

Bowl coalition poll

Oct. 31 standings

	Point total
1. Florida State	3,097
2. Notre Dame	2,936
3. Ohio State	2,815
4. Nebraska	2,639
5. Alabama	2,583
6. Miami	2,568
7. Tennessee	2,241



The bowl coalition will use the combined point totals of the Associated Press and the USA Today polls to rank the Top 25 teams. The Big Eight champion will play in the Orange Bowl. The Southeastern Conference champion will play in the Sugar Bowl and the Southwest Conference champion will play in the Cotton Bowl. The highest-ranked team of those conference's champions may face the winner of the Notre Dame-Florida State game Nov. 13, if that team remains undefeated. But the Fiesta Bowl would get the No. 1 and No. 2 teams if they aren't locked into another bowl.

DN graphic

NU excites Orange Bowl officials

By Jeff Singer
Senior Editor

As long as Nebraska can remain undefeated, for the rest of the season, the Cornhuskers will be welcome with open arms in Miami.

By winning its final three games, Nebraska figures to be playing in a national championship game in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day.

And according to Orange Bowl president Bob Epling, nothing could make him happier.

"We'll be tickled pink to have a national championship game and to have Nebraska in there," Epling said.

The Huskers' 8-0 record and No. 4 ranking in the bowl coalition — which totals both the Associated Press and USA Today/CNN polls — has Nebraska on course for a national championship game, most likely with the winner of the Nov. 13 showdown between top-ranked Florida State and No. 2 Notre Dame.

However, the Huskers need to make sure they win their last three games — against Kansas, Iowa State and Oklahoma — for the Orange Bowl to be able to determine the national champion.

As it currently stands, Nebraska is the top-ranked team that has a bowl allegiance in the coalition. The Orange Bowl and Big Eight have a pact under which the league champion goes to Miami. That would then enable the Orange Bowl to select first from the remaining eligible teams.

The other conference allegiances in the coalition concern the Southeastern (Sugar Bowl) and Southwest (Cotton Bowl) conferences. Their respective front-runners, No. 5 Alabama and No. 10 Texas A&M, trail Nebraska in the coalition poll.

If No. 3 Ohio State wins the rest of its games, the Big Ten-champion Buckeyes would be locked into the Rose Bowl.

Epling said the possibility of having a na-

tional title game in Miami on New Year's Day would help the Orange Bowl Committee reach its goals. It would be the bowl's first game in which both teams had a chance at the national crown since Miami beat Oklahoma 20-14 on Jan. 1, 1988.

"Our goal on an annual basis is to put together a national championship game because it means the game has more esteem and can bring in more fans," he said. "A national championship game is what we want and is what Nebraska wants."

A national championship game also would draw stronger crowd support, which the Orange Bowl wants especially following last year's Nebraska-Florida State game that drew a mere 57,324 fans, Epling said. The Orange Bowl usually draws nearly 80,000 fans.

Not only do Orange Bowl officials want Nebraska to win its remaining games, Epling

See ORANGE BOWL on 8

Danger real for NU fans, officials say

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

The initial scene in Madison, Wis., Saturday looked somewhat similar to scenes at Memorial Stadium following big-game victories in recent years, UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said.

"There's hardly a time when fans rush the field that someone doesn't get hurt," said Cauble, who heads Memorial Stadium security on Nebraska home football Saturdays. "We've been fortunate that we haven't had any severe injuries."

"There's always a possibility that (the Wisconsin) situation could happen here. Our main concern is the safety of everyone."

The nation watched in disbelief last Saturday as 12,000 ecstatic Wisconsin fans stormed the Camp Randall Stadium field, celebrating the Badgers' 13-10 victory over Michigan.

About 70 Wisconsin students were injured in the stampede when the pressure of the fans caused a stadium railing to snap. After the railing broke, the fans in the front were forced to the ground. But the crowd kept coming, nearly crushing several people.

Cauble said the situation in Madison was not likely to happen at Memorial Stadium because of the techniques used by security officers at the games.

"We've come to realize that if you can't stop the mobs — and you usually can't — you just have to let them continue in as safe a matter as possible," he said.

