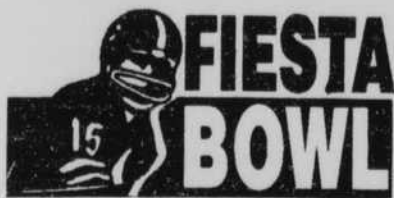


Nebraska not on coach's Christmas list

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden said he wishes the Sunkist-



Fiesta Bowl officials would have been more charitable when considering this year's matchup.

"We've had a tough enough schedule this season," he said. "Now we have to play Nebraska. Give us a break, already."

But Bobby, who would you rather play? Harvard?

"That would be nice," he said,

Nee frustrated by loss, but pleased with team's effort

From Staff and Wire Reports

After Monday night's loss to Idaho, Cornhusker men's basketball coach Danny Nee had a difficult time finding positive things to say about his team's performance.

Things were much easier for Nee Thursday night, even though Nebraska lost 86-83 to Creighton at Omaha's Civic Auditorium.

The Creighton loss was a frustrating one for Nee and the Huskers, Nee said.

"There were a lot of tears in the locker room," Nee said after the game. "This was a game we thought we could win. We thought we should have won it."

Creighton, which improved its record to 4-3, led 82-81 in the game's final 1 1/2 minutes when Nebraska guard Clifford Scales drove into the lane for the go-ahead layup. As he shot the ball, he was fouled by a Creighton player, but the officials disallowed the shot.

Scales missed the front end of the one-and-one, and the Bluejays grabbed the rebound.

After Creighton scored a field goal to extend its lead to three points, Scales was fouled again. This time, he sank both free throws, and Nebraska trailed 84-83 with 21 seconds left.

As time was running out, Nebraska's Keith Moody fouled Creighton sophomore reserve Duan Cole. Cole missed the first shot of the one-and-one, and grabbed his own rebound. Nebraska center Rich King tried to steal the ball, but it bounced off of him and went out of bounds, giving Creighton the ball with 13 seconds left.

See BLUEJAYS on 8

Shockers coach: Team lacks force but upbeat for game against NU

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

Wichita State women's basketball coach Linda Hargrove isn't sure what her team's strength is.

"We're not real fast, and we're not a real quick team; we don't have a lot of power or strength inside and we don't have much perimeter shooting," the first-year coach said. "I don't know that we have any real strength."

In fact, Hargrove said she isn't even sure what kind of team she has. "I'm still trying to figure that out," she said.

Hargrove will learn more about her team when Wichita State faces Nebraska tonight. The game begins

laughing. "I'd sleep better at night having an Ivy League team waiting for me in the bowl."

"That would be a great Christmas present."

Bowden said that when his No. 5-ranked Seminoles face the Cornhuskers on New Year's Day in Tempe, Ariz., they could be playing the best team in the country.

But he's not ready to throw in the towel yet.

"I think if we beat Nebraska, it would be hard to think of anybody being better than us," Bowden said. "But that's if we beat Nebraska."

Bowden said that given the proper scenario -- which includes Colorado losing to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl, and Miami and Michigan losing in the Sugar and Rose Bowls -- coupled with a Husker win against Florida State, Nebraska still has an outside chance at No. 1.

"They've got a better chance than we do," he said. "If they win, they'll have only one loss, and their claim to the championship will be as good as a lot of teams' claims."

Bowden said that Florida State, which lost its first two games of the season to Southern Mississippi and Clemson, would have virtually no chance of capturing the national title.

But the national championship isn't Bowden's greatest concern. The Huskers dominate his thoughts, he said.

"Nebraska is certainly as good as anybody we've played," Bowden said. "I never picture Nebraska as a step down from anybody. I never see Nebraska a step down from another Nebraska team a year before, either."

Bowden said Nebraska won't necessarily present the Seminoles with plays or schemes they haven't seen at one point earlier this year. Florida

State has faced six bowl-bound teams on this season's schedule, not counting Nebraska.

"The problem Nebraska presents is more of execution," Bowden said. "They just line up and whip you with strength and speed. They do that to everyone, and they beat most everyone."

The Seminoles' offense is led by senior quarterback Peter Tom Willis, who has completed 211 of 346 passes for 3,124 yards and 20 touchdowns.

