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NCAA eyes football tiebreakers

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP) — The national championship hangs in the balance as Nebraska, trailing Miami by seven, scores with less than a minute left in the Orange Bowl.

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne faces a momentous decision. Does he go for two points and the win or kick the extra point and tie?

In 1984, the Huskers tried for two and Miami pranced away with a 31-30 victory and its first national title. But if the NCAA executive committee gives its OK, the next coach caught in that particular dilemma could kick for the tie and then take his chances in overtime.

At the request of the influential special events committee, the NCAA's football rules committee has recommended that a tiebreaker system be

used in football bowl games beginning next season.

The system gives each team a chance to score after regulation and is the same that's used in lower-division NCAA football championships as well as regular-season league games in the Big Sky, Ohio Valley, Yankee and Mid-Eastern Athletic conferences.

The overtime system is not sudden-death as used in the NFL, and the clock is not a factor. It's also the same format that the Southeastern Conference has in place for its conference championship game.

An overtime period consists of each team having one possession, starting on the opponent's 25-yard line.

The team winning the coin toss will exercise one of two options. It

can choose to start on offense or defense; or it can choose which 25-yard line the possessions will start on. Each team will begin each possession on the same end of the field.

The loser of the toss then exercises its choice on the remaining option.

A possession ends when a team scores, commits a turnover or fails to convert on fourth down. The game ends when the score is no longer tied at the end of an overtime period.

The loser of the coin toss gets the first option in the second overtime period, then the winner of the toss gets first option in the third, etc.

Any score by the defense wins the game, except the return of an extra-point attempt following a touchdown. A game also ends when a team trailing in the overtime commits a turnover.

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Colorado

Continued from Page 8

during the run and finished with 17 in the game. It was the sixth straight loss for Colorado.

Two free throws by Wald and a shot by Boone finished the 25-3 run and gave Nebraska the biggest lead of the game, at 93-74 with 2:54 to go.

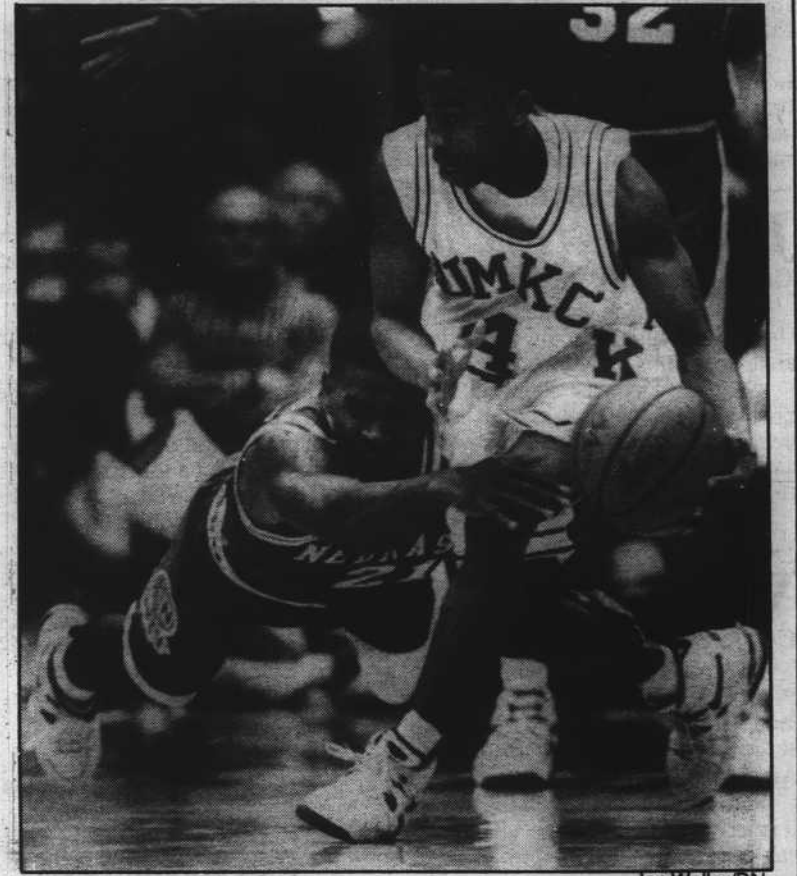
"I thought Jason Glock, Chris Sallee, Tom Wald and Chester Surles came in and gave us some quality minutes," Nee said.

Sallee scored 12 points, coming off an 11-point performance last Saturday against Oklahoma.

"I thought Chris Sallee came in and had some great plays," Nee said.

Nebraska shot 63 percent for the game to Colorado's 50 percent, and the big difference was Colorado's first-half shooting of 56 percent and second-half shooting of 43 percent. The Buffaloes led 50-49 at the break.

The Huskers will face Iowa State in Ames, Iowa, Saturday afternoon in a 12:45 game. Then the Huskers will be back home when they will take on Kansas at the Bob Devaney Sports Center next Tuesday.



Nebraska guard Erick Strickland dives for the ball from Missouri-Kansas City's Erin Washington during the Huskers win on Jan. 18 against the Kangaroos.

Samson

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Tech and Arkansas.

Oklahoma State faced Arizona, Arizona State and Michigan State.

Missouri competed against Arkansas and Illinois in its non-

conference schedule.

Coincidentally, those were the four teams in the top half of the Big Eight heading into this week.

The bottom four teams — Iowa State, Nebraska, Kansas State and Colorado — combined to play only two rated teams. Nebraska came up with a 96-91 win over Michigan State and Kansas State lost to Alabama 79-48.

Neither Michigan State nor Alabama are even in the top 10.

It's no surprise it takes these teams, especially Nebraska, more than half of the Big Eight season to realize what level it needs to play at to win in the Big Eight.

Maybe it is assumed that Nebraska fans would rather see a 94-52 win over Delaware State than a loss to a North Carolina, Kentucky or Connecticut.

I would hope not.

The players deserve to play in the big games, the coaches deserve to coach in them and most of all, the fans deserve to see a team like Georgetown or Syracuse visit the Bob Devaney Sports Center every now and then.

If Nebraska is going to drop a few non-conference games against teams like Texas and Virginia Tech anyway, why not lose to Arkansas or Massachusetts instead?

But until Nebraska decides to schedule one of the perennial top 10 teams or a few top 20 teams, it will be doomed to step one and step two every year.

And this year, the Huskers might not be fortunate to complete step three — ruining their chance to repeat the fourth and final step.

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

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