

2008 GAME RECAPS

NORTHWESTERN 30 Syracuse 10 - SU took its opening drive 63/10pl for a 36 yd FG. SU was pinned at its 3 and Robinson was sk'd for a safety, 3-2. SU went 58/7pl but a 51 yd FG bounced off the upright. NU went 55/6pl with a 16 yd TD pass with 3:20 left 2Q, 9-3. NU's Sutton fmb'l'd to start the 3Q and SU went 9/3pl for a TD to lead 10-9. NU went 76/13pl for a TD and then added a 25 yd IR TD, 23-10. NU put it away with an 80/12pl TD drive and ran out the clock with a 64/7pl drive ending the game at the SU20.

Northwestern 24 DUKE 20 - Duke went 72/11pl for a TD. NU went 55/4pl for a TD, 7-7. NU rec'd a blk'd P at the Duke29 and 2 plays later they scored a TD, 14-7. Duke brought in QB Asack and went 87/16pl for a 21 yd FG, 14-10. NU went 75/9pl. They had a bad snap on a FG but rec'd it with :02 left and nailed a 35 yd FG to end the half, 17-10. Duke went 60/9pl for a 38 yd FG, 17-13. Duke fmb'l'd at its own 31 but NU was SOD on a fake FG. Duke went 73/9pl with a 16 yd TD run, 20-17. NU went 72/9pl for a TD to retake the lead, 24-20. Duke went 61/13pl but was SOD on 4th & 5 (3:33 left). Duke got a 23 yd PR to the NU29 (2:10) and after having their game winning 24 yd TD pass wiped out by a hold and they were SOD on 4th & 15. Duke finished with 28-14 FD and 472-328 yd edges.

NORTHWESTERN 33 Southern Illinois 7 - Steady rain and after 11 and 12pl drives NU settled for 35 and 33 yd FG's, 6-0. SI went 60/4pl for a TD to take the lead 7-6. NU got a 44 yd TD run by Sutton then went 80/11pl but settled for an 18 yd FG and led 16-7 at the half. NU scored on their first three 3Q pass with 2 TD's and a FG (after a blk'd punt). SI gained 78 yds on their final drive in the last 4:20.

NORTHWESTERN 16 Ohio 8 - NU went 70/12pl for a 33 yd FG. NU's Bacher was int'd and ret'd 43 yds to the NU28 but OU, which had a new LS due to an inj, missed a 42 yd FG. NU went 46/9pl for a 46 yd FG, 6-0. OU went 64/10pl but Jackson was int'd in the EZ. Jackson was sk'd & fmb'l'd at the OU10 which set NU up for a 23 yd FG, 9-0. Jackson was sk'd on 4th & 5 at the NU49 with 1:53 left 2Q. NU went 51/8pl for a TD, 16-0 and had a 200-89 yd 1H edge. Bacher was int'd at his own 43. OU had a 27 yd FG blk'd 7pl later. After a trade of int's, OU went 52/5pl for a TD, 16-8 (2pt) after 3Q. NU fmb'l'd a P at its own 28 but OU had a 38 yd FG blk'd. Bacher was int'd at NU's own 36 but OU fmb'l'd it away at the NU18. NU went 55/11pl but was SOD at the OU27 (:52) and OU's 4th & 10 pass fell incomplete.

Northwestern 22 IOWA 17 - UI opened with a 50/7pl drive but fmb'l'd at the NU22. NU went 54/7pl but was int'd at the 17 and ret'd 20 yds. UI went 50/6pl and settled for a 30 yd FG. UI went 90/8pl and Greene's 19 yd TD run made it 10-0. Stanzi was int'd at UI's 29 but NU had a 37 yd FG blk'd. NU went 54/14pl for a 37 yd FG, 10-3. UI went 69/4pl with a 45 yd TD pass with just 2:11 left 2Q, 17-3. UI fmb'l'd a punt at its own 33 (1:01) and NU got a TD 5pl later, 17-10. NU got a 76/4pl TD drive to pull within 17-16 (xpng). UI fmb'l'd the KO but NU missed a 34 yd FG. UI went 46/7pl but fmb'l'd at the NU18. NU went 62/12pl for a TD, 22-17 (2ptng). UI was w/o RB Greene (concussion) and went 3 & out and 64/13pl on their final drive which ended SOD at the NU8 with 1:08 left.

Michigan St 37 NORTHWESTERN 20 - The Spartans went 42/6pl for a TD and NU fmb'l'd away the KO at its own 25. MSU converted on 4th & 1 and got a 26 yd FG, 10-0. NU's Bacher was int'd and MSU ret'd it to its own 34 which set up a TD 4pl later, 17-0. NU went 60/13pl for a TD. Later NU went 57/13pl but Bacher was int'd in the EZ (3:56 left 2Q). The Spartans then went 80/8pl for a TD, 24-7 (:53). NU opened the 3Q with an 80/5pl TD drive and rec'd an onside KO but MSU called for a FC & the Cats were whistled for interference. MSU then went 32/6pl for a TD, 31-14. NU went 66/14pl for a 32 yd FG, 31-17. MSU went 31/8pl for a 42 yd FG, 34-17. NU went 79/18pl but settled for a 22 yd FG, 34-20 (11:53) and 11pl later the Spartans had a 34 yd FG, 37-20. NU was SOD at its own 37 and then went on a 92/15pl drive to the 6 but ran out of time. NU finished with a 459-297 yd edge.