His favorite targets have been wide receivers Lawrence Dawsey, Terry Anthony and Ronald Lewis. Dawsey leads the Seminoles with 38 catches for 683 yards -- an 18-yard-per-catch average -- and four touchdowns.

Anthony and Lewis have accounted for 569 and 535 yards, and have 11 touchdowns between them.

Florida State's ground attack is led by tailback Dexter Carter, who has

gained 684 yards and scored eight touchdowns on 131 carries this season.

Freshman tailback Amp Lee has added 290 yards for Florida State.

Bowden said his young players have been the key to Florida State's success and failures this year.

"In those first two games, our preparation was the difference," he said. "We played our younger guys maybe a little more than we should have. But as the season went along, we got more into a rhythm and we clicked."

After Florida State's two season-opening losses, Bowden said, he thought the Seminoles may not get a bowl bid at the end of the season.

"I'm glad we did," Bowden said. "But playing Nebraska kind of holds down my excitement. It'll be tough, as always."

Santa drops in to talk sports with DN writer

'Twas the week before Dead Week and all across Lincoln

Husker volleyball fans about Hawaii were thinkin'.

The Cornhuskers would play in the Coliseum no more.

They were regional champions and in the Final Four.

The Cornhuskers had just won over Illinois.

They batted the opponent around like a toy.

The game was exhausting so I decided to go

"I thought toys were your niche."

"That was true 'til the elves gave me a satellite dish.

But one of the workers, an incredible ditz,

Made eggnog in the dish, and now it's on the fritz.

I need to talk sports with someone, I picked you.

The elves watch midget wrestling and Mrs. Claus likes Donahue."

The jolly old man chuckled at his plight.

The cherry lips and rosy cheeks shone like a light.

"Have a cookie, kind sir, and in sports we will revel."

"Thanks, but no thanks, I'm watching my cholesterol level.

So how 'bout them Huskers?" he said with that grin.

"I'm talking volleyball here, I just came from the win.

The Cornhuskers made the Illini look lame.

I'm ready to watch the Huskers play the next game."

"Sorry, St. Nick, your logic has a leak.

The finals won't be on TV next week.

Not 'til Monday, can you believe it, I'll say it again

Not 'til Monday will the semis be on ESPN.

The finals are delayed until Christmas Eve

When I'm in the country, without cable TV.

And on Christmas Eve, who cares anyway,

They might as well delay the game until May."

"The finals, on my day, I need a tape of some kind.

I'll just keep the VCR I had for ... well, never mind.

At least the bowl games are live, like the Fiesta.

Perfect for the start of my year-long siesta."

"In a few weeks Nebraska will play the Seminoles

The Huskers have said they're tired of losing bowls.

Cynics have predicted another loss for the team.

Stopping Florida State's passing is supposedly a dream.

But the circumstances are different -- Nebraska has the dime.

With Walker, Wells and company the quarterback won't have time

To pick apart the Cornhusker D. The offense is led by Gerry Gdowski.

The 'Skers threw away the game the last time they met.

This time the teams are too close for a bet.

See SANTA on 8



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska forward Carl Hayes goes in for a layup.

Paul Domeier



And take a long winter's nap until, oh, noon or so.

I drove back to my apartment pondering leis

And what a trip to Honolulu would cost for two days

When what to my wondering eyes did appear,

But a miniature van covered with painted reindeer.

Stunned by the van, I almost ignored

The fat little man trying to open my door.

My jaw dropped, I couldn't believe it, my head started to tingle.

My home was being robbed by a Gateway Kris Kringle!

I coiled, leapt and kicked out at him with my toes.

He stepped through the door. I fell flat on my nose.

Scrambling to my feet I tackled the brute

'Til he drew back his hand and bopped my sore snoot.

I slugged him in the stomach (it was really soft);

I yanked on his whiskers, but they didn't come off.

I started to worry that this guy was real

When he kicked me in the shin with his heavy boot heel.

He tripped me and crashed down on top of my chest.

I struggled to free myself, he just flopped down to rest.

I tried to kick out but he was too burly.

So I finally calmed down and gasped, "Santa, you're early."

"This isn't official business," he said. My face fell.

No VCR for me, yet I said, "Gee, that's swell.

But if you aren't here to bring gifts of all sorts

What are you here for?" I asked. He said, "I want to talk sports."

"You like sports!" I exclaimed.