

Orange Crush

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spite the loss, the program regained the respect it had lost during the last six seasons.

Nebraska's Orange Bowl MVP Tommie Frazier said the Huskers earned the nation's respect against the Seminoles.

"If we didn't get any respect tonight, then I don't think we should've come here," Frazier said.

NU defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers said respect—and confidence—should come the Huskers' way next fall.

"Hopefully next year, the guys will get some respect for what we did here," he said.

Running back Lawrence Phillips may have gained the most confidence of any Husker heading into next season.

Phillips, a true freshman from West Covina, Calif., filled in for Calvin Jones, who apparently has entered the NFL draft, and rushed for 64 yards and one touchdown.

"I proved that I can run with the best," Phillips said. "I am surprised because they were supposed to have a great defense and they did, but I was still able to move through them easily."

Despite what he and the Huskers accomplished, Phillips said the most excitement for him came from being able to play in a game with the significance, drama and emotion that the Orange Bowl carried.

"I'm glad to be able to play in a game like that," Phillips said. "It is once in a lifetime. I might never ever get in a game as big as that again."

For Bowden, the game ended with a championship, but like Phillips, Bowden said winning a game like that was incredible.

"Still the best part for me, the most exciting thing, is that we won the game," Bowden said. "We won the ballgame, and I don't know how we did it, but we did."

The Seminoles found a way to win despite being outgamed by the Husker offense by almost 60 yards. Nebraska also controlled the ball nearly six minutes longer than Florida State.

While the Nebraska offense moved on the Seminoles, Trev Alberts and the Husker defense sacked Heisman trophy winner Charlie Ward five times and held the Florida State offense 11 of 12 times on third downs.



Even though the Nebraska defense dominated, penalties doomed the Huskers.

The Big East officiating crew called 11 penalties on Nebraska for 115 yards.

"I was absolutely amazed by some of the officiating," Alberts said. "I think it was the worst I've ever seen. I'm not the type of player that blames stuff on that. I guess that's part of the game, but it didn't seem like we got any calls."

Despite the officiating, Ramaekers said, football fans saw a great game. "It would have been nice to go home with the trophy and the ring," he said. "But it went down to the wire and the people got their money's worth. That's what college football's all about."

Photos by Staci McKee

Clockwise from right: Dwayne Harris, back, and Kevin Ramaekers bring down Florida State's Sean Jackson. Nebraska's Terry Connealy and Mike Anderson tackle Seminole quarterback Charlie Ward during one of the Blackshirt's five sacks. John Reece tackles Florida State's Kez McCorvey as he stretches for an extra yard. Nebraska's Corey Dixon is comforted by Seminole Clifton Abraham after the game.