NORTHWESTERN 48 Purdue 26 - PU drove 77/12pl and 49/7pl but settled for 2 FG's, 6-0. NU got a 45 yd TD pass and then a 30 yd TD pass on a WR reverse which capped 60 and 52 yd drives, 14-6. PU fmb'l'd at its 10 and NU added a 26 yd FG, 17-6. PU was SOD at the NU40 but after rec'g a fmb'l went 54/6pl for a TD, 17-12 (1:09). NU went 57/8pl for a TD with :15 left 2Q, 24-12. NU opened the 3Q going 54/13pl for a 29 yd FG, 27-12. PU was int'd and NU drove 12/3pl for a TD, 34-12. PU drove 73/7pl for a TD and NU went on a 10pl drive but missed a 25 yd FG. NU got a 38 yd IR and a 39 yd FR which set up short TD's, 48-19. PU got a 76 yd TD run by Sheets and rec'd the onside kick but was int'd at the 7 and SOD at the NU42.

INDIANA 21 Northwestern 19 - NU went on a 90/20pl FG drive. IU gained 17 yds on a fake punt and then got a 43 yd pass to cap a 93/8pl TD drive. IU rec'd a fmb'l'd KO at the NU40 but was SOD on 4th & 6. NU went on an 11pl drive but was int'd at the 4. The Cats later went 61/12pl for a TD, 9-7 (xpng). IU missed a 47 yd FG but NU fmb'l'd with 1:04 left 1H and IU, 7pl later, got a TD with :11 left, 14-9. NU went 32/5pl for a 26 yd FG, 14-12. IU's Thigpen took the pitch, handed off to Evans who threw to Doss for a 28 yd TD pass, 21-12. RB Sutton was lost due to inj but NU went 70/8pl for a TD, 21-19. IU missed a 51 yd FG (5:55). NU was int'd at the IU32 (4:03) and with Bacher out due to inj Kafka was sk'd and fmb'l'd which IU rec'd at the 8 (1:34). IU finished +5 in TO's.

Northwestern 24 MINNESOTA 17 - NU was w/o staring QB Bacher and RB Sutton but Kafka rushed for 217 yds, a Big Ten QB record. NU took its opening 2 drives 78/7pl and 52/9pl for a TD and a FG, 10-0. UM went 80/7pl for a TD, 10-7. Kafka was int'd and Simmons ret'd it 23 yd for a TD and UM led 14-10. Kafka had 53 yd run which set up a TD, 17-14. UM went 76/13pl for a 21 yd FG, 17-17 at the half. UM went 92/16pl but missed a 20 yd FG. NU went 41 yds but Kafka was int'd at the 9 and ret'd 35 yds. Five plays later UM came up short on a fake FG at the NU31. NU got a 38 yd run by Kafka but 4 plays later missed a 47 yd FG. UM took over at its 14 with :47 left and got 1 FD but with :26 left Smith int'd a tipped pass and raced 48 yds for a TD with :12 left to deliver NU the win.

Ohio St 45 NORTHWESTERN 10 - OSU opened with a 66/8pl TD drive. NU went 67/13pl for a TD with Kafka running on the drive's last 7pl, 7-7. OSU's Wells broke free for a 55 yd TD run, 14-7. NU fmb'l'd 2pl later and OSU added a 33 yd FG, 17-7. OSU went 90/12pl for a TD converting on 3rd & 8, 3rd & 13 and 3rd & 17 to lead 24-7 at the half. NU opened the 3Q with a 72/10pl FG drive. Two pass later Pryor hit a 6 yd TD pass to cap an 83/8pl drive, 31-10. NU got a FD at the OSU12 but B2B sks forced them to P. OSU faked a P for a FD on a 84/9pl TD drive, 38-10. After NU was SOD on 4th & 12 at its own 43 (3:10), the Bucks got a 16 yd TD run by Herron with :16 left.

Northwestern 21 MICHIGAN 14 - Wintry mix. UM got a 25 yd IR to the NU8 but had a 23 yd FG blk'd. UM fmb'l'd a P at its own 39 and NU got a TD 5pl later. UM went 61/11pl for a TD and 53/13pl but were SOD on 4th & 3 at the NU26. UM had a blk'd PR for a TD, 14-7. UM had a 162-81 1H yd edge. NU partially blk'd a P which set them up for a 17 yd TD pass on 3rd & gl, 14-14. NU went 66/4pl with a 53 yd TD pass, 21-14. UM was SOD at the NU34 (2:19) and at their own 42 with 1:18 left.

NORTHWESTERN 27 Illinois 10 - NU went 77/13pl (xpng) and 60/8pl for TD's, 13-0. IL drove to the NU46 but Williams was int'd at the 3. NU had a 213-86 yd edge at the half. IL opened the 3Q with an 80/11pl TD drive. NU was int'd at the IL10. IL went 38/7pl for a 28 yd FG, 16-7. IL went 77/10pl for a 21 yd FG. NU got a 51 yd PR which set up a TD 2pl later, 24-10 (2pt). IL was sk'd & fmb'l'd at its own 44 and NU got a 24 yd FG, 27-10. IL went 59/15pl to the NU21 but was SOD.