

# Cornhuskers' Pelini Tells His Players To Circle Wagons

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The fallout from Nebraska's latest collapse on the national stage is going to last a while, and coach Bo Pelini knows it.

With FCS South Dakota State coming to Lincoln this week and an open date the following, the Cornhuskers' fervent fans will have a hard time getting past Saturday's 41-21 loss to UCLA.

"We can't worry about what people are saying," Pelini said. "It's going to be negative. It's going to be negative by the fans, by the media, by everybody. In times like these, all we can do is stick together because the only people who can fix it is us."

Pelini and his staff have quite a repair job waiting for them when they go back to practice Monday. The offense has underperformed in the first three games, and the defense looks no better than it did when it surrendered gargantuan numbers in end-of-the-season losses to Wisconsin and Georgia.

The Huskers (2-1) surrendered 38 points in a row after leading UCLA by 18 points late in the first half.

It was the biggest blown lead in a

home game since 1920, the worst non-conference home loss since 1961 and the sixth double-digit loss in 15 games against BCS-level opponents.

Plenty of predictable vitriol was spewed via fan call-in shows and social media.

The most eye-catching reaction came from Tommie Frazier, who quarterbacked Nebraska to national championships in 1994-95. Frazier, who was honored at halftime for his selection to the College Football Hall of Fame, took to Twitter Saturday night and called for the firings of the defensive coaches.

"If this is what is going to happen for the remainder of the season, count me out," Frazier wrote in an extended tweet.

Frazier did not respond to messages from The Associated Press.

Nebraska managed 135 yards in the second half against the Bruins. Taylor Martinez completed just 10 of 19 passes for 87 yards after halftime and never showed the kind of break-away threat he can be. He was sacked

twice and netted just 2 yards on eight other carries. His longest run was an inconsequential 12-yarder in the second quarter.

Martinez was wearing a walking boot on his left foot after the game. He said the boot was precautionary and that his injury — he said it was minor and occurred before the game — had no effect on him.

Asked about Martinez's health and if the quarterback is limited, Pelini said, "Taylor's fine."

The Huskers' turnover problem cropped up again, with Ameer Abdul-lumbling inside the UCLA 10-yard line early in the fourth quarter.

Dropped passes were another issue.

Offensive coordinator Tim Beck said his play-calling was too conservative late in the first half, and the Bruins were able to get the ball back with enough time to score a touchdown to trim the Huskers' lead to 21-10.

After the Huskers scored their final touchdown in the second quarter, they netted more than 19 yards on only two of their last 10 possessions.

"We let the avalanche continue," Beck said. "We helped the avalanche. We might have started it."

Nebraska's defense mostly contained quarterback Brett Hundley in the first half, but he led the Bruins to touchdowns on their first four series of the second half.

UCLA offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone said the Bruins did nothing different in the second half. The Huskers did, though. They started missing tackles and losing one-on-one battles with receivers. UCLA finished with 504 yards, 298 after half.

"They got momentum and we didn't respond well," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "To give you a great answer on why we didn't play better, it's really hard at this point."

What confounded Papuchis was how his charges became deflated as UCLA's surge continued.

"We were up 21-3 and then 21-10 at half, and all of a sudden it's within a couple minutes (left) in the third quarter and we're down 10," Papuchis said. "They were a little bit shell-

shocked from that. No excuses for that to happen."

All the Huskers can do, Papuchis said, is learn from their mistakes and move on — even if the fans won't.

"The idea that one game, win or lose, is going to dictate your whole season, that's ludicrous," he said. "So you go get ready for the next one. That's just the reality."

## S.D. State 34, SE Louisiana 26

BROOKINGS (AP) — Zach Zenner ran for three touchdowns on 128 yards rushing and South Dakota State erased a first-half deficit to defeat Southeastern Louisiana 34-26 on Saturday night.

The Jackrabbits (3-0) remain undefeated heading into a big game at Nebraska next week. Southeastern Louisiana (1-2) had the upper hand early, leading 19-7 after a Bryan Bennett touchdown run early in the third quarter.

But Zenner responded with a 75-yard rushing score and Austin Sumner added a 20-yard rushing touchdown late in the third quarter to give the Jackrabbits their first lead at 20-19.

After another Zenner score, Dallas Brown returned an interception 52 yards for a touchdown to give South Dakota State a 34-19 lead.

