

OU Hero Briscoe Leaves Behind Passable Career

By Gary Anderson

An era has ended.

In a blaze of glory last Saturday against South Dakota, Marlin Briscoe ended an illustrious four-year career. He tied his own record of 19 completions, while engineering a 27-20 win over a team Omaha had failed to defeat in ten previous encounters.

The senior magician who was unheralded after a high school career with Omaha South now holds 21 OU career and season records.

Saturday Briscoe was at his artistic best, connecting on 19 of 34 passes for 275 yards and rushing for 52 yards. Five of his completions came during a courageous fourth-quarter-comeback en route to the winning score.

Leading 20-7 at the half, Omaha fell to the inspired rush of the Coyotes, who tied the game 20-20 early in the fourth period.

Briscoe Scrambles

Jim Foster scored the TD, capping a three-play 17-yard march after a Ray Shaw fumble of a punt attempt.

After stalling the South Dakotans and regaining the ball on a punt on the OU 14, Briscoe breathed life into the sputtering Indian attack.

Scrambling the best he has scrambled all season, Briscoe marched the Indians 86 yards in 13 plays to snuff out the brief Coyote hopes for victory.

During this winning drive, Briscoe completed five passes to get to the Coyote nine, where Pat Smagacz rambled into the end-zone for the winning score with only 2:44 left in the game.

Omaha dominated the first half with two touchdowns in the first quarter and one in the second.

Briscoe fired a 77-yard strike to Bill Haas to open the scoring. Briscoe hit Tom McKernan for nine yards for the second score.

After the Sodaks scored on a 41-yard second quarter TD, drive Bill Haas made the catch of the day: a four-yard Briscoe aerial.



Briscoe . . . Era Ends

Haas leaped high to grab the ball and then barely fell in the end zone for his 73rd point of the season.

The Coyotes' rejuvenated second-half attack, led by halfback Steve Chambers dominated most of the second half leading to Omaha's winning touchdown drive.

Chambers fooled the Indian secondary with a halfback pass to Roger Larson that covered 41 yards.

The young Omaha defense played one of their best games in the line, stopping heralded fullback John Biezuns for 11 yards on five trips.

The secondary was weakened by the loss of Steve Haborak who was out with a bout with the flu. Rick Davis did an outstanding job of filling in considering he was playing a strange position.

Briscoe "All-American"

The winning touchdown drive exemplifies coach Al Caniglia's high regard for Briscoe.

"He can do more to pick up a team than any kid we've had," Caniglia said. "If any kid ever was an All-American, this kid is."

Bill Haas, also a senior the 1968 Indians will sorely miss, gathered in eight passes for 177 yards and two touchdowns. The two TD's enabled Haas to lead all Omaha scorers with 73 points.

The big story was Briscoe, however, as he treated the turnout of 5127 with his usual exciting performance.

Briscoe ends the season in excellent position to attain All-America honors as well as a high spot in the pro draft sometime next month.

The little kid who used to idolize Bill Englehardt, leaves college competition as perhaps the greatest athlete ever to play here.