

NEBRASKA GAME DAY

8-2 N (5-1 Big Ten)



6-4 (2-4 Big Ten)

2:30 p.m., Memorial Stadium (81,091), Lincoln, Neb. • Radio: Husker Sports Network • TV: Big Ten Network

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

SCHEDULE

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, UNL, Opp

STAT LEADERS

RUSHING table with columns: Att, Yds, Avg, Long, TD

PASSING table with columns: Com, Att, Yds, Int, TD

RECEIVING table with columns: No, Yds, Avg, Long, TD

PLACE KICKING table with columns: EPm, EPa, FGm, FGA, Long

PUNTING table with columns: No, Avg, Long, In20

DEFENSIVE LEADERS table with columns: Tack, TFL, Sack, INT, FR

PROBABLE STARTERS

HUSKERS OFFENSE and DEFENSE player lists with Name, Ht, Wt, Yr

Series: Minnesota leads 29-21-2; Last Meeting: Nebraska 41, Minnesota 14 (2011)



KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT Nebraska's Jamal Turner catches a 5-yard touchdown pass with six seconds to play against Michigan State...

BIG TEN STANDINGS

Standings tables for Legends Division, Leaders Division, and All

MATCHUPS

HUSKERS OFFENSE VS. GOPHERS DEFENSE. Nebraska Ameer Abdullah is poised to go over 1,000 yards...

HUSKERS DEFENSE VS. GOPHERS OFFENSE. The Huskers lead the Big Ten with 27 sacks and will want to put lots of heat on freshman QB Philip Nelson...

SPECIAL TEAMS. Neither team has been all that great in field goals, but look for Nebraska's return game to give the Gophers fits all game.

INTANGIBLES. Nebraska can take another step toward locking up the Legends Division title. Losing at home today would be a big punch to the gut...

PREDICTION

Nebraska's offense is simply too experienced and too dangerous for the Gophers. Look for big games on the ground from Ameer Abdullah and Rex Burkhead...

HUSKERS 41, GOPHERS 21

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

SCHEDULE

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, UM, Opp

STAT LEADERS

RUSHING table with columns: Att, Yds, Avg, Long, TD

PASSING table with columns: Com, Att, Yds, Int, TD

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DEFENSIVE LEADERS table with columns: Tack, TFL, Sack, INT, FR

PROBABLE STARTERS

GOPHERS OFFENSE and DEFENSE player lists with Name, Ht, Wt, Yr

No. 16 Nebraska Wants No Late Drama Vs Minnesota

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska coach Bo Pelini joked this week about the priority listed at the top of his game plan for Minnesota. "Not get behind by 14 at half-time, that's first," he said.

"They understand what's at stake," Pelini said. "We've got two tough games ahead of us, and we just have to stay the course. I know this: we are going to get what we earn over the next two weeks."

Nebraska and Michigan are tied for the division lead, but the Huskers own the tiebreaker because of their win in the head-to-head meeting. If the Huskers lose one of their next two, they would still go to Indy unless the Wolverines beat both Iowa and unbeaten Ohio State.

"We're all aware of that, but we have to stay locked in," linebacker Will Compton said. "We can't take this next game lightly at all. We have to take care of us and take care of business. We're in the driver's seat, but we have to continue to stay in the driver's seat, and to do so we have to take care of business this next week."

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The Gophers, who became bowl-eligible with their road win over Illinois last week, are battling injuries on the offensive side.

Zach Mottla has a broken leg and Jon Christianson has a high ankle sprain, meaning converted guard Zac Epping will make his first start at center. Brothers Ed and Tommy Olson, who make up the left side of the line, have been banged up. Wide receiver A.J. Barker is questionable because of a lingering ankle problem.

Freshman Philip Nelson is 2-2 as the Gophers' third starting quarterback. He played in a venue as unfriendly to opposing quarterbacks as Memorial Stadium when he made his first career start at Wisconsin.

Last year the Huskers rolled up a season-high 515 yards and broke out to a 34-0 lead on their way to a 41-14 victory in Minneapolis.

The Gophers are much improved defensively, allowing 336 yards and 22.3 points a game. Those numbers were 431 yards and 34.5 points through 10 games a year ago.

"They are a more physical football team, I think, than they were a year ago," Pelini said. "That's what you expect. With more time under coach Kill and his staff, you see the improvement and you've got to give them a lot of credit."

The Huskers also deserve credit after overcoming more double-digit, second-half deficits than any team in Nebraska history. Only two other teams in major-college football since 2000 have pulled off comebacks of such magnitude in a season.

Coyotes

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ell each have 47 catches and a combined five touchdowns in the receiving game, while Marcus Sims is the team's leading rusher with 584 yards.

More than simply stats and matchups, the Coyotes have heard rivalry stories all week from USD alumni and former players. Included in that lineup was appearances Thursday by Wayne "Moose" Merrigan and Jefferson native Joe Trudeau.

"It's inspirational to talk to people who played here years ago, and to know that this game is a big deal for so long," McMartin said. "I'm just glad to be a part of this."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Terrance Terry and Will Pow-



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