

# Weather chills Dallas; game pleases players

By Bill Bennett

DALLAS — In a hallway at the Marriott Motor Motel after Nebraska's 19-3 victory over Texas in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day, Head Coach Tom Osborne asked senior cornerback Randy Borg, "How's everything going?"

And as Borg proudly walked down the hall with two cases of beer in his grasp, he looked at Osborne and said, "Everything's going just great, coach."

That's just one of many incidents that occurred in Dallas during the week of Dec. 26-Jan. 2 as the Cornhuskers were preparing for Texas and Dallas was preparing for about 10,000 Nebraska followers.

Nebraska, along with many of its fans, arrived in Dallas Dec. 26. Throughout the week, the team schedule consisted of practices, planned events and banquets.

Team activities included attending the Cathy Carlson Show at the Fairmont Hotel, visiting a dude ranch, going to a dinner playhouse and attending the Stag Awards Luncheon at the Statler Hilton Hotel Dec. 30, where the team received Cotton Bowl watches.

"If only Miami's weather were here, this trip would have been better than last year's," said Jim Whitney, Nebraska's student manager. For the first five days of the trip, the daytime temperature averaged 60-70 degrees, but Sunday night it dropped to about 20 degrees and never got much warmer for the remainder of the trip.

Whitney recalled an incident concerning the team that occurred at the motel on the Friday before the game. Curfew for that evening was at 12 o'clock and Osborne was making bed checks. Senior fullback Maury Damkroger was on the balcony of Tom Rouse and Bob Nelson's room when Osborne, unknown to

Damkroger, quietly walked in.

"Tom, are you ready? I've got a car waiting," Damkroger said from the balcony.

"Where are we going Maury," Osborne said from the back of the room.

For his unsuccessful getaway, Damkroger did some grass drills during Saturday's practice.

The Huskers polished off the Longhorns in fine style.

Senior quarterback Steve Runty started the second half and completed two of four passes for 16 yards, ran once for 16 yards, and propelled the Cornhuskers from a 3-3 halftime tie to a 19-3 victory.

"I sure wasn't expecting to start the second half. To tell you the truth, I was wondering if I'd get to play. When the coach announced right before half that I'd start, I was anxious to go out and push the ball down Texas' throat."

Junior wingback Ritch Bahe, who rushed seven times for 26 yards, caught two passes for 35 yards and scored one touchdown.

"This one feels really great. Even though they stopped us those fourth downs on their one-yard line at the half, I still thought we were the better team. This game will make us ready for next year."

Defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin is earning a reputation throughout college football of being a defensive genius.

"This was our best defensive effort since UCLA," Kiffin said. "Nobody stopped Texas the way we did today, not even Oklahoma. It's just a matter of throwing away the X's and O's and hitting people."

Senior defensive end Steve Manstedt recovered a fumble and returned it 65 yards to set up Nebraska's second quarter field goal.



Huskers head for the dressing room after a gratifying Cotton Bowl victory.

"Somebody blasted in with his helmet and knocked the ball from Leaks' hands. It then hit his leg, bounced up in the air and I grabbed it and was long gone."

Defensive tackle John Dutton was credited with four tackles and said this game perhaps meant more to him than it did to most players.

"It was very important for me to look good. Not so much for the pro draft or for myself, but to go out a winner and prove that I play mostly for my teammates. I had to prove that I'm not a big guy who just plays for himself."

About an hour after the game, when all the excitement had died down, senior middle guard John Bell talked about the game and what it meant to him.

"I was going against the country's best (Bill Wyman, Longhorn center), and I wanted to have my best game,"

Bell said. "I didn't play as well as I wanted to, but Wyman was intimidated enough to make looks pretty ineffective."

Bell, who was in on seven tackles and recovered a fumble that led to a Nebraska touchdown late in the third quarter, said that all-year Wyman has been most effective against linebackers.

"I stopped him from getting to our linebackers, which nobody had done before," he said. "But you know for sure—he was the best I've faced all year."

Bell said his hopes for the future were in the air. He said he had done everything from pro to amateur to high school coaching.

In any case, Nebraska will have its fifth straight bowl victory when Nebraska's 1974 season opens with Oregon on Sept. 24 in early 1974 days away.

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