Over the years, Cauble said, police officers have realized that it is more dangerous to attempt to stop the rush of people than it is to control it.

"Years ago we tried to stop it, but it's just not a real smart thing to do," he said. "We will probably continue with this process because so far it's the best one we have come up with."

See SAFETY on 8



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska nose tackle Terry Connealy, shown here trying to corral Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart, will try to slow Kansas' running game, which is ranked second in the conference.

KU must overcome perception, fullback says

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Kansas fullback Chris Powell knows the difference one year can make.

Powell said the Jayhawks' attitude and situation heading into the Nebraska game Saturday in Lawrence, Kan., were completely different than last year.

"Last year, we were 6-1, rated 13th and really confident going into Nebraska," Powell said. "When we

got there, we saw that Nebraska had one of the best college football atmospheres in the country, and we choked.

"This year, we haven't had the year we liked, and our attitude is a lot different. We know we are good enough to play with anybody in the Big Eight, but we also know we can't make any big mistakes and expect to win."

Powell said Kansas needed to overcome any inferiority complexes before Saturday. Kansas hasn't beat-

en Nebraskan in 25 years. Nebraska beat the Jayhawks 49-7 last season.

"We can't deal with the perception that they are Nebraska and we're Kansas," he said. "We need to execute all aspects of our game, and when we do hit adversity, we can't let it get to us. We have to keep coming back at them."

Personally, Powell was hit with adversity when he broke his foot before the season opener against Florida State. Powell missed four games

with the injury.

"Anytime a player is hurt and has to sit out, it is difficult for them," Powell said. "It was hard getting back into the swing of things, and I hated dealing with it. But I feel pretty good now. I just wish I would have had the opportunity to play against Florida State."

The Kansas rushing game is averaging 218.6 yards per game, with

See JAYHAWK on 8

Huskers' national title outlook shines brighter out West

Somewhere, someone must be buzzing about the Big Red.

Lord knows hardly anyone is here. Last year's Cyclone disaster still circles over head, reminding all that it could land in Lawrence, Kan., this weekend. Oklahoma's Sooner Schooner has the guns — and more importantly, the Gundy — to feast on Thanksgiving leftovers against the Huskers. And an almost certain bowl disaster looms on the Miami horizon.

Husker fans have been conditioned by the catastrophic conclusions to seasons. They know that the big hands from the sky eventually, inevitably, reach down, grab the Big Red's neck

— until they spit up their gum and the game — and rip out all of Nebraska fans' hearts.

They've seen it happen before. They know it will happen again.

Or do they?

Not if you look west. For some reason, it's brighter that way. If you look long enough and far enough, you're bound to find some grain in the Sandhills who still says, "This is the year," and actually enjoys listening to Kent Pavelka and hates Husker doubters.

Enter Andy "Corn" Stock, student body president at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

The last time Corn Stock appeared



Todd Cooper

in this paper, he was crying about the lack of respect UNK gets in the NU system.

Now, he's crabbing about the lack of respect Nebraska football gets in the AP Top 25.

So here goes: the inevitable Big Red, red wine from the West. But hear Corn Stock's cries out.

After all, he's dignified when it

comes to begging for respect. Last year, when the Legislature was cutting NU's budget, he told Nebraska's senators that if they "cut off UNK's legs, we won't have any feet left to stand on."

This year, he closes every non-governmental meeting with the statement: "Nebraska 30, Notre Dame 21. NU, national champs — Come on!"

So what does Corn Stock know about Nebraska football? About as much as every other child of the corn in Kearney. He's no expert. But he does have the read on the wild, wild West where fans revere Tommie Frazier, care more about the football in Abdul Muhammad's hands than

the bullet in his butt and think Saint Tom can do no wrong.

"Some say Nebraska's overrated," he says, "some say we choke, some say we can't get it done in the fourth quarter. Well, there's a lot fewer naysayers out here. Maybe that's because we're 42 short miles away from the Tom Osborne freeway."

Their undeterred optimism "isn't just because we don't have anything else around to get excited about," Corn Stock assures. "I mean, we hunt and ride bulls out here, too."

And they know their Husker football.

See COOPER on 8