

# Big 8 office to review Orange bowl calls

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

After several controversial calls in Nebraska's Orange Bowl loss, Nebraska athletic director Bill Byrne is looking for some answers from the Big Eight office.

Byrne hand-delivered a tape of the Orange Bowl, which was officiated by a Big East crew, to the Big Eight offices in Kansas City Friday.

Byrne said he has asked to have the judgment and mechanics of the Big East officials reviewed.

"You never go into a contest questioning the fairness of the officiating," Byrne said. "These officials are people just like anyone. What you want to evaluate is the judgment and mechanics. That's what we've asked the Big Eight to do."

"I just want them to evaluate the mechanics of the game and to review any questions of judgment in the game."

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—Byrne  
Nebraska athletic director

— 99 —

Commentators and fans have questioned two calls in particular—a clip that negated Corey Dixon's first-quarter touchdown return and an apparent fumble at Nebraska's goalline by Seminole William Floyd that was recovered by the Cornhuskers, but ruled a Florida State touchdown.

Byrne said after the game that he "was disappointed that the entire operation of the game wasn't up to the level of play of the two teams."

Coaches and athletic department officials are prohibited by the NCAA

from commenting on officiating.

But what will the Big Eight office's review give Nebraska?

"Nothing more than a little satisfaction," Byrne said.

Byrne added that the officiating is something Husker fans should try not to dwell on.

"It has passed," he said. "We need to put this behind us. We need to look toward the future. The more I comment on it, the more it is going to stir things up."

## Alberts wins Top Six Award

From Staff Reports

Nebraska linebacker Trev Alberts added yet another award to his trophy case when he received the National Collegiate Athletic Association Top Six Award in San Antonio Sunday.

The Top Six Award is the highest award given to a student-athlete by the NCAA. Six student-athletes in all college athletics were rewarded for their achievement in athletics, academics and the community.

Alberts is Nebraska's sixth football player to receive the award. Nebraska leads the nation in Top Six Award winners and also in football Top Six Award winners.

Alberts, who has a 3.309 GPA, is also one of 10 football recipients from Division I schools to receive the 1993-94 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship worth \$5,000. Alberts, who graduated in August with a degree in speech communications, will use the scholarship in his pursuit of a law degree.

## Streak

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the Huskers have improved a great deal after beginning the season with two losses in their first three games.

After the Huskers' loss to Appalachian State on Dec. 1, a loss that dropped the Huskers to 1-2, they have rolled off 10 consecutive victories. They expect to be favored to win their next four games. If they win these games, they will extend their winning streak to 14 and tie the school record for consecutive victories.

Nebraska will play Missouri-Kansas City at home on Saturday before traveling to Colorado Jan. 19. The Huskers return to play Missouri on Jan. 24 and Oklahoma on Jan. 29.

"Overall, we have been very fortunate," Nee said. "I think our schedule in January is favorable to Nebraska. This start is a real boost and a confidence builder."

He said senior forward Eric Piatkowski, who was named the Big Eight's player of the week for his efforts against Iowa State, Southern Utah and Colorado, had provided leadership during the Huskers' winning streak.

"Eric Piatkowski, in my opinion," Nee said, "is as good a basketball player as Danny Nee has ever been associated with. The way he handles the ball, I don't think that a lot of people realize he is 6-foot-7. Eric is big-time. He's for real. He is very unselfish and he has matured here every year."

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Nebraska basketball coach

— 99 —

### NOTES:

● The Big Eight conference has compiled a 73-16 record against non-league opponents this season for a winning percentage of 80.2 percent. That mark is tops among all conferences.

● Kansas closed out its non-conference schedule with a record of 15-1, despite playing five teams ranked in the AP top 25. The Jayhawks are off to their best start since beginning the 1989-1990 season 19-0.

● Since losing to Arkansas by 52 points on Dec. 2, Missouri has gone 9-0. The Tigers have outscored each opponent by an average of 12.3 points per game during that stretch.

● After shooting 35.7 percent and averaging 9.8 points per game over four games from Dec. 20 through Dec. 30, Oklahoma State's Bryant Reeves has averaged 25.5 points per game and shot 75 percent from the field in the Cowboys' last two games. The junior center tied a Big Eight record by shooting 11 for 11 from the field against Oklahoma Saturday.

## Reaction

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would be a very tough decision for anybody with that chance. Nobody really knows the reasons but him."

Lawrence Phillips, Damon Benning and Clinton Childs will fight to fill Jones' shoes. Phillips and Benning will be sophomores next season, while Childs will be a junior.

Benning said he and Phillips will benefit from the playing time they received while Jones was hurt.

"I think that was real valuable for me," he said. "Now we have experience under our belt and we know we can get the job done. Our coaches and teammates know we can handle it."

Schlesinger agreed. "Clinton Childs, Lawrence Phillips and Damon Benning are a good set of backs coming up," he said. "They'll see a lot of action this spring. Spring

ball should be a major deciding factor for them. I played three games with those guys, so I know what they're capable of."

Phillips proved his big-game capabilities in the Orange Bowl after he came in for the injured Jones and rushed for 64 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries.

Phillips' Orange Bowl performance was a sign of his maturity, Schlesinger said.

"He was able to show the ability he had," he said. "I think the Orange Bowl really boosted him up."

But what will the Huskers miss about Jones?

"That flashing burst of speed," Graham said. "I'll miss looking downfield and seeing him run over people. I think the times where we'll maybe miss him the most are the fourth-and-one type of short-yardage situations. He's so big that he'd just run over people in those kinds of situations."

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