

1990 sure to be grim, grisly for NU

Now that the year is coming to an end, predictions for 1990 will start flying like snow through the Lincoln skies.

The National Enquirer and other

Chuck Green



such contemptible publications already are offering their forecasts. Since these magazines normally don't look too deep into the crystal ball when it comes to sports, I've

decided to take it upon myself to fill in the gap.

After a year of Pete Rose, the World Series earthquake, deaths of key sports personalities and bans on players from their respective games, 1990 might offer a little solace for sports fans.

Then again, maybe not.

The Bowl games. To start the year off on a sickening note, Miami will win college football's mythical national championship. Notre Dame will dispose of top-ranked Colorado in the Orange Bowl, while the Hurricanes will obliterate the extremely overrated Alabama team in the Sugar Bowl.

Meanwhile, look for Nebraska to upset Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl. The Seminoles are a much better team, but the Cornhuskers just might be better prepared.

Look for hundreds of letters from morons who want the Huskers -- "obviously, the best team in the country" -- to take on Miami, Notre Dame, or any number of other teams that are much better.

Of course, if the Huskers lose, broken-hearted Nebraska fans will blame it on the game's officiating, the hot Arizona weather, a fumble or two, injuries to key Husker players, the sun reflecting off of Tom Osborne's headset, holes in the ozone layer, the warming trend, the alignment of Mars and Jupiter...

Coaching changes, for better or worse. Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride allegedly is being considered by Wisconsin officials for the football coaching position.

Ge, that's just what the Badgers need: A coach to maintain their losing ways. McBride's defensive engineering has been more than a minor factor in most -- all? -- of Nebraska's losses in the last several years. At Wisconsin, against the likes of Michigan, Michigan State, Indiana, Ohio State and non-conference opponents like Miami every year, McBride wouldn't last two seasons.

More than likely, he already knows this. Don't worry too much about him leaving.

Then again, that's reason to worry right there.

Nebraska's basketball woes will continue. The Husker men's basketball team has the potential, drive and morale to go winless in Big Eight play this season. Currently, there are four conference teams -- Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Oklahoma State -- in The Associated Press' top 25 poll. It doesn't take Spock-like logic to figure out that Nebraska will lose twice to each of those teams.

Iowa State and Kansas State won't lose to the Huskers on their home courts, and superior talent will make it tough for Nebraska in the Bob Devaney Sports Center too.

Colorado seems to be the only chance for the Huskers to get a win in the Big Eight, but the Buffs are much improved this season.

Don't hold your breath for a National Invitational Tournament berth this season, or next season, or...

Big Eight NCAA teams. Have you ever noticed that every year, Husker football fans bitch and moan about teams like Iowa State and Kansas sponging money off Nebraska's bowl profits? Those complaints seem to disappear when basketball season rolls around.

Nebraska fans and athletic department officials should be elated this season. The Big Eight stands an excellent chance of placing five teams in the NCAA Tournament. Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri might as well make hotel reservations now. Oklahoma State officials can start looking too. Throw in Kansas State or Iowa State, and the conference stands to make millions of dollars.

Another team or two might even go to the NIT. Husker fans, however, had better make other plans. Go skiing or something.

Another Husker pro. Remember Tyreese Knox? Do you know where he is now? Neither do I. But I have a good idea where he might be next season.

He could be the latest in a long line

of former Husker running backs to go west and strap on a San Francisco 49'ers helmet. He would join former Huskers Roger Craig and Tom Rathman. Former Nebraska 1-back Doug DuBose also played with the 49'ers, but his career didn't last long.

Knox's might, but he has to get there first.

Trouble will continue for Husker athletes. Anyone who hits Lincoln bars on the weekends has seen them. Hordes of athletes, drinking beer and picking fights with people.

But it doesn't matter. Athletes at Nebraska, like always, will continue to be above the law, or at least on a high-enough rung to receive sentences that don't begin to fit the crime.

If athletes do get in trouble in the coming year, look for the coaches and athletic officials to make excuses, whine about bad press coverage and go into the patented monologues about athletes living in "fish bowls" of public scrutiny and getting more attention than Joe College would for his exploits.

With another year on the doorstep, ask yourself: How much has changed? Think about it... hard.

Green is a news-editorial major, a Daily Nebraskan sports senior reporter and a sports columnist.

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The Huskers probably will be the pre-season No. 1 for 1990. The key offensive players will be a year older and an off-season better. With Illinois, the second-best team in the region, losing almost everyone to graduation, Nebraska has a clear path to another Final Four.

Should we start the next round of stories on Nebraska and the team's efforts to go back to the champion-

ship game in Maryland?

Nah. Let's just enjoy a great season for a while. The Huskers were No. 2, and they gave the fans a good show. They were even fun to listen to.

I think I've got some leftover pop and pizza to get rid of while I think about it.

Domeier is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.

Badgers aim for Osborne

From Staff Reports

The University of Wisconsin's athletic department is aiming high in its search for a new football coach.

Roger Formisano, a business professor who is the coordinator of Wisconsin's search committee, said the Badgers would like to hire Nebraska coach Tom Osborne. He said Osborne would be an ideal addition to the Wisconsin program, which fired coach Dan Morton after a 2-9 season.

"If you want to whisper in Tom Osborne's ear and tell him we're interested, go ahead," Formisano said. "I'm sure if Mr. Osborne was

interested, we'd listen.

"He's a great coach. We'd love to have him."

Formisano said Wisconsin also is interested in Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. He said McBride has an advantage because he is with the Cornhuskers.

"The tradition at Nebraska is outstanding," Formisano said. "There's only a few schools in the entire country that can match their tradition."

Formisano said Wisconsin wants to name a coach by Jan. 7. He said the position has drawn interest from a number of candidates who are attracted by the Badgers' facilities and the challenge of playing in the Big Ten.



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If you're a "snow-bird" flying south to see the Cornhuskers vs. the Seminoles at the Fiesta Bowl, the best place to roost is the Sheraton Phoenix Hotel. It's right in the center of the Valley of the Sun and only minutes from Tempe and the ASU stadium.

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