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Orange Bowl Preview

Husker bowls a winning tradition

By Bob Asmussen

While the University of Nebraska's main campus is still in Lincoln, it seems lately that the school has become the University of Nebraska at Miami. T-shirts claim it that way and the Nebraska Cornhusker football team has tried to help by going to the Orange Bowl as Big Eight champs the last three seasons.

When Nebraska takes the field Jan. 2 for its contest with Miami, it will be the 10th time Nebraska has played in the Orange Bowl. Only Oklahoma, with 11 appearances, has played the game more.

Nebraska's first Orange Bowl trip was in 1955 and the opponent was Duke. Nebraska actually finished second to Oklahoma in the Big Eight race that year but the Orange Bowl had a no-repeat rule that kept the Sooners home and put the Huskers in Miami.

It was unfortunate for Nebraska that Oklahoma couldn't represent the conference in the game because the Huskers lost to the Blue Devils 34-7. Nebraska was able to gain only 110 yards of total offense for the game and six first downs. Nebraska trailed 14-0 at the half and after pulling to within 14-7 it was Duke's game.

In 1964 Nebraska made its second appearance in the Orange Bowl against

Auburn. The Huskers were led that day by quarterback Dennis Claridge who gained 108 yards rushing including a 68-yard touchdown run. Nebraska defeated the Tigers 13-7.

"Claridge ran a quarterback trap for the touchdown," Nebraska Assistant Coach Cletus Fischer recalled. "Bob Brown pulled on the play and they couldn't catch him (Claridge)."

Fischer said the Auburn team was a good one, but Nebraska had a really good team. Fourteen of the Nebraska players from that team were drafted by the pros. Nebraska led in the game 13-0 at half and was able to hold on for the victory.

In 1966 Nebraska played Alabama and its quarterback Steve Sloan. Another prominent player for Alabama in that game was current Alabama Coach Ray Perkins. Alabama led 24-7 at half enroute to a 39-28 victory.

Nebraska was able to gain 377 yards total offense in the game but the Crimson Tide gained 518 yards total offense.

The 1971 Orange Bowl is the game that really put Nebraska on the college-football map. The Huskers defeated Louisiana State University, 17-12, to win its first national championship.

Going into the day Nebraska was third in the polls behind Texas and Ohio State. Texas played and lost to Joe Theismann and Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl. Ohio State lost to Stanford and Jim Plunkett in the Rose Bowl. The scene was set for Nebraska that evening.

"We had an excellent chance to win the title if we won the bowl game," Fischer said. "LSU had a very aggressive football team."

Fischer said one of the big plays of the game happened before the half when Rich Glover got called for holding on a successful LSU field goal. LSU declined the penalty that would have given them fourth and goal at the one and took the three points.

"If they had gone for it and made it, it might have been a completely different ball game, "Fischer said.

In the 1972 Orange Bowl, Nebraska was 12-0 and No. 1-ranked. Alabama came into the game also undefeated and No. 2-ranked. It was no contest. Nebraska 38, Alabama 6.

"Whenever you play Alabama, you're going to have a tough game," Fischer said. "They did something we didn't think they'd do and that's punt-the ball to Johnny Rodgers."

With Nebraska leading 7-0 in the first quarter, an Alabama punt found Rodgers' hands and he raced 77 yards for a touchdown. Nebraska held a 28-0 at half and was never threatened.

In the 1973 Orange Bowl Nebraska played Notre Dame in Bob Devaney's last game as coach. The game will be remembered as the one where the Huskers turned Johnny Rodgers loose.

"Johnny scored about every way a player could score," Fischer said. "The guy could have been great at whatever position he played."

Rodgers scored on runs of 4, 5 and 8 yards. He also caught a David Humm pass for a 50-yard touchdown and threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Frosty Anderson.

1979 brought a rematch in the Orange Bowl for Nebraska against Oklahoma. The Huskers had defeated Oklahoma 17-14 during the season but the rematch was a bitter pill for the Husker players and coaches to swallow. Nebraska lost 31-24.

"It's difficult to defeat teams more than once during a season," Fischer said. "We shouldn't have had to go prove a point again. It wasn't fair for our kids."

The 1982 Orange Bowl was once again a chance for Nebraska to gain a national championship. They were to play No. 1-ranked Clemson. Two teams rated ahead of Nebraska, Georgia and Alabama, both lost on New Year's Day. But, unfortunately for Cornhusker fans, it was not to be their night.

The 1983 Orange Bowl had no real meaning on the ratings, but Nebraska's 21-20 victory signified the first time in Osborne's tenure at Nebraska that the Huskers were able to both defeat Oklahoma and win their bowl game.

Motor club provides maps, other services for member travelers

Cornhusker fans heading to Miami for the Orange Bowl can have a good time, but also should keep some important travel safety precautions in mind, a spokesperson for the American Automobile Association's Cornhusker Motor Club said.

