

# 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

Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Int.	TD
380	264	3,032	4	27

### Rushing

Att.	Yds.	TD
65	339	4

### Total

Yds.	TD
3,371	31

DN graphic

## Ward worries NU defense

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

When asked what he remembered 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 Heisman Trophy, presented to the nation's top college football player, McBride said.

"You can get a lot of guys around him," McBride said. "But I've seen him get out of that stuff many times."

In fact, Ward seems to draw packs

of pursuers on purpose, Nebraska rover Toby Wright said.

"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 for 3,032 yards — 253 per game — and rushed for 339 yards this year, while leading the Seminoles to an 11-1 record.

Ward has spent his share of time in the end zone this year. In addition to

See DEFEND on 8



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.

Nebraska (3-2) vs. Creighton (1-3)					
Omaha Civic Auditorium 7:35 p.m.					
On 1400 KLIN & 1110 KFAB					
Nebraska					
Player	height	Year	PPG	RPG	
G Erick Strickland	6-3	So.	7.6	3.4	
G Jaron Boone	6-6	So.	10.8	2.8	
G Eric Platkowski	6-7	Sr.	20.8	5.8	
F Bruce Chubick	6-7	Sr.	10.0	6.4	
F Terrance Badgett	6-6	So.	9.5	3.8	
Creighton					
Player	height	Year	PPG	RPG	
C Nate King	6-8	Jr.	17.3	8.3	
G Denny Halligan	6-3	Jr.	8.0	3.0	
G Jason Singleton	5-9	Sr.	6.8	2.3	
F Jerry Vanderheydt	6-10	Sr.	16.0	9.0	
F Andre Tucker	6-7	Sr.	6.3	4.5	

DN graphic

## Johnson-less Huskers to challenge Creighton

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team will get its first taste of basketball without Jamar Johnson when it takes on intrastate rival Creighton at Omaha's Civic Auditorium on Thursday.

Johnson, a senior point guard from Elkhart, Ind., averaged 13 points and led Nebraska in field goal and free throw shooting before breaking the little finger on his right hand in the first half of Nebraska's game with Portland on Saturday.

Johnson had started 64 consecutive games for the Cornhuskers, but the 7:30 p.m. game against the Bluejays will snap the streak.

Johnson's injury is expected to leave him on the bench for the next four weeks and leave the 3-2 Cornhuskers without a true point guard.

But Nebraska coach Danny Nee said losing Johnson should not be as big of a blow to the Huskers as it might seem.

"We're prepared because we have been playing a two-guard offense all year," Nee said at his weekly press conference on Wednesday. "We don't really play with a true point guard."

Nee said he was expecting the healthy Huskers to step up their play to compensate for the loss of Johnson.

"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."

Through the first five games, Boone was the Huskers' third leading scorer, averaging 10.8 points per game.

See NEE on 8

## 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 — 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," Nebraska linebacker Mike Anderson 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.



Todd Cooper

"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

barn — at the Campus Recreation Center.

Then, over the weekend, Clester Johnson sprained his ankle while playing hoops at the Rec Center.

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. You'd go out of your mind."

Before he went out of his mind,

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 over-heated shed.

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