

Husker History: Blackshirts Stuff Penn State in 1980

The Blackshirts buckled down and stuffed No. 11 Penn State, holding the Nittany Lions to just 33 rushing yards on this day in Husker history, Sept. 27, 1980. Behind the strong defensive performance, No. 3 Nebraska beat the Nittany Lions, 21-7, in front of a national television audience and a crowd of 84,587, then the largest crowd ever to see a Penn State football game.

The game was the second in a five-game series between the Huskers and PSU from 1979 to 1983. Nebraska beat Penn State at home in 1979, 42-17, while the Nittany Lions beat NU 30-24 in 1981 and 27-24 in 1982, before the Huskers opened the 1983 season with a 44-6 win over Penn State in the first-ever Kickoff Classic.

In the 1980 meeting, the Husker defense, led by Jimmy Williams and Derrie Nelson, dominated, mauling Nittany Lion quarterbacks Todd Blackledge and Jeff Hostetler. The Blackshirts registered nine sacks for a combined 89 yards in losses in the victory. The Penn State running backs fared no better, gaining just 33 rushing yards, and the Nittany Lions turned the ball over seven times, including three interceptions.

Offensively, the Huskers were led by Jarvis Redwine, who ran a career-high 34 times for 189 yards and two touchdowns. The 100-yard performance was the third straight by Redwine, who ran for 179 yards in the season opener against Utah and for 153 against Iowa a week earlier. Redwine drove a Nebraska offensive attack that totaled 445 yards of total offense compared to just 156 from Penn State.

The Huskers took the lead with 5:55 left in the first quarter, as quarterback Jeff Quinn polished off a Nebraska march with a one-yard touchdown run.

As the Husker defense turned up the heat on the Nittany Lion offense, Nebraska continued to march down the field, with Redwine scoring his first touchdown with 6:51 remaining in the half to give NU a 14-0 lead. Penn State answered with a three-yard touchdown run by Curt Warner with 4:06 remaining in the half.

Nebraska rebuilt its lead to two touchdowns with 5:55 remaining in the third quarter as Redwine powered into the end zone from one yard out to give the Huskers the 14-point lead they would maintain for the rest of the game.

NU dominated the final stats, as the Huskers had more rushing and passing yards than the Nittany Lions, including a lopsided 287-33 edge on the ground.

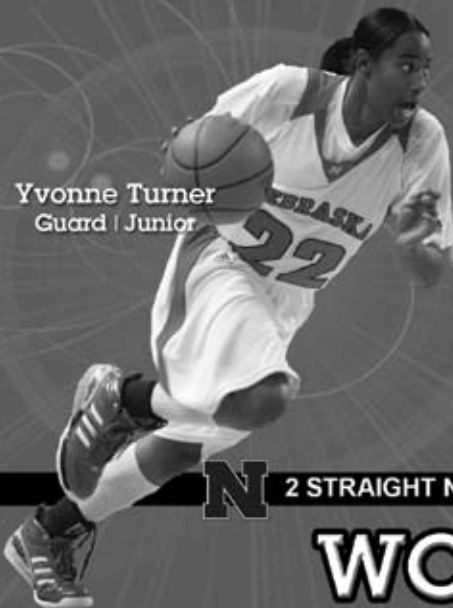
The 1980 Huskers finished the season with a 10-2 record, a runner-up finish in the Big Eight Conference, a No. 7 national ranking and a 31-17 Sun Bowl victory over Mississippi State.



Derrie Nelson helped Nebraska hold Penn State to just 33 yards rushing and 156 total yards. Nelson went on to earn All-Big Eight and All-America honors in 1980.

NEBRASKA

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