

SPORTS

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Page 7

SPORTS OPINION



Todd Walkenhorst

Students need decoder ring to find tickets

What happened? Don't tell me you missed it.

How could you miss the Fiesta Bowl student ticket lottery? It ran for a whole two days. I know, you did not hear about it.

Don't be fooled. The Nebraska ticket office is not your friend.

The last thing that it wants is for a student to get a ticket to any Nebraska football game.

It's a war, and the ticket office has all of the weapons.

Much like the student migration game against Colorado, the ticket office has set up a string of hoops for the students to jump through if they want to see the Huskers in Tempe on Jan. 2.

First, you have to realize that there is a student lottery.

If you would have called the ticket office a few weeks ago, they would have told you to watch the Daily Nebraskan for advertisements about the lottery.

If you would have followed that advice, you would still be waiting. Zero ads ran for the Fiesta Bowl student ticket lottery.

Why not sell the tickets just like any other sporting event? Put them on sale, first come, first served. If students want them badly enough, they'll be out there camping for a week.

Then you make the drive all the way to the game to pick up your tickets.

A couple of hours before the game, you find the tent where the cherished tickets are distributed. But the other 499 students all are trying to get their tickets too, causing a line.

Meanwhile, inside the tent, the ticket dictators are inside checking your student IDs, matching your signature to the card, checking fingerprints, taking blood and urine samples and performing DNA tests to make sure you are really who you say you are.

While waiting in line, you are missing the first quarter of the game. Is the ticket office really afraid that students would drive all that way to scalp their tickets? Yes.

It's nice to know that the ticket office just wants Husker fans to get a ticket at face value. They would not take this opportunity to scam extra money off of fans, such as a \$5,000 donation equaling eight Fiesta Bowl tickets.

But don't worry if you get shafted on tickets this year, Fiesta Bowl officials are planning the world's largest tailgate party in the parking lot of Sun Devil Stadium complete with big-screen televisions. That just might be the Husker student section this year.

Walkenhorst is a senior advertising and broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan sports reporter.

Tempe title boils down to defense

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

In a clash pitting two of the nation's most prolific offenses, this season's national title game probably will be decided by defense, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday.

No. 1 Nebraska and second-ranked Florida have combined to average nearly 100 points a game, and each team features a quarterback valued by its coach as the most indispensable offensive weapon in the nation.

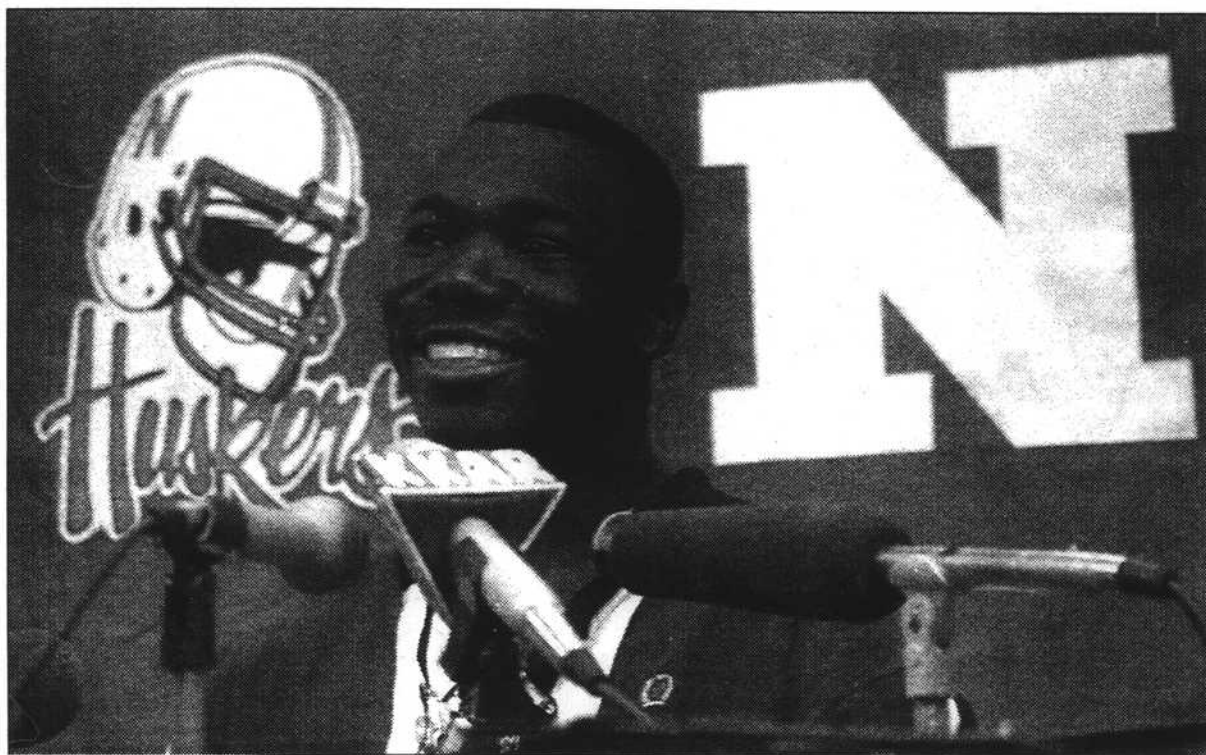
Osborne admitted, however, that the Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., may boil down to a battle of defensive linemen, linebackers and cornerbacks.