The Lions had 506 yards of total offense compared with 345 for the Jackrabbits but were hurt by six turnovers.

Tony McCrea had 7 receptions for 158 yards to aid the Southeastern Louisiana offense.

## SCOREBOARD

### VOLLEYBALL

#### SAT. AREA S.D. SCORES

Mitchell def. Yankton, 19-25, 25-14, 25-17, 25-12

**Big East Conference Tournament**

1ST: Chester def. Parker, 25-16, 25-15, 25-11

3RD: Sioux Valley def. McCook Central/Montrose, 21-25, 25-15, 25-15, 25-22

5TH: Baltic def. Flandreau, 25-21, 18-25, 25-13, 25-19

7TH: Garretson def. Howard, 25-8, 25-15, 23-25, 27-25

**Sunshine Bible Academy Tournament**

Hendricks High School, Minn. def. Mary Indian, 25-21, 25-9

Lower Brule def. Hendricks High School, Minn., 25-19, 25-15

Lower Brule def. Mary Indian, 25-21, 24-26, 25-17

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Lower Brule, 25-10, 25-9

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Mary Indian, 25-11, 25-10

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Hendricks High School, Minn., 25-10, 25-9

**SAT. AREA NEB. SCORES**

**Boone Central Tournament**

**First Round**

Boone Central/Newman Grove def. Tekamah-Herman, 2-0

Wayne def. Columbus Lakeview, 2-0

Crofton def. Central City, 25-18, 25-16

Schuyler def. O'Neill, 2-0

**Consolation Semifinal**

Tekamah-Herman def. Central City, 2-0

Columbus Lakeview def. Tekamah-Herman, 2-1

**Semifinal**

Crofton def. Boone Central/Newman Grove, 25-22, 25-15

Wayne def. Schuyler, 25-9, 25-22

5TH: Central City def. O'Neill, 2-0

3RD: Schuyler def. Boone Central/Newman Grove, 25-20, 25-19

1ST: Wayne def. Crofton, 2-0

**Wakefield Tournament**

**Pool A**

Hartington Cedar Catholic def. Winside, 25-14, 25-15

Wakefield def. Pierce, 25-17, 25-20

**Pool B**

Laurel-Concord def. Lyons-Decatur Northeast, 25-15, 21-25, 25-19

Stanton def. Lutheran High Northeast, 25-21, 25-22, 26-24

**Consolation Semifinal**

Laurel-Concord def. Winside, 25-20, 25-6

Pierce def. Lyons-Decatur Northeast, 25-18, 25-14

**Semifinal**

Hartington Cedar Catholic def. Stanton, 25-23, 25-19

Lutheran High Northeast def. Wakefield, 25-21, 25-16

7TH: Lyons-Decatur Northeast def. Winside, 25-17, 22-25, 25-20

5TH: Pierce def. Laurel-Concord, 29-27, 25-12

3RD: Wakefield def. Stanton, 25-15, 25-20

1ST: Lutheran High Northeast def. Hartington Cedar Catholic, 25-14, 25-18

### FOOTBALL

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS AP TOP 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 14, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

**Record Pts Pvs**

1. Alabama (59) 2-0 1,499 1

2. Oregon (1) 3-0 1,413 2

3. Clemson 2-0 1,347 3

4. Ohio St. 3-0 1,330 4

5. Stanford 2-0 1,324 5

6. LSU 3-0 1,134 6

7. Louisville 3-0 1,092 7

8. Florida St. 2-0 1,058 10

9. Georgia 1-1 1,051 9

10. Texas A&M 2-1 1,001 6

11. Oklahoma St. 3-0 848 12

12. South Carolina 2-1 821 13

13. UCLA 2-0 757 16

14. Oklahoma 3-0 692 14

15. Michigan 3-0 672 11

16. Miami 2-0 641 15

17. Washington 2-0 496 19

18. Northwestern 3-0 487 17

19. Baylor 1-1 412 18

20. Florida 2-0 355 22

21. Mississippi 3-0 300 25

22. Notre Dame 2-1 277 21

23. Philadelphia 1-0 229 NR

24. Wisconsin 2-1 87 20

25. Texas Tech 3-0 60 NR

Others receiving votes: Michigan 54, Fresno St. 27, UCF 25, N. Illinois 24, Georgia Tech 17, Nebraska 15, Arizona 11, Auburn 9, Boise St. 4, TCU 3, Virginia Tech 3, Arkansas 2, Navy 1.

