

## New bowl coalition is formed, paper says

MIAMI (AP)—The national championship game will likely be rotated between the Orange Bowl, the Sugar Bowl and the Fiesta Bowl after the 1995 season, according to published reports.

Commissioners of college football franchises have decided to unanimously recommend the rotation, the Miami Herald reported Tuesday.

The deal still needs to win approval from the conferences' athletic directors, but commissioners don't expect them to veto the plan, the paper said, adding that the final decision could be announced today.

The paper quoted sources as saying that the Orange Bowl was chosen over the Gator Bowl, despite the Gator Bowl's higher bid, because the Orange Bowl has produced six of the past 11 national champions and includes a famous parade.

The Fiesta Bowl (Phoenix) bid \$118 million, the Sugar Bowl (New Orleans) bid \$108 million and the Orange Bowl bid \$105 million, the paper said. The Gator Bowl (Jacksonville) made the second-highest bid, \$116 million.

The current bowl alliance includes the Orange, Sugar and Fiesta bowls, plus the Cotton Bowl (Dallas). The Cotton Bowl bid \$100 million, the paper said.

Donn Bernstein, spokesman for the bowl coalition, said he could not confirm the report. He said the commissioners had met last weekend in Dallas but he did not know the results of that meeting.

Meanwhile, an advisory panel to the Orange Bowl Committee recommended late Tuesday that the national championship game be moved to Joe Robbie Stadium—a move that Miami officials vow to contest vigorously, and one long advocated by several committee members.

# NU is No. 2 in composite ranking

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

The votes have been tallied and, according to 11 preseason football publications, Nebraska is the No. 2 college football team in America.

Even though the first kickoff of the 1994 season is still 24 days away, most of the college football preseason magazines are already on the newsstands.

And almost everybody seems to think the Huskers will walk away with their fourth straight Big Eight title and contend for the national championship on Jan. 2.

Despite the fact that the Cornhuskers have yet to begin fall practice, Nebraska is tied with Florida State at the No. 2 spot, trailing top-ranked Florida by a mere two points.

Nebraska was the only team to be ranked in the top five by all 11 publications.

"I guess it's more good than bad," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "If you are able to win and you're ranked high to begin with, then you don't have as far to go to the top."

The Associated Press and USA TODAY/CNN Coaches polls—which combine to form the all-important Bowl Coalition Poll—

will not be released until Aug. 21, one week before Nebraska takes on West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic at East Rutherford, N.J.

All indications show that the Huskers will be ranked among the top five when the first Associated Press poll is made public.

It has been five years since Nebraska last owned a top five ranking heading into a season. In 1989, the Huskers were ranked No. 4 when they opened the season with a 48-17 victory over Northern Illinois. Last season, Nebraska was ranked eighth in the preseason AP poll.

Osborne warned that high placement in the polls didn't guarantee a successful year.

"The higher you're ranked, the more pressure there is to win," Osborne said. "A high ranking may cause people to expect more of you and set unrealistic goals."

For many Husker fans, no goal is unrealistic this season. But the players are usually able to keep from getting caught up in the excitement, Osborne said.

"I don't know if too many players think about (rankings)," he said. "They understand that there is really nothing you can do about the polls except go out and play your best."

Earlier this week, the Husker coaching staff began its quest to four-peat as

Big Eight champions. Coaches first formally met last Sunday.

Osborne said the staff had been looking at films of opponents, reviewing spring workouts and checking notebooks in preparation for the start of practice.

Scholarship freshmen reported Wednesday. They will run through tests and drills Thursday and Friday, before taking Saturday off because of photo day.

Fans wishing to get a closer look at the players will be allowed on the Memorial Stadium turf Saturday from 12:30 until 2 p.m.

Sunday, the entire team will hold its first practice at Memorial Stadium. NCAA rules state the a team must practice in sweats during its first three workouts of the fall.

Nebraska will hold 29 practices between Sunday and the Kickoff Classic. The NCAA allowed the Huskers to start practices approximately one week earlier

pre-season magazine polls

	TEAM	POINTS
1)	Florida (3)	36
2)	Florida St. (4)	34
tie	Nebraska (1)	34
4)	Notre Dame (2)	28
5)	Miami (1)	13

\*First-place votes in parentheses  
\*Poll based on a composite of 11 pre-season magazines  
\*Points awarded on following scale:  
5 pts = #1, 4 pts = #2, 3 pts = #3, etc.

Amy Schmidt / DN

er in order to prepare for the early game.  
**NOTE:**

● Ahman Green, a 6-2, 200-pound senior-to-be from Omaha Central High School has been named as the preseason offensive player of the year by National Recruiting Advisor based in Austin, Texas.

The running back, who attends the same high school as former Husker I-backs Keith Jones, Leodis Flowers and Calvin Jones, shattered several records at Nebraska's summer football camp. He is reportedly considering Nebraska, along with several other schools.

## Tough schedule could stand in Huskers' way

Finally, football is back. With the opening of the NFL preseason last weekend, a real sport has returned—sorry soccer fans, but at least the Super Bowl doesn't end in a 0-0 tie—and once again, the expectations are sky-high around this state.

After last season, anything short of a national championship for Nebraska would be a disappointment for Husker fans.

But this year, capturing that elusive national championship will be no easy task.

First, the Huskers' schedule is the most difficult a Nebraska team has seen in recent years.

Some Nebraska fans seem to forget Nebraska's Kickoff Classic opponent—West Virginia—went undefeated in the regular season last year and will be playing in its backyard.

That brings me to my next point. How does every game Nebraska plays that is at a supposed neutral site always end up like an away game?

In four of the past six years, Ne-



Derek Samson

braska has faced a Florida school in the Orange Bowl. The Huskers' last two bowl victories were against Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl of New Orleans.

Now, the Huskers play West Virginia in New Jersey—only a hop, skip and swig of moonshine away for Mountaineer fans.

For once I would like to see Florida State travel to Lincoln on Jan. 1, play in the #5%&\*\$!@ Cold Bowl and watch Bobby Bowden's chubby little cheeks get frostbitten.

Nebraska follows up the game with the Mountaineers by traveling to Texas Tech for a Thursday night, ESPN-televized game.

Sure, Oklahoma stomped the Red

Raiders 41-10 in last year's John Hancock Bowl, but strange things can happen on these Thursday nights.

It was a Thursday night game last year when Nebraska had to rally late to beat Oklahoma State 27-13 in Stillwater.

And this was the same Cowboy team that couldn't even beat Iowa State and went winless in conference play.

Anyway, playing in Lubbock is a scary thought in itself, since the state of Texas doesn't get good football teams to pass through it very often.

Finally, Nebraska returns home Sep. 17, only to have UCLA waiting to greet them.

Throw in 1993 Copper Bowl loser Wyoming, which comes to Lincoln Oct. 1, and Nebraska may have its toughest non-conference schedule since 1981 when it played Iowa, Florida State, Penn State and Auburn.

Another thing which could hinder NU's chances to go unbeaten is that

last season the Huskers were able to sneak up the polls and fend off the lack of respect.

Don't expect any of that this season, as Nebraska should be in the top three in the preseason polls.

That could be what Nebraska needs, though.

And maybe Tom Osborne can get a campaign started this year similar to Bowden's "It's my turn, whether we deserve it or not," campaign of last season.

It worked so well for Bowden and it also robbed West Virginia of a shot to play for the national championship, but for some reason I can't see Osborne adopting the same scheme.

Opportunities like last season don't come very often, but if Nebraska could make it through this season undefeated again, this time the Huskers won't be denied Jan. 1.

Samson is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan reporter and columnist.

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