"I suspect that a big factor in this game will be who plays the best defense," Osborne said. "It certainly puts pressure on the defensive staffs."

The Gators' defense, allowing 315.6 yards a game, ranks 20th in the nation, seven spots behind Nebraska's Blackshirts. The Huskers allowed just 17 points in their final three games and scored as many points against Arizona State and Iowa State as their 11 opponents tallied all season.

Nebraska center Aaron Graham said the Huskers already had faced the toughest defense they would see this season. Oklahoma, Graham said — which held Nebraska's offense without a touchdown for more than three quarters during the Huskers' 37-0 victory on Nov. 24 — was as prepared to face Nebraska's option attack as any team he had seen.

Graham said he watched Florida defeat Arkansas 34-3 Saturday night on television in the Southeastern Conference championship game. Arkansas



In the Fiesta Bowl, Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier will test a Florida defense that is allowing 315.6 yards a game.

Angela Heywood/DN

sas rushed for 129 yards on 43 attempts. For the season, the Gators have surrendered 132 yards a game on the ground, including 300 yards to Northern Illinois and 200 yards to Auburn.

"They are going to have to work a little bit on changing their techniques," Graham said. "It takes a lot of practice to learn how to defend the option."

"I just don't think (Arkansas) can compare with what we have to offer,"

he said. "They may have seven or eight players, but we have got 11 guys focused on making the option work."

Nebraska's record-setting offense has averaged 52.4 points and 400 yards rushing a game this season behind the command of Graham and quarterback Tommie Frazier. Frazier, a senior Heisman Trophy finalist, agreed with Graham that Florida would have its hands full stopping Nebraska's ground game.

"I don't think they have really faced that many teams that run the option," said Frazier, Nebraska's all-time total offense record holder. "That's an advantage for us, but with the athletes they have, they have the capabilities to keep us in check."

If Florida stacks the line of scrimmage, Frazier said, it would be leaving itself open to Nebraska's passing

See FIESTA on 8

Huskers confront rival Creighton in Omaha

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

It doesn't matter that the Nebraska basketball team has won five straight games over Creighton or that the Bluejays are coming off a 7-19 season.

The only thing that matters in tonight's 7:05 showdown in Omaha is that it is Creighton.

"It's an in-state rivalry, and we treat the game with a lot of respect," Coach Danny Nee said. "Through the years, it has been very, very competitive. We usually always catch Creighton's best shot. I expect the same thing (tonight)."

Creighton isn't the same team it was when the rivalry was at its peak from 1986 to 1989 — when the Bluejays won three of five games against the Huskers.

But Nee said Nebraska's recent winning streak over the Bluejays didn't change the players' attitudes in the matchup of the state's only two Division I-A schools.

"I don't feel we've dominated," he said. "We've been fortunate to win a couple games in a row. But they've been a little down on their luck. They've had some coaching changes and things like that. But I still think the players and the fans look at it as a good in-state rivalry."

"It's a quality basketball game. It's always been a high level of intensity anytime we play Creighton. I expect that type of game. We take it serious."

Nebraska defeated Creighton 85-57 almost one year ago today in Lincoln. Nebraska guard Erick Strickland scored a game-high 22 points, while Jaron Boone added 17.

"I still think the players and the fans look at it as a good in-state rivalry."

DANNY NEE

Nebraska men's basketball coach

The game marks the first time this season that the 5-0 Huskers have been on an opponent's home court, which will happen again