

Miami defense whips up a storm

In a league where offenses were expected to dominate, the Miami Hurricanes look to be bucking the trend. Their defense was dominant in week one, Nebraska were held to just over 200 yards of total offense and didn't even muster a field goal attempt. The Miami offense kept the ball on the ground and gave their defense plenty of rest, the result was the most one sided of week one.

There wasn't much defense on display in Jordan-Hare Stadium - the home team tried to pass their way to victory and racked up over 400 yards of total offense. It wasn't enough, however, as the visiting Huskies were able to amass nearly 600 yards of offense and were also considerably more efficient on third downs.



The Hurricanes defense was on top form in Nebraska

The Notre Dame defense was also on top form. Pittsburgh only managed 12 first downs in South Bend, though they did at least get a couple of scores. They were no

The real action has finally started in NCAA8 and, as expected, there was a lot of high powered offense on display in week one. However, there was also some impressive defensive showings - we've all heard the old adage: offense wins games, defense wins championships. Will this apply to A8? Only time will tell...

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match for the Irish however, and the game was over by halftime.

An offensive show was put on in the thin air of Colorado.

Penn State racked up an impressive 28 first downs, but a lot of these came in the fourth quarter as the Nittany Lions fought to claw back the three touchdown advantage the Buffaloes had built.

UCLA travelled to Alabama and, somehow, managed to hold the hosts to less than 10 points. The Crimson Tide didn't have too much trouble

moving the ball but, for some reason, couldn't get into scoring range. The Bruins were a whole lot more clinical - but maybe this was because they didn't bother trying to get into scoring

range, they just went for the big play passes.

Ohio State didn't bother too much with a running game, and the Wolverines couldn't stop them passing as they amassed an impressive 36 first downs. Despite not being able to match the offen-



A rare sight on Saturday - the OSU running game

Message Board

Rob Crowther to Martyn Williams: Good win, just let me get myself a defense and I'll have my revenge in the Gold Bowl!

Rob Crowther to all: Has everyone gone suddenly shy? Surely you all must have something printable to say about your teams?

sive output of their hosts, Michigan did manage to keep the game close with some good special teams and opportune turnovers, but they never quite closed the gap the Buckeyes had opened up in the first quarter.

Week Two Preview

Washington at Miami - The Miami defense was impressive last week, but the Huskies are a whole different kettle of fish. If the Hurricanes can diversify a bit offensively they should have the edge at home. Miami by 3

Nebraska at Notre Dame - After getting shut down last week, Nebraska face yet another good defensive team. Unless they've made massive changes it's hard to see them upsetting the Irish. Notre Dame by 14

Auburn at Penn State - If Penn State give the Auburn offense a fast start then they may never catch up. However, the Tigers' defense has presented little opposition so far, they will need to start making some plays if Auburn are going to win any games.

Alabama at Pittsburgh - Both teams were disappointing last week. Neither team

got the offensive production they might have hoped for, though the Tide moved the ball a lot further for fewer points. With all those seniors Alabama must start as favourites, they've got to start making a difference sometime? Alabama by 3

Michigan at UCLA - UCLA were surprisingly comfortable winners last week, while the Wolverines had their secondary torn to shreds. The Bruins big play passing attack won't be a surprise for Michigan, the question is will they be able to stop it even when

they know it's coming? I have a gut feeling they will, surprise of the week as the visitors sneak it. Michigan by 1

Colorado at Ohio State - Two explosive looking offenses go head to head. The Buckeye passing game looked awesome last week but the Buffaloes were a bit more balanced. If Ohio State get off to another large first quarter lead they may be hard to catch, but if Colorado can keep the game close their better balance may give them the edge. Colorado by 3

Huskies will Go As Far As Moon Can Take Them

What is immediately apparent when looking at the stats for the Huskies win at the Tigers, is that freshman QB Warren Moon has been given charge of the offence. Against Auburn he passed for 457 yards and ran for another 60, and tossed 6 touchdown passes to only 1 interception. Impressive stuff, perhaps even more impressive when you take into account these two teams had already played in a pre-pre-season scrimmage (which the Huskies also won), so the Tigers had a good idea as to what was coming and still had no answer. Coach Williams was full of praise for his young QB after the game. "People have questioned my decision to go with a pass first attack given Warren's inexperience, hopefully that performance will silence the doubters. This guy is for real, and until this offence gets stopped on a consistent basis that is the way the Huskies will play." Looking ahead to the week two game at the Hurricanes, Coach Williams was full of praise for



the Miami outfit. "To shut out an opponent in this league is an exceptional achievement, but we are confident that Miami will struggle to do the same against us. Our style of offence is totally different to the Cornhuskers, and the Miami D will have to make significant changes to their gameplan to contain Moon and Co. As for the Hurricanes 0, they obviously have no trouble pounding out the yards on the ground, and this will be a major test of the mettle of my D line, but with two seniors in that unit I'm confident they will make the Hurricanes work far harder for their yards than they had to last week." The week two game between the Hurricanes and Huskies certainly promises to be a classic encounter between two teams whose coaches appear to have very different views as to how the game should be played. (Thanks to Martyn Williams for this article)