

Nebraska Post-Game Notes

Nebraska vs. Arkansas State, Sept. 2, 2017, Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

1 — Nebraska picked up its first win of 2017 and won its season opener for the 31st time in the past 32 seasons. The Huskers scored 43 points in tonight's game marking the 13th time in 18 openers since 2000 that NU has topped the 40-point mark. Nebraska improved to 3-0 all-time against Arkansas State and 13-0 against current members of the Sun Belt Conference. Nebraska won for the 20th straight time in a night game at Memorial Stadium and improved to 46-5 all-time in home night games

192 — Sophomore I-back **Tre Bryant** rushed 31 times for 192 yards, setting career bests in both categories. Bryant's previous bests were 13 carries for 56 yards against Maryland last season. Bryant passed the yardage total before halftime with 13 carries for 78 yards before intermission. Bryant's 192 yards were the most by a Husker since Terrell Newby rushed for 198 yards against South Alabama in 2015, and tonight's effort was the first 100-yard rushing game by a Husker since Newby had 102 yards at Indiana last season. His 31 carries were the most by a Husker under Mike Riley, bettering 28 carries by Newby against South Alabama in 2015. Bryant had the two longest runs of his career, a 35-yard run in the third quarter and a 24-yarder in the second quarter. The last time a Husker topped 30 carries was in 2014, when Ameer Abdullah rushed for 229 yards on 35 carries against Miami.

99 — Redshirt freshman **JD Spielman** returned a kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter to give Nebraska a 10-7 lead. The kickoff return for a touchdown was the first by a Husker since Kenny Bell returned a kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown at Penn State in 2013. The 99-yard return ties for the fifth-longest kickoff return in school history. Spielman also caught two passes for 44 yards.

102 — Junior wide receiver **Stanley Morgan Jr.** caught five passes for 102 yards, good for career highs in both categories. His previous highs were five receptions at Wisconsin in 2016, and 93 yards at Indiana in 2016. The 100-yard effort was the first by a Husker since Jordan Westerkamp and Alonzo Moore both topped the century mark against Wyoming in 2016. Morgan had a 44-yard touchdown catch in the second quarter, the second-longest of his career. He increased his career receiving yardage total to 859, moving him within 141 yards of becoming the 25th Husker with 1,000 career receiving yards.

238 — Junior quarterback **Tanner Lee** completed 19-of-32 passes for 238 yards and two touchdowns. Lee's 238 passing yards were the third most by a Husker in his first career start, trailing Ryker Fyfe (407, at Purdue, 2015) and Joe Ganz (405, at Kansas, 2007). Lee is just the third Husker to start a season opener at quarterback since 2010.

49 — Nebraska senior place-kicker **Drew Brown** connected on a 21-yard field goal to open the scoring, and added a 41-yarder in the second quarter, for his 48th and 49th career field goals. He is eight shy of second place on the NU career list held by his brother Kris Brown. Brown has made eight straight field goals since a miss vs. Purdue last season. Brown scored 11 points, increasing his career scoring total to 293 moving him past Ameer Abdullah (288 points) into sixth place on the NU career chart.

Other Notes

- Arkansas State quarterback Justice Hansen was 46-of-68 on the night for 415 yards and three touchdowns. The 68 attempts tied Tim Rattay (1998) for the most attempts by a Husker opponent and Hansen's 46 completions were one shy of tying Rattay's record of 47.
- Nebraska rushed for 225 yards in tonight's game and improved to 9-0 under Mike Riley when rushing for at least 200 yards. The Huskers are 12-0 under Riley when out-rushing the opposition.
- Nebraska gained better than 200 yards both rushing and passing in the game. This marks the first time NU has posted a 200-200 game on offense since doing so in three straight games last year vs. Oregon, at Northwestern and vs. Illinois.
- Nebraska did not commit a turnover in the game, marking the fourth time in its past five games the Huskers have been turnover-free. Nebraska has won 20 straight games when winning the turnover battle, including an 8-0 mark under Riley.
- Senior safety **Joshua Kalu** had an interception in the fourth quarter, marking his sixth career interception.
- Mikale Wilbon's** seven-yard touchdown run in the second quarter was the first touchdown of his career.
- Sophomore **Tyrin Ferguson** had an interception in the second quarter to end an ASU scoring threat for his first career interception.
- Senior tight end **Tyler Hoppes** had three catches for 40 yards, marking his first career receptions.
- Six Huskers made their first career start in the game including tight ends **Connor Ketter** and **Tyler Hoppes**, quarterback **Tanner Lee**, I-back **Tre Bryant**, linebacker **Luke Gifford** and cornerback **Eric Lee Jr.**
- Arkansas State returned a punt 63 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter, marking the first punt return for a touchdown against the Huskers since Wes Welker returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown on Oct. 20, 2001 in Lincoln. Iowa's Drew Ott returned a blocked punt for a touchdown against Nebraska in 2014, the marking the most recent score against the Nebraska punt unit.
- Arkansas State recorded a second-quarter safety, marking the first safety against the Huskers since Indiana blocked a punt for a safety last season against the Huskers.