

Taylor over 200 again in No. 15 Badgers’ 37-21 win over Neb

LINCOLN, Neb. -- Jonathan Taylor ran for 204 yards and two touchdowns, Aaron Cruickshank ran back a kickoff 89 yards for a score, and No. 15 Wisconsin beat Nebraska 37-21 on Saturday.

Taylor became the first Football Bowl Subdivision player since at least 2000 to run for 200 yards three times against the same team, according to Sportradar. He had 221 against the Cornhuskers last year and 249 in 2017.

The junior recorded his 11th 200-yard game, moving into a four-way tie for most in a career by an FBS player.

The Badgers (8-2, 5-2 Big Ten, No. 14 CFP) quickly erased a 14-10 deficit in the second quarter. Jack Coan threw over the middle to A.J. Taylor, who spun away from two defenders and ran the rest of the way untouched for a 55-yard touchdown. Wisconsin linebacker Jack Sanborn intercepted a tipped ball on the first play of Nebraska’s next series, and Taylor ran in from the 1 to finish a short drive that put the Badgers ahead 24-14.

The Huskers (4-6, 2-5) have lost four straight and five of their last six. They’ve dropped 10 in a row against Top 25 opponents.

Taylor averaged 8.2 yards on his 25 carries. He had his third 200-yard game of the season against a Nebraska defense that was missing starting linemen Darrion Daniels and Carlos Davis.

Early on it looked like Taylor might be outplayed by Nebraska’s Dedrick Mills. The junior college transfer who spent his freshman year at Georgia Tech ran for a career-high 188 yards and a touchdown.

Cruickshank had Wisconsin’s first kick return for a touchdown since 2015 against Maryland. It came in the first quarter, right after the Huskers had taken a 7-0 lead.

THE TAKEAWAY

Wisconsin: The Badgers beat Nebraska for the seventh straight time to retain the Freedom Trophy and kept pace with Minnesota in the West Division race. Wisconsin’s tried-and-true formula -- pound the ground and mix in the occasional pass -- worked the way it always does against the Huskers.

Nebraska: With Wan’Dale Robinson out because of injury, the Huskers got exactly what they needed from Mills. He had run for more than 45 yards just once in his previous six games. Martinez also let it loose as a runner after being tentative most of the season. He picked up 89 yards on 16 carries.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Wisconsin’s workmanlike performance won’t hurt it, and the Badgers might move up depending on how teams ahead of them.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
WIS	7	20	7	3	37
NEB	7	7	7	0	21

Scoring Summary -----

	WIS	NEB
FIRST QUARTER		
NEB TD 5:27 Dedrick Mills 12 Yd Run (Barret Pickering Kick)		
5 plays, 63 yards, 1:48	0	7
WIS TD 5:16 Aron Cruickshank 89 Yd Kickoff Return (Collin Larsh Kick)		
0 plays, 0 yards, 0:00	7	7
SECOND QUARTER		
WIS FG 11:22 Collin Larsh 31 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 53 yards, 4:44	10	7
NEB TD 9:32 Adrian Martinez 2 Yd Run (Barret Pickering Kick)		
5 plays, 73 yards, 1:46	10	14
WIS TD 6:39 A.J. Taylor 55 Yd pass from Jack Coan (Collin Larsh Kick)		
5 plays, 86 yards, 2:46	17	14
WIS TD 5:03 Jonathan Taylor 1 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)		
3 plays, 21 yards, 1:25	24	14
WIS FG 0:11 Collin Larsh 24 Yd Field Goal		
13 plays, 73 yards, 3:55	27	14
THIRD QUARTER		
WIS TD 4:50 Jonathan Taylor 11 Yd Run (Collin Larsh Kick)		
9 plays, 76 yards, 5:29	34	14
NEB TD 3:19 JD Spielman 23 Yd pass from Adrian Martinez (Barret Pickering Kick)		
4 plays, 75 yards, 1:31	34	21
FOURTH QUARTER		
WIS FG 5:25 Collin Larsh 30 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 72 yards, 5:27	37	21

Team Stats	WIS	NEB
First Downs	25	23
Passes for First	8	9
Rushes for First	16	13
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	3-9	6-12
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-3
Total Yards	482	493
Total Plays	66	60
Avg Gain Per Play	7.3	8.2
Net Yards Rushing	320	273
Rushes	45	37
Yards Per Rush	7.1	7.4
Net Yards Passing	162	220
Comp-Att	13-21	13-23
Yards Per Pass	7.7	9.6
Times Sacked	0	4
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-34
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	2	2
Punt Average	40.0	32.0
Penalties	4	3
Penalty Yards	36	31
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	34:40	25:20

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
WISCONSIN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jonathan Taylor	25	204	8.2	2	19		
Danny Davis III	3	48	16.0	0	29		
Nakia Watson	8	36	4.5	0	8		
Aron Cruickshank	2	13	6.5	0	9		
Garrett Groshek	2	10	5.0	0	8		
Mason Stokke	2	7	3.5	0	4		
Kendric Pryor	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Team	2	-4	-2.0	0	0		
NEBRASKA	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Dedrick Mills	17	188	11.1	1	43		
Adrian Martinez	16	89	5.6	1	45		
Wyatt Mazour	3	0	0.0	0	2		
Team	1	-4	-4.0	0	0		
PASSING							
WISCONSIN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Jack Coan	13	21	162	7.7	1	0	87.9
NEBRASKA	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Adrian Martinez	13	23	220	9.6	1	1	42.5
RECEIVING							
WISCONSIN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
A.J. Taylor	2	65	32.5	1	55		
Kendric Pryor	3	30	10.0	0	12		
Quintez Cephus	3	23	7.7	0	12		
Jake Ferguson	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Garrett Groshek	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Jonathan Taylor	2	11	5.5	0	13		
Mason Stokke	1	7	7.0	0	7		
NEBRASKA	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kanawai Noa	3	72	24.0	0	36		
JD Spielman	4	71	17.8	1	23		
Jack Stoll	2	43	21.5	0	23		
Wyatt Mazour	3	29	9.7	0	20		
Austin Allen	1	5	5.0	0	5		