

Nebraska Post-Game Notes

Nebraska 51, Washington 38, Sept. 17, 2011

- ▶ Nebraska's 51-38 victory improved the Huskers to 5-4-1 all-time against Washington, including 2-1-1 in Lincoln. Nebraska captured its ninth straight non-conference home victory and its eighth consecutive victory in the month of September. This also marks the second straight season and third time in four seasons under Bo Pelini Nebraska has started the year with a 3-0 record.
- ▶ Nebraska scored 51 points in today's game, marking the third straight game to open the season with at least 40 points. The last time Nebraska had at least 40 points in the first three games was the 1995 season when NU topped 40 points against Oklahoma State (64), Michigan State (50) and Arizona State (77) in the first three games. The first three games marks the first time Nebraska has scored 40 or more points in three straight games at any point in the season since games 10-12 of the 2008 season, when NU topped 40 points against Kansas, Kansas State and Colorado.
- ▶ Nebraska scored 50 or more points in both games of the regular-season series with Washington in 2010 and 2011, joining the 56 points the Huskers scored in Seattle last season. It marked the first time NU had scored 50 or more against the same opponent in consecutive seasons since accomplishing the feat against Kansas in 2000 and 2001. It is the third straight time in the regular-season series with Washington that the Huskers have scored 50 points (also 55 points in 1998).
- ▶ Nebraska scored a touchdown on its opening drive, marking the first time Nebraska scored a touchdown on its opening possession since last season against Missouri (nine games), when Roy Helu Jr. scored on a 66-yard touchdown run on Nebraska's first play from scrimmage. Nebraska had not scored a point on the first drive since kicking a field goal on its opening possession at Texas A&M last season.
- ▶ Nebraska started three offensive linemen today that originally joined the program as walk-ons—center **Mike Caputo**, and guards **Spencer Long** and **Seung Hoon Choi**. Caputo was placed on scholarship before the start of the 2009 season. Today's game marked the first time since the first two games of the 1988 season that Nebraska has started three walk-ons on the offensive line. In games against Texas A&M and Utah State to open the season in 1988, Nebraska started Jeff Anderson at center, John Nelson at guard and Bob Sledge at tackle.
- ▶ Junior I-back **Rex Burkhead** produced his fifth career 100-yard rushing game with 120 yards and two touchdowns on a career-high 22 carries. Burkhead scored both of his touchdowns on back-to-back one-yard plunges just nine seconds apart early in the third quarter. Burkhead moved up five spots to 33rd on NU's career rushing list with 1,547 career yards on the day, passing
- ▶ Sophomore quarterback **Taylor Martinez** completed 10-of-21 passes for 155 yards and two touchdowns. The two touchdown passes today marks just the second time in Martinez's career he has thrown for more than one touchdown in a game. Martinez had five touchdown passes at Oklahoma State last season.
- ▶ With his 155 passing yards, Martinez became the 18th Nebraska quarterback with more than 2,000 career passing yards. Martinez now has 2,119 career passing yards to rank 17th on the Husker career chart. Martinez also rushed for 83 yards on 17 carries with one touchdown, as he accounted for 238 total yards on 38 attempts.
- ▶ Redshirt freshman receiver **Kenny Bell** had two receptions for 59 yards, including a 50-yarder on the opening play of the game.
- ▶ Nebraska freshman running back **Aaron Green** caught a 25-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter, on his first career reception. Green added 36 rushing yards on five carries, including a six-yard TD run in the fourth quarter.
- ▶ Nebraska senior fullback **Tyler Legate** had a 36-yard run in the third quarter, the longest rush by a Nebraska fullback since Steve Kriewald had a 48-yard run at Oklahoma in 2004. Legate also caught his third career touchdown pass. Legate finished with two carries for a career-high 37 rushing yards.
- ▶ Nebraska rushed for 309 yards in today's game, improving to 13-0 in the past two seasons when rushing for at least 200 yards. Nebraska is 20-2 under Bo Pelini when rushing for at least 200 yards. Nebraska had 92 first-half rushing yards, before churning out 217 rushing yards in the second half. The Huskers' 313 rushing yards were their most since rushing for 328 in a win over Colorado in 2011. Nebraska rushed for 383 yards at Washington last season, but was held to just 91 rushing yards in the Holiday Bowl loss to Washington.
- ▶ Nebraska freshman running back/returner **Ameer Abdullah** had three kickoff returns for 129 yards, including a 66-yard return to set up a second-quarter touchdown. Abdullah ranked second in the country in kickoff return average entering the game and he is now averaging 42.5 yards on eight returns. Abdullah had a school-record 211 kickoff return yards last week, including a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.
- ▶ Nebraska senior defensive tackle **Jared Crick** had a one-yard sack in the second quarter, giving him 20 career sacks. Crick is the ninth player in school history with 20 career sacks and he has moved within 9.5 sacks of Trev Alberts NU career record of 29.5. Crick finished the day with six tackles, including two solos.
- ▶ Nebraska senior linebacker **Lavonte David** had a first-quarter interception, marking his first career interception. David also had eight tackles in the game. **Daimion Stafford** led the Blackshirts with nine tackles, including six solos on the afternoon.
- ▶ Junior punter **Brett Maher** punted four times for a 40.3-yard average in today's game, including one punt inside the Washington 20. Maher came into the game leading the nation in average punting at 51.3 yards per punt. Maher also connected on field goals of 44, 35 and 29 yards, and is now 7-for-7 on field goals to open his career.
- ▶ Players making their first career starts in today's game included junior offensive guard **Seung Hoon Choi**, redshirt freshman receiver **Kenny Bell** and redshirt freshman cornerback **Josh Mitchell** and junior defensive back **Justin Blatchford**.
- ▶ Nebraska's game captains for today's game were senior center **Mike Caputo**, junior tight end **Kyler Reed**, senior linebacker **Lavonte David** and junior safety **P.J. Smith**.
- ▶ Nebraska travels to Wyoming next Saturday to take on the 3-0 Wyoming Cowboys. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. CT/5:30 p.m. Mountain time. The matchup at Wyoming is the Huskers' first road game against a non-BCS AQ conference foe since a 2003 road game at Southern Mississippi. Wyoming defeated Bowling Green on the road, 28-27, on Saturday, blocking a Bowling Green extra-point attempt with two seconds remaining.