

HUSKER HISTORY: FIRST OT GAME IN LINCOLN

As Nebraska hosts Iowa State today, we look back at the 2005 meeting between the Huskers and Cyclones at Memorial Stadium. That game was a memorable one on several different levels. It was the first overtime game ever played at Memorial Stadium and the longest game in Nebraska history.

Both teams entered the game with perfect 3-0 records and while the Huskers were unranked, the Cyclones entered the contest with a No. 23 ranking in the Associated Press top 25 poll. Nebraska and Iowa State were meeting for the 101st time on Oct. 1, 2005, and to this day, that contest still marks the only meeting in series history (104 games, counting today) that a ranked Iowa State team met an unranked NU squad.

Nebraska had defeated Pittsburgh 7-6 in its previous game and points were also hard to come by in the first half between the Huskers and Cyclones. Jordan Congdon opened the scoring with a 30-yard field goal in the first quarter, and Iowa State's Bret Culbertson connected on a 31-yard second-quarter field goal to make the score 3-3 at the half.

The third quarter saw plenty of offense, as Zac Taylor connected with Cory Ross on a 70-yard touchdown pass that gave NU a 10-3 lead five minutes into the third quarter. Iowa State came right back with a touchdown pass of its own 4:21 later, and the Cyclones added a field goal with two minutes remaining in the third quarter to take their first lead of the game at 13-10.

In the fourth quarter, Congdon connected on his second field goal of the game, as his 23-yarder with 7:20 remaining set the stage for the first overtime game in Memorial Stadium history. In the first overtime, each team managed a touchdown. Iowa State got the ball first, and Greg Coleman scored on a 10-yard run. Ross added a one-yard TD run of his own to force a second overtime.

In the second overtime, Ross scored on an eight-yard pass from Taylor to put NU in front 27-20. The Cyclones had a chance to tie or win the game on their second overtime possession, but the Blackshirts held ISU on downs. While the defense secured the victory, the offense stole the show with record-setting performances from Taylor and Ross.

Taylor completed 36-of-55 passes for 431 yards and two touchdowns. At the time, he set Nebraska single-game records for most completions, attempts and yards. Prior to the explosion against the Cyclones, Taylor had never thrown for 200 yards in a game. In fact, Taylor totaled 198 yards passing in the first half alone, which would have been a career-high total.

Both of Taylor's two touchdown passes were to Ross, as he caught eight passes for 131 yards. The receptions and receiving yardage were Husker running back records, while his two touchdown catches tied Ahman Green's school record for the most TD receptions by a Husker running back.

Behind big days from Taylor and Ross, Nebraska had a season-high 467 yards of total offense after being held under 270 yards of total offense in each of its previous two games. Iowa State had 374 yards of total offense thanks to 317 yards passing from Bret Meyer.

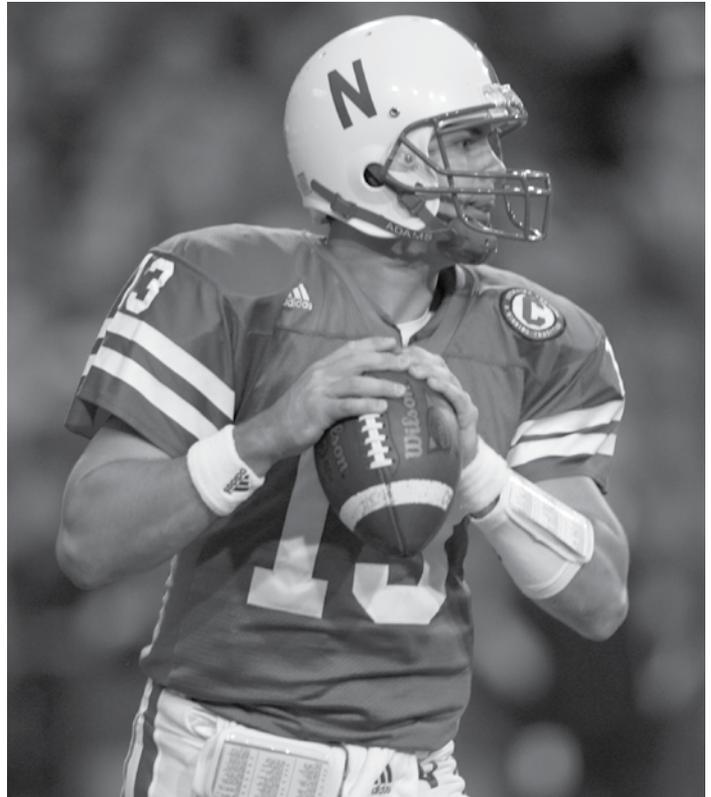
Although Iowa State lost, the seven-point defeat marked the first time since 1977 the Cyclones lost by fewer than 24 points in Lincoln.

The Cyclones' loss dropped them from the rankings the next week, while Nebraska nearly cracked the top 25 before losing four of its next five games. The Huskers went on to finish the season with an 8-4 record, including a 32-28 come-from-behind victory over No. 20 Michigan in the Alamo Bowl.

Nebraska 27 No. 23 Iowa State 20 (2 OT)

Oct. 1, 2005 - Lincoln, Neb.
Memorial Stadium - 77,443
Consecutive Sellout No. 272

	NU	ISU
First Downs	26	21
Rushing Yardage	36	57
Passing Yardage	431	317
Total Offense	467	374
Average Per Play	5.8	4.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-80	4-34
Time of Possession	28:22	31:38
Sacks-Yards	6-43	2-20



Zac Taylor threw for a then-school-record 431 yards against Iowa State. He completed 36-of-55 passes, also setting school records for completions and attempts.

This Date in Husker History - Oct. 24

The Huskers are 15-2 all-time on Oct. 24, including a perfect 11-0 mark at Memorial Stadium. NU has posted nine shutouts in 17 all-time games on this date, while allowing an average of only 6.6 points per game. In the 11 games at Memorial Stadium, NU has posted eight shutouts while allowing only 47 total points. Overall, Nebraska has played 489 all-time games in the month of October, compiling a 342-128-19 record, good for a .719 winning percentage. Nebraska has posted a perfect October record 40 times, not including four seasons where the Huskers were unbeaten but had at least one tie.

