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Seminole quarterback eyes championship

Ward says title beats trophy

By Jeff Singer Senior Editor

The Heisman Trophy is at the top of college football's awards, but for Florida State quarterback Charlie Ward, it wouldn't compare to winning a national championship.

Ward, who is the favorite to win this year's Heisman, said he was striving for a win over Nebraska in the 1994 Orange Bowl this season - not awards.

The Heisman Trophy is not worth "having it take away from my time preparing for the national championship," Ward said. "Awards are good for a show, but you've got to put them into perspective. Now we have a chance to play for the national championship.

Ward's Seminole team is 11-1 this year and ranked No. 2 in the country,

behind Nebraska. Ward said he needed to keep awards and other distractions in the background so he could help Florida State beat the Cornhuskers and consequently win its first-ever national title.

Winning a national championship 'is something I've been working for all my life, and my teammates have been working for the same thing," he said.

Ward has been working especially hard this year for a shot at the championship. While helping lead the Seminoles to the Atlantic Coast Conference title, Ward threw for 3,032 yards and 27 touchdowns and rushed for another 339 yards and four touchdowns.

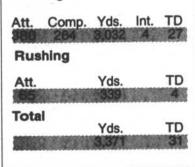
Those numbers have garnered praise from national football analysts,

See WARD on 8

Ward's wonders

Florida State's Charlie Ward, a leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy, has posted some impressive numbers in 1993. Ward's statistics:

Passing



DN graphic

Ward worries NU defense

Bv Mitch Sherman Staff Reporter

about Florida State quarterback Charlie Ward from last year's Orange Bowl, Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride just laughed.

Where would you like me to start?" he asked. "I remember we had guys that had Ward completely sealed in. He was squashed, and all of a sudden he's running down the field for 30 yards.

Those types of plays have made Ward a virtual lock to capture the for 3,032 yards - 253 per game -Heisman Trophy, presented to the nation's top college football player, McBride said.

"You can get a lot of guys around Ward has spent his share of time in him," McBride said. "But I've seen the end zone this year. In addition to him get out of that stuff many times. In fact, Ward seems to draw packs

of pursuers on purpose, Nebraska rover Toby Wright said.

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When asked what he remembered "He'll wait for you to commit to him," Wright said. "Then he'll go around you. He's a clutch-play guy. But I think that after playing against him last year, we have more of an insight on how we should go about containing him.'

Last year against the Huskers, Ward completed 15 of 30 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns. Compared to his numbers this season, that's an off-day.

The senior signal-caller has thrown and rushed for 339 yards this year, while leading the Seminoles to an 11record.

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Portland on Saturday. Johnson had started 64 consecutive games for the Cornhuskers, but

the 7:30 p.m. game against the

leave him on the bench for the next

four weeks and leave the 3-2

Cornhuskers without a true point

Johnson's injury is expected to

Bluejays will snap the streak.

We will miss his experience and leadership," Nee said. "I think we will fill in for him piece-by-piece by Jaron Boone, Erick Strickland and I am looking for a lot from Jason Glock

Terrance Badgett will also get an opportunity to play on the perimeter."

was the Huskers' third leading scorer,

averaging 10.8 points per game.

Through the first five games, Boone

See NEE on 8



Jay Calderon/DN

Nebraska's Terrance Badgett (background) covers Portland's Ray Ross during the Cornhuskers' win Saturday. Badgett and the Huskers will take on Creighton at the Omaha Civic Auditorium Thursday at 7:35 p.m.

Weather allows football team to avoid 'temple of doom

It's no Taj Mahal. It doesn't possess the structural ingenuity of the Colorado Buffaloes' Coors Compound.

Indeed, Nebraska's indoor practice facility - a.k.a. Cook Pavilion Nebraska linebacker Mike Anderson - is about as glamorous as a machine shed can be.

From the outside, it's a brick barn. From the inside, it's a tin temple.

It's big. It's bland. And besides the Big Eight Championship banners covering the walls, it's hollow.

Sure, it draws recruits. But the only other thing it gives back to the Huskers is a hell of a shock if they touch any metal in there.

Six years ago, the Nebraska athletic department built the football barn in order to better prepare for bowl games.

Six bowl losses later, the Nebraska Cornhuskers haven't gone near the Temple of Doom this season.

So, do they think it's a jinx?

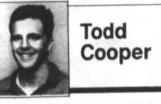
"I haven't thought about that," said. "Maybe it is. But we haven't practiced in there yet."

Thanks to Mother Nature, they haven't had to. And defensive tackle Bruce Moore doesn't miss it.

'Cook Pavilion has never been one of my favorite places to practice," he said. "You get beat up a little more in there because the field is harder. You don't have as much room. It's hotter.

"I prefer to practice outside. But it has its benefits. When it's 10-below and there's snow on the ground, it can help.

Otherwise, it's just a big goocher.



"I don't think it's a jinx," Moore said. "I don't see how it can hurt you. It's just a building."

But the barn and its neighbors haven't been kind to the Huskers lately. Last week, one of the barn's nearest neighbors added a loss that was much bigger than any of the bowl defeats.

On Friday, defensive tackle Billy Wade was knocked out of the Orange Bowl after he tore his patellar tendon playing basketball right next to the

Center.

Then, over the weekend, Clester Johnson sprained his ankle while play-

Fortunately, Johnson will return. But the injury to Wade—a key player in Nebraska's defensive line rotation is hard to swallow.

"A lot of people probably wonder why guys are playing basketball when we're preparing for a national title game," Moore said. "But I played basketball once after the Oklahoma game. Sometimes when you have a three-day weekend, you feel like you have to do something.

"You can't just stay locked up in your room, thinking about the game. ou'd go out of your mind."

Before he went out of his mind, braskan sports editor.

barn - at the Campus Recreation Nebraska coach Tom Osborne instituted a ban on basketball.

Now, all he needs is a ban on the barn.

The temple of doom should only be used if the Huskers need a snow shelter. No barn, no matter how big, can prepare the Huskers for the climate, crowd and Charlie Ward.

No matter how much crowd noise they pipe into the temple, they can't simulate the Seminole war chant and chop.

And as for the weather, Anderson said. Nebraska can only become acclimated in Miami - not in an overheated shed.

Cooper is a senior news-editorial and political science major and is the Daily Ne-

ing hoops at the Rec Center.

guard.