

WEEK FOUR
NEBRASKA at ILLINOIS

Nebraska slips past Illinois 42-38 in conference opener

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- Nebraska quarterback Adrian Martinez took the blame for his team's poor first half performance against Illinois on Saturday night.

"I didn't play as well tonight as I should have," he said. "I'll take the blame for that."

He was serious, too. In reality, Martinez passed for 327 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Cornhuskers over Illinois 42-38 in the Big Ten Conference opener for both teams. Martinez also rushed 18 times for 188 yards.

The Cornhuskers (3-1, 1-0) put up 690 yards of total offense compared to 299 by Illinois (2-2, 0-1).

Wan'Dale Robinson carried the ball 19 times for 89 yards and a touchdown. Dedrick Mills rushed 12 times for 62 yards and a touchdown.

"Wan'Dale did his job," Martinez said. "And he did it at a high level. He was ready to go."

Nebraska coach Scott Frost thought his quarterback did a pretty decent job, too.

"He (Martinez) is a good player. I'm glad he wears the scarlet and cream," Frost said. "He goes in and wants to take over a game. He is clearly capable of that."

Brandon Peters was 9 of 22 for 78 yards passing with a touchdown and one interception for Illinois. Reggie Corbin carried the ball 20 times for 134 yards and a touchdown. Ra'Von Bonner and Peters also had rushing touchdowns for the Illini.

MISCUES

Illinois took advantage of several Nebraska miscues early and led 21-14 at the half. Perhaps the biggest Cornhusker mistake was a fumble by Mills early in the second quarter at the Illinois 2-yard line after being pinned there by a 53-yard punt by the Illini's Blake Hayes.

Corbin carried the ball in on the next play, giving Illinois a 21-7 lead at that point. Corbin carried the ball ten times for 91 yards in the first half.

"We can't spot teams advantages like that," Frost said. "We turned the ball over too many times and made too many mistakes. We just can't do that."

Martinez said the team knew what it had to do. "At halftime, we knew we had to come out steely eyed and confident," he said. "We needed to just do our jobs, and we did."

Nebraska tied the game at 35-35 on the first series of the fourth quarter on Mills' touchdown run and a two-point conversion run by Martinez.

"We had a chance to win the game on that final drive," Illinois coach Lovie Smith said. "What else is there to say? They rushed us well and didn't let us get our passes off."

EVALUATION

Smith said he and the Illinois coaching staff will "look at everything" during the upcoming bye week.

"We'll look at what we need to do going forward," he said. "But are we going to make wholesale changes? No."

THE 900 CLUB

With Saturday's win, Nebraska became the sixth college program to win 900 games. They join Michigan, Ohio State, Texas, Alabama and Notre Dame. The Huskers are 900-389-40 all-time.

BREAKING THE STREAK

Coming into Champaign, the Cornhuskers were 0-7 on the road under second-year coach Scott Frost, and in four of those games they were tied or led in the second half.

THE TAKEAWAY

It was an entertaining game that either team could have won. But Nebraska was able to overcome numerous mistakes to take control in the fourth quarter.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NEB	7	7	13	15	42
ILL	14	7	14	3	38

Scoring Summary -----

	NEB	ILL
FIRST QUARTER		
ILL TD 14:12 Reggie Corbin 66 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		7
2 plays, 71 yards, 0:48	0	
ILL TD 8:12 Josh Imatorbhebhe 26 Yd pass from Brandon Peters (James McCourt Kick)		14
5 plays, 37 yards, 1:45	0	
NEB TD 5:07 Jack Stoll 6 Yd pass from Adrian Martinez (Lane McCallum Kick)		14
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:05	7	
SECOND QUARTER		
ILL TD 13:46 Ra'Von Bonner 2 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		21
1 play, 10 yards, 0:05	7	
NEB TD 8:20 Wan'Dale Robinson 27 Yd pass from Adrian Martinez (Lane McCallum Kick)		21
6 plays, 79 yards, 2:27	14	
THIRD QUARTER		
ILL TD 11:16 Dre Brown 36 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		28
6 plays, 78 yards, 1:51	14	
NEB TD 9:41 Wan'Dale Robinson 3 Yd pass from Adrian Martinez (Lane McCallum Kick)		28
7 plays, 75 yards, 1:35	21	
ILL TD 5:40 Brandon Peters 10 Yd Run (James McCourt Kick)		35
2 plays, 14 yards, 0:30	21	
NEB TD 2:11 Dedrick Mills 14 Yd Run (Lane McCallum PAT blocked)		35
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:29	27	
FOURTH QUARTER		
NEB TD 14:29 Dedrick Mills 2 Yd Run (Adrian Martinez Run for Two-Point Conversion)		35
6 plays, 64 yards, 1:35	35	
ILL FG 12:08 James McCourt 47 Yd Field Goal		38
7 plays, 30 yards, 2:14	35	
NEB TD 8:00 Wan'Dale Robinson 1 Yd Run (Lane McCallum Kick)		38
11 plays, 75 yards, 4:08	42	

Team Stats

	NEB	ILL
First Downs	32	14
Passes for First	13	4
Rushes for First	18	9
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	11-19	1-11
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-1
Total Yards	690	299
Total Plays	98	61
Avg Gain Per Play	7.0	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	363	221
Rushes	64	38
Yards Per Rush	5.7	5.8
Net Yards Passing	327	78
Comp-Att	22-34	9-23
Yards Per Pass	9.6	3.4
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-7	-14
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	4	8
Punt Average	46.5	45.9
Penalties	11	4
Penalty Yards	119	66
Fumbles	4	0
Fumbles Lost	4	0
Time of Poss	37:04	22:56

Individual Stats

RUSHING

NEBRASKA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Adrian Martinez	18	118	6.6	0	44
Wan'Dale Robinson	19	89	4.7	1	21
Maurice Washington	10	89	8.9	0	41
Dedrick Mills	12	43	3.6	2	14
Wyatt Mazour	2	16	8.0	0	11
Team	3	-11	-3.7	0	0

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Reggie Corbin	20	134	6.7	1	66
Dre Brown	6	59	9.8	1	36
Jakari Norwood	1	16	16.0	0	16
Ra'Von Bonner	5	13	2.6	1	8
Brandon Peters	4	2	0.5	1	10
Isaiah Williams	2	-3	-1.5	0	0

PASSING

NEBRASKA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Adrian Martinez	22	34	327	9.6	3	0	83.9
ILLINOIS	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Brandon Peters	9	22	78	3.5	1	1	13.3
Trenard Davis	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	3.4
Matt Robinson	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.8

RECEIVING

NEBRASKA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
JD Spielman	7	159	22.7	0	41
Wan'Dale Robinson	8	79	9.9	2	27
Jack Stoll	3	45	15.0	1	22
Mike Williams	1	20	20.0	0	20
Wyatt Mazour	1	10	10.0	0	10
Dedrick Mills	1	9	9.0	0	9
Kanawai Noa	1	5	5.0	0	5
ILLINOIS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ricky Smalling	5	41	8.2	0	17
Josh Imatorbhebhe	1	26	26.0	1	26
Ra'Von Bonner	1	8	8.0	0	8
Dre Brown	1	3	3.0	0	3
Trevon Sidney	1	0	0.0	0	0