

Thorson, Luckenbaugh lead Northwestern over Nebraska in OT

EVANSTON, Ill. -- Clayton Thorson threw for a career-high 455 yards and three touchdowns, and Drew Luckenbaugh kicked a 37-yard field goal in overtime to give Northwestern a 34-31 victory over winless Nebraska on Saturday afternoon.

Nebraska (0-6, 0-4 Big Ten) blew a 10-point lead in the final 5:41 in regulation and fell to 0-6 for the first time ever. The Cornhuskers also extended the longest losing streak in the storied program's history to 10 games. It's not the start coach Scott Frost envisioned when he decided to take over at his alma mater after orchestrating a drastic turnaround in two seasons coaching Central Florida.

"This is wearing on me, but mostly I just feel bad for them, especially the seniors," he said.

Flynn Nagel set career highs with 220 yards receiving and two touchdowns, and the Wildcats (3-3, 3-1) won for the first time at home after an 0-3 start at Ryan Field.

Things weren't looking good for them trailing 31-21 with 5:41 left in the fourth quarter. But Northwestern kicked a field goal, then drove 99 yards after getting pinned at the 1 with 2:02 left.

The Wildcats were aided by a roughing-the-passer penalty against Carlos Davis that moved the ball from the 1 to the 16, and Thorson finished the drive with a 5-yard TD to JJ Jefferson with 12 seconds left in regulation.

Nebraska got the first shot in overtime after Northwestern deferred and a low snap in a shotgun formation on fourth-and-1 at the 16 did in the Cornhuskers. Martinez scooped up the loose ball around the 30, heaved it to the end zone from the 37 and got intercepted by JR Pace.

Northwestern moved six yards before Drew Luckenbaugh nailed a 37-yarder on fourth down to give the Wildcats their second straight victory.

"Great character, absolutely terrific character," coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "That's who they are. That's who we recruit. I thought the talk on the boundary the whole game was excellent. But after we got the field goal to cut it to a one-score game, the guys (said), 'We're winning this football game. We're winning the game.' ... To get it done in overtime I just think shows character."

Nebraska's Devine Ozigbo ran for 159 yards and two touchdowns. Adrian Martinez threw for 251 yards and a TD.

JD Spielman caught eight passes for 76 yards and a TD. But Nebraska remained winless since a victory at Purdue last Oct. 28.

"It's frustrating," linebacker Luke Gifford said. "That's for sure. At this point, the rah, rah stuff -- that's got to go. I think we have passed that point."

**THE TAKEAWAY**

Nebraska: This one has to sting for the Cornhuskers, who thought they were on the verge of breaking through prior to this game. They were in control, only to let the lead slip away down the stretch.

Northwestern: The Wildcats showed resolve by rallying late. But they continue to struggle in the run game since leading rusher Jeremy Larkin was forced to stop playing because of a spinal issue. They finished with 32 yards rushing, after being held to a combined 36 over the previous two games.

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
NEB	7	6	7	11	0	31
NW	0	14	0	17	3	34

**Scoring Summary -----**

	NEB	NW
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>		
NEB TD 13:32 JD Spielman 42 Yd pass from Adrian Martinez (Barret Pickering Kick) 4 plays, 75 yards, 1:28	7	0
<b>second Quarter</b>		
NWTD 7:41 Flynn Nagel 21 Yd pass from Clayton Thorson (Drew Luckenbaugh Kick) 9 plays, 80 yards, 3:03	7	7
NWTD 3:01 Earnest Brown IV 10 Yd Fumble Return (Drew Luckenbaugh Kick) 3 plays, -13 yards, 0:51	7	14
NEB TD 0:42 Devine Ozigbo 12 Yd Run (Barret Pickering PAT failed) 8 plays, 83 yards, 2:19	13	14
third Quarter		
NEB TD 7:07 Devine Ozigbo 1 Yd Run (Barret Pickering Kick) 15 plays, 97 yards, 5:43	20	14
<b>fourth Quarter</b>		
NEB TD 13:40 Maurice Washington 3 Yd Run (Adrian Martinez Run for Two-Point Conversion) 5 plays, 76 yards, 1:46	28	14
NW TD 12:31 Flynn Nagel 61 Yd pass from Clayton Thorson (Drew Luckenbaugh Kick) 4 plays, 75 yards, 1:09	28	21
NEB FG 5:41 Barret Pickering 34 Yd Field Goal 9 plays, 19 yards, 3:43	31	21
NW FG 2:27 Drew Luckenbaugh 31 Yd Field Goal 15 plays, 62 yards, 3:14	31	24
NW TD 0:12 JJ Jefferson 5 Yd pass from Clayton Thorson (Drew Luckenbaugh Kick) 8 plays, 99 yards, 1:50	31	31
<b>Overtime</b>		
NW FG Drew Luckenbaugh 37 Yd Field Goal 4 plays, 6 yards	31	34

Team Stats	NEB	NW
First Downs	24	30
Total Yards	482	487
Total Plays	82	88
Avg Gain Per Play	5.9	5.5
Net Yards Rushing	231	32
Rushes	47	23
Yards Per Rush	4.9	1.4
Net Yards Passing	251	455
Comp-Att	25-35	41-65
Yards Per Pass	7.2	7.0
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-13	-7
Interceptions	2	2
Punts	5	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	9	1
Penalty Yards	89	5
Fumbles	3	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
<b>Possession</b>	<b>30:07</b>	<b>29:53</b>

**Individual Stats**

**RUSHING**

NEB	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
22 Devine Ozigbo	22	159	7.2	37	2
2 Adrian Martinez	13	37	2.8	13	0
28 Maurice Washington	9	32	3.6	11	1
10 JD Spielman	2	8	4.0	5	0
NW	Rush	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
20 John Moten IV	7	23	3.3	8	0
4 Solomon Vault	12	16	1.3	5	0
18 Clayton Thorson	4	-7	-1.8	4	0

**PASSING**

NEB	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Adrian Martinez	25	35	251	7.2	1	2	129.7
NW	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Clayton Thorson	41	64	455	7.1	3	2	133.0

**RECEIVING**

NEB	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
10 JD Spielman	8	76	9.5	42	1
19 Mike Williams	3	41	13.7	24	0
86 Jack Stoll	3	40	13.3	19	0
22 Devine Ozigbo	4	33	8.3	18	0
8 Stanley Morgan Jr.	2	31	15.5	26	0
Maurice Washington	2	12	6.0	6	0
81 Kade Warner	2	11	5.5	6	0
83 Bryan Reimers	1	7	7.0	7	0
NW	Rec	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
2 Flynn Nagel	12	220	18.3	61	2
Bennett Skowronek	6	73	12.2	27	0
12 JJ Jefferson	4	40	10.0	17	1
19 Riley Lees	2	23	11.5	18	0
84 Cameron Green	4	21	5.3	14	0
Ramaud Chiaokhiao-Bowman	2	20	10.0	16	0
1 Chad Hanaoka	1	14	14.0	14	0
20 John Moten IV	3	14	4.7	8	0
16 Berkeley Holman	1	11	11.0	11	0
8 Kyric McGowan	1	9	9.0	9	0
5 Charlie Fessler	1	7	7.0	7	0
4 Solomon Vault	4	3	0.8	6	0