Bridgebusters...

Continued from Page 14

It took 549 linear-shaped charges to bring down the steel structure, Riter said. He said the 100 pounds of charges produce a jet of maximum force that burns through the steel instead of blowing it apart. Dynamite set into holes drilled through wooden pilings blasted the two granite piers which supported the structure, Riter said.

Martin Explosives was the only company in the country qualified to remove the bridge, Riter said. "We weren't even the lowest bidders," he said. The company will make almost as much from the demolition and salvage of the structure as it cost to construct, Riter said, about $350,000.

Terry Daley, foreman for Martin Explosives, said his company will pull the torn and twisted sections from the river and onto land where it will be cut into smaller pieces with torches. He said the salvaging operations, which will end the 10-week process, will take about four or five days.

John Fenton, a spokesman for Ed Kraemer and Sons of Plain, Wis., who are building a new U.S. Highway 2 bridge downstream from the old, said the new structure will be compl-ted in about a year. Riter said Martin Explosives plan to bid on blowing-up the old structure, but for now they are on to Boyce, La., to remove another bridge.

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NU offenses...

Continued from Page 16

"If I had to compare them with last year's team, I'd say they are the same talent-wise. But what hurt them this year was that they turned the ball over too much," he said.

Nebraska faces a Tiger team that is effective at creating turnovers.

LSU's defense has intercepted opposing quarterbacks aerials 27 times and have recovered 19 fumbles this season. Free safety Liffort Hobley leads the Tigers with six interceptions.

"This game should be quite a challenge for our defense," Archer said. "Our kids will look at the films and they are going to realize what's in store for them."

If the Tigers hope to win, he said, they must play their best game of the season.

"Basically it is the same thing we told our kids last year at Miami: We have a great challenge ahead of us and hopefully we'll play well enough to win," Archer said.

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