

# sports

## Husker fans return bleary-eyed from 'Miami paradise'



The Wizard of Oz would have approved.

During a week of sundry activities in a land alleged to be paradise, the 45th annual Orange Bowl Classic halftime show left over 14,000 attending Nebraskans with glazed and bleary eyes.

It was only fitting. The land of bright lights and swaying palms tends to leave one with bleary impressions. The disco halftime show was the topper to a lifestyle that jumps out at snowbound Cornhusker from travel brochures.

Colored lights, smoke, balloons and flashlights turned the 75,000-seat Orange Bowl into the country's largest discomania den. K.C. and the Sunshine Band appeared like small blips on a screen on the 40-yard line and wriggled and mimicked their way through the latest tunes.

The Orange Bowl Classic is not simply a football game. In fact, few Floridians consider it as such. Incredible Cuban restaurant owners blink at Nebraskans and repeat to themselves, "1,800 miles to see a football game." Food is delivered with "muy loco" glances.

The Orange Bowl Classic is beauty pageants and tourism, tennis tournaments and tourism, parades and tourism, and tourism and tourism. The city of Miami shifts into high gear around the 26th or 27th of December in anticipation of the plethora of Oklahoma and Nebraska fans—two of the more notably rabid backers of college football in the country.

Beaches, restaurants and mostly hotels overflow with humanity. Most hotel rooms' prices jump ten dollars during Orange Bowl week. They will return to normal for approximately two weeks, until the Super Bowl invasion begins and the prices jump again.

It's amazing really that the southern tip

of Florida doesn't break off and float into the Atlantic with all of the extra people on board.

For the record, the 45th Orange Bowl football game was won by the University of Oklahoma 31-24. A third quarter blitz by the Sooners left the Huskers three touchdowns behind heading into the final quarter.

The most notable difference between the Orange Bowl game and the Husker win in Lincoln on Nov. 11 was fumbles, or lack of them by the Sooners. OU coughed it up nine times in the first game, and only once in Miami.

Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims ran for 134 yards and two touchdowns while quarterback Thomas Lott also scored twice.

Nebraska senior I-back Rick Berns ran for 99 yards and one touchdown and junior I.M. Hipp rushed for 66 yards giving both of those runners over 1,000 yards rushing this season.

Other Nebraska scores came on a 21-yard pass from quarterback Tom Sorley to split end Tim Smith, a Billy Todd field goal, and a 2-yard pass from Sorley to tight end Junior Miller on the last play of the game.

Sooner players and fans may have been the only ones departing the land of surf and sun with a view of it as paradise.

Miami is not paradise and there is little reason to believe otherwise. But life does move at a somewhat unrealistic, almost utopian, pace there, especially when living out of a suitcase.

The reality, and it's a harsh one, is coming back, bleary-eyed, to this igloo of a city.

Pass the hot chocolate, Nannook.

Photographs by Bob Pearson  
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