

Despite being favored, Bowden fearful of NU

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

Once again, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne and Florida State coach Bobby Bowden will be spending the holidays together.

Osborne and Bowden have spent three of the past six New Year's Days on opposing sidelines of the football field, but unfortunately for Osborne, Bowden's holidays have been a bit happier.

The Seminoles have not lost a bowl game since 1981, have beaten Nebraska three times on New Year's Day and are favored to make it four straight against the Cornhuskers in the Orange Bowl.

But despite the Seminoles' recent dominance over the Huskers, Bowden said he feared playing Nebraska again.

"I'm scared to death of the law of averages," Bowden said. "History could be a great motivation for them. They haven't beaten us in a while, it's the Orange Bowl and they are due."

Bowden, who is tied for fifth on the all-time win list among Division I-A coaches with 238 victories, brings the Seminoles into the Orange Bowl with an 11-1 record and a No. 2 ranking.



Bowden

Osborne

Bowden said the similarities between the offenses of Nebraska and Notre Dame — which beat Florida State 31-24 on Nov. 13 — were a major concern.

"Notre Dame was different than any other team we have faced because they were strictly a running football team who could also throw the ball," he said.

"Nebraska is kind of the same because they also have a dominant running game, so I am very concerned."

Although Florida State and Nebraska appear to employ opposite offensive styles, Bowden insisted that the two teams were similar.

"We have thrown from the shotgun almost exclusively this season just because of Charlie's ability," Bowden said.

Osborne said he and Bowden shared some other important coaching styles.

"Our philosophies are very similar in terms of how we treat our players,"

Osborne said. "I have a good deal of respect for Bobby, and I think that Florida State has been one of the six or seven most consistent programs in the country."

Bowden had equal praise for Osborne.

"I think the world of Tom," Bowden said. "He has built one of the best programs in the country, and I think most of the criticism he has received is unfair. I have great respect for Tom and the entire Nebraska program."

Bowden said Osborne's lack of bowl success was partially due to the conditions under which the Huskers have played.

"We have had the luxury of playing them down here on New Year's Day, but I'll tell you, I would not want to play him up there in December because it would be next to impossible for us to win," Bowden said. "We wouldn't be able to throw the ball."

Bowden and Osborne share one other similarity: Neither of them have won a national championship.

But Osborne said the Huskers wouldn't do anything unusual to try to win one.

Nor will the Seminoles, Bowden said.

"I am going to dance with who brought me here, and I am sure Tom is going to dance with who brought him here," Bowden said.



Shaun Sartin/DN

on a two-point attempt, which enabled Nebraska to escape with a 21-20 win. At right, Nebraska's David Seizys leaps over Oklahoma's Darrius Johnson to recover a fumble on a kickoff. The Huskers scored on the next possession, pushing their lead to 21-7, putting Oklahoma away and securing their first undefeated regular season since 1983.

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