**USA TODAY TOP 25 POLL**

The USA Today Top 25 football coaches poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 14, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

**Record Pts Pvs**

1. Alabama (61) 2-0 1,549 1

2. Oregon (1) 3-0 1,477 2

3. Ohio State 3-0 1,398 3

4. Clemson 2-0 1,331 5

5. Stanford 2-0 1,314 4

6. Louisville 3-0 1,128 7

7. LSU 3-0 1,121 8

8. Florida State 2-0 1,113 9

9. Texas A&M 2-1 1,033 6

10. Georgia 1-1 1,022 10

11. Oklahoma State 3-0 908 11

12. Oklahoma 3-0 839 13

13. South Carolina 2-1 811 14

14. Michigan 3-0 743 12

15. UCLA 2-0 699 17

16. Northwestern 3-0 582 16

17. Miami (Fla.) 2-0 559 18

18. Florida 1-1 398 20

19. Baylor 2-0 375 22

20. Washington 2-0 361 23

21. Notre Dame 2-1 331 21

22. Mississippi 3-0 303 25

23. Arizona State 2-0 176 NR

24. Michigan State 3-0 131 NR

25. Fresno State 2-0 75 NR

Others receiving votes: Nebraska 55, Wisconsin 53, Texas Tech 49, Georgia Tech 37, Arkansas 34, Central Florida 33, Arizona 29, Northern Illinois 26, Auburn 15, Virginia Tech 9, Brigham Young 8, Southern California 7, Kansas State 6;

Boise State 5, Utah State 5, Rutgers 2.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

##### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

**East**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

New England 2 0 0 1.000 36 31

Miami 2 0 0 1.000 47 30

Buffalo 1 0 0 500 45 46

N.Y. Jets 1 0 0 500 28 30

**South**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

Houston 2 0 0 1.000 61 52

Indianapolis 1 0 0 500 41 41

Tennessee 1 0 0 500 40 39

Jacksonville 0 2 0 0.000 11 47

**North**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

Baltimore 1 0 0 500 41 55

Cincinnati 0 1 0 0.000 21 24

Pittsburgh 0 1 0 0.000 9 16

Cleveland 0 2 0 0.000 16 37

**West**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

Kansas City 2 0 0 1.000 45 18

Denver 2 0 0 1.000 90 50

Oakland 1 0 0 500 36 30

San Diego 1 0 0 500 61 61

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

Dallas 1 0 0 500 52 48

Philadelphia 1 0 0 500 63 60

N.Y. Giants 0 2 0 0.000 54 77

Washington 0 2 0 0.000 47 71

**South**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

New Orleans 2 0 0 1.000 39 31

Atlanta 1 0 0 500 48 47

Tampa Bay 0 2 0 0.000 31 34

Carolina 0 2 0 0.000 30 36

**North**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

Chicago 2 0 0 1.000 55 51

Detroit 1 0 0 500 55 49

Green Bay 1 0 0 500 66 54

Minnesota 0 2 0 0.000 54 65

**West**

**W L T Pct PF PA**

San Francisco 1 0 0 1.000 34 28

Seattle 1 0 0 1.000 12 7

St. Louis 1 0 0 500 51 55

Arizona 1 0 0 500 49 48

**Thursday's Game**

New England 13, N.Y. Jets 10

**Sunday's Games**

Kansas City 17, Dallas 16

Houston 30, Tennessee 24, OT

Green Bay 38, Washington 20

Chicago 31, Minnesota 30

Atlanta 31, St. Louis 24

San Diego 33, Philadelphia 30

Miami 24, Indianapolis 20

Baltimore 14, Cleveland 6

Buffalo 24, Carolina 23

Arizona 25, Detroit 21

New Orleans 16, Tampa Bay 14

Chicago 31, Jacksonville 9

Denver 41, N.Y. Giants 23

San Francisco at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

**Monday's Game**

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:40 p.m.

**Thursday, Sep. 19**

Fresno State at Philadelphia, 7:25 p.m.

**Sunday, Sep. 22**

San Diego at Tennessee, noon

Arizona at New Orleans, noon

St. Louis at Dallas, noon

Cleveland at Minnesota, noon