

Nebraska Post-Game Notes

Nebraska at Penn State, Nov. 12, 2011

► Nebraska's victory over No. 12 Penn State is the highest ranked team Nebraska has defeated away from home since a victory over sixth-ranked Tennessee in the 2000 Fiesta Bowl. It is also the highest ranked team Nebraska has defeated on its home field since a 27-14 win at second-ranked Washington in 1997.

► Nebraska improved to 13-5 on the road under Head Coach Bo Pelini, including 3-4 in road games against ranked teams. This marks the third straight season Nebraska has posted a road win against a ranked opponent (at No. 24 Missouri in 2009, at No. 17 Oklahoma State in 2010).

► Nebraska improved to 11-3 in November in Bo Pelini's four seasons as head coach.

► The crowd of 107,903 at Beaver Stadium was the second-largest crowd ever for a Nebraska football game. The only larger crowd was 110,753 in Nebraska's previous visit to Penn State on Sept. 14, 2002.

► Junior I-back **Rex Burkhead** rushed 25 times for 121 yards and a 14-yard touchdown run in today's game. This marked Burkhead's sixth 100-yard rushing game of the season and the 10th of his career. Burkhead also scored a rushing touchdown for the 10th straight game this season. He has 14 rushing touchdowns this season and 16 overall touchdowns in 2011.

► Burkhead also posted the 31st individual 1,000-yard rushing season in today's game. Burkhead pushed his season total to 1,072. This marks the third straight year Nebraska has had a 1,000-yard rusher (Roy Helu Jr. in 2009 and 2010).

► Sophomore quarterback **Taylor Martinez** completed 13-of-26 passes for 143 yards. Martinez completed 11-of-18 passes in the final three quarters. With his 143 passing yards, Martinez moved up two places to seventh on the Nebraska career passing list. He now has 3,319 career passing yards, and today he moved past Vince Ferragamo (3,224, 1975-76) and Turner Gill (3,317, 1980-83).

► Martinez also rushed for 56 yards and accounted for 199 yards of total offense to become the eighth player in school history to reach 5,000 career yards in total offense. Martinez now has 5,052 yards of total offense to rank No. 7 in school history.

► Senior linebacker **Lavonte David** recorded nine tackles in today's game, with his final tackle stopping Penn State short on a 4th-and-1 from the Nittany Lion 37-yard line with 1:49 remaining. His nine tackles pushed his career tackle total to 249. The Butkus, Bednarik and Lott Trophy semifinalist moved into 10th place on the Nebraska career tackle list.

► Junior punter **Brett Maher** punted eight times for a 45.0-yard average, including five punts that pinned PSU inside their own 20. Maher also had two punts of 50 yards or more, including a 61-yarder late in the fourth quarter that tied his career long (also 61 yards at Wyoming). Maher entered the game ranked eighth nationally in punting 45.5 yards per punt.

► Maher also connected on a 41-yard field goal in the second quarter and improved to 16-of-19 on field goals this season. Maher's only misses in 2011 have all come from 50 yards or more.

► Junior defensive end **Cameron Meredith** finished the game with four tackles, including a seven-yard sack in the third quarter that forced a fumble. Meredith has a team-leading five sacks this season. Meredith unofficially also had two quarterback hurries in today's game.

► Senior cornerback **Alfonzo Dennard** had two pass breakups in today's game, two weeks after having a career-high three PBU against Michigan State.

► The Nebraska defense held Penn State scoreless in the first half of today's game. In its past four games, Nebraska has allowed a total of 10 first-half points (3 by Michigan State, 7 by Northwestern). NU held Penn State and Minnesota scoreless in the first half.

► Nebraska's game captains today were junior receiver **Tim Marlowe**, sophomore defensive end **Jason Ankrah**, junior defensive back **Justin Blatchford** and senior cornerback **Alfonzo Dennard**.

► Nebraska travels to Michigan next Saturday for a matchup with Wolverines. Michigan entered today's game at Illinois with a 7-2 record, including 3-2 in Big Ten play. Game time at Michigan Stadium will be 11 a.m. CT (Noon ET) and the contest will be televised by either ESPN or ESPN 2.