Cyndi Maw, an AAA travel counselor, said the club has mapped out a driving route to Miami for AAA members that includes mostly interstate travel. This is because of the rest areas and restaurants that are located along interstate highways. It is good to stay on highly traveled roads, she said.

The proposed route takes travelers from Lincoln to Kansas City, Mo. and then on to St. Louis. Travelers then can take Interstate Highway 64 to Mt. Vernon, Ill., followed by Interstate Highway 57 to Paducah. Kv.

After visits in Nashville and Chattanooga, Tenn., travelers will find themselves in Atlanta and then on to Macon, Ga.

Once travelers leave Georgia, they can take Interstate Highway 75 south into Florida, get on the Florida Turnpike and travel past Orlando, West Palm

Beach and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Maw said the AAA Club has had numerous requests for maps, but she is unsure of how many club members will be going to Florida for the game.

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"Some people fly and some people just try to wing it on their own," she said.

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AAA members who experience car trouble while traveling can call toll free, 1-800-336-HELP, for assistance.

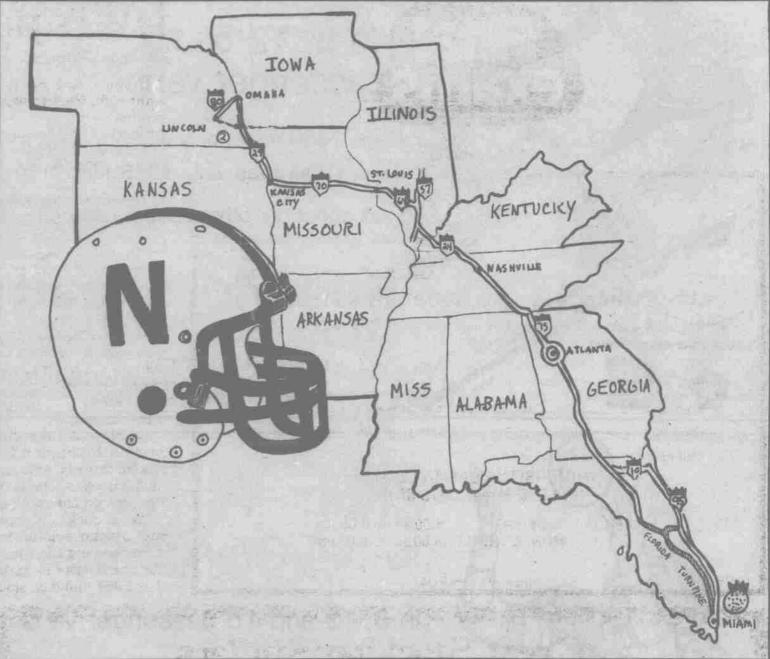


Illustration by Chris Medicy

The Road to Miami

Miami clubs offer something for everyone

By Vicki Ruhga

UNL students carousing the streets of Miami looking for fun can sample several of the city's bars and nightclubs that are frequented by many University of Miami students.

Stacy Morgan, information officer at the Miami Tourist Office, said Miami has a wide range of expensive and inexpensive night-time entertainment.

• For those with expensive tastes, singer Anthony Newley will perform Dec. 27 through 31 at the Miami Fountain Blue Hilton. Cost of the dinner show is \$36, or a mere \$14 without dinner.

• Singer, composer Sergio Mendez will entertain at Miami's James L. Knight Center.

• The Copacobana is a Latin nightclub offering mainly Las Vegas-type shows.

• Marco Polo, a nightclub in Miami Beach, features musicals, plays and various shows and has a cover charge ranging from \$8.50 to \$10.50.

• The Sheraton Bal Harbor also has Las Vegas-style shows and has a cover charge of \$12 for the first show, \$10 for the second.

• Rainbows, a nightclub close to the University of Miami campus, offers a comedy band that plays various top 40 hits and oldies but goodies. Cover charge is \$5, and, for you really latenighters, the club stays open until 4

For those students on a limited budget, Morgan said bars in the Coconut Grove area are popular with most of Miami's young people.

• The Village Inn, a Coconut Grove bar, boasts live music ranging from reggae to top 40 hits. A different band

The Ginger Man, which is slightly more expensive, features a live jazz band and is a replica of an old New York-style Irish bar.

For those of you who swim, Monty Trainer's is a bar on the water in Biscayne Bay where dress is very casual, and people dock their boats and often come in wearing T-shirts. Seafood snacks are served, and music ranges from reggae and calypso to rock.

Sundays, also on the bay, is another casual bar. Patrons can dance to live music or sit and watch boats come in.

• TGIF Fridays in South Miami has a bar, but no music.

 Bargey's Barn, near the University of Miami campus, offers live music and dancing.

• Rick's Cafe, also near the campus, has music and dancing in a Casablanca setting, with ceiling fans and palm plants. Here's lookin' at you, kid.