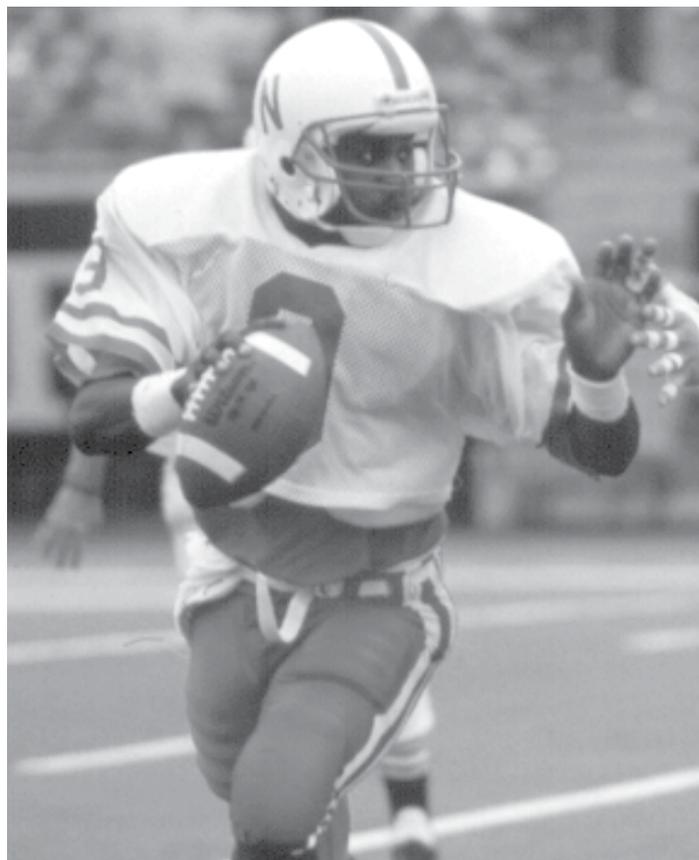
Both teams struggled with turnovers, combining to fumble nine times. Nebraska fumbled five times and lost four of them, while UCLA put the ball on the ground four times and lost three.

The game between Nebraska and UCLA had the distinction at the time as the highest matchup ever between ranked teams in Memorial Stadium history. That distinction would only last a few weeks however. On Nov. 21, the Huskers had moved up to No. 1 in the polls and squared off with No. 2 Oklahoma in what was dubbed as "Game of the Century II." Nebraska was on the losing end of the 1-vs.-2 battle this time, as the Huskers finished the regular season with a 10-1 record. NU finished the 1987 campaign with a 10-2 final mark, as the fifth-ranked Huskers fell to No. 3 Florida State, 31-28, in the 1988 Fiesta Bowl.

No. 2 Nebraska - 42 No. 3 UCLA - 33

Sept. 12, 1987 - Lincoln, Neb.
Memorial Stadium - 76,313
Consecutive Sellout No. 150

	NU	UCLA
First Downs	17	23
Rushing Yardage	117	94
Passing Yardage	217	267
Total Offense	334	361
Average Per Play	5.4	4.4
Fumbles-Lost	5-4	4-3
Penalties-Yards	5-30	9-70
Time of Possession	25:07	34:53
Sacks-Yards	6-50	1-11



Steve Taylor threw for five touchdowns in the victory over UCLA, setting a Nebraska and Big Eight record. On the day, Taylor completed 10-of-15 passes for 217 yards.

This Date in Husker History - Sept. 12

The Huskers are 4-1 all-time on Sept. 12, including a 3-0 mark at Memorial Stadium. NU posted home wins on this date over Wake Forest (36-12, 1970), No. 3 UCLA (42-33, 1987) and Middle Tennessee State (48-7, 1992).

The Huskers' lone loss came at Iowa in 1981 (10-7), while NU posted a 24-3 road win at California in 1998. Overall, Nebraska has played 190 all-time games in the month of September, compiling a 148-36-6 record, good for a .795 winning percentage. Nebraska has gone undefeated in the month 42 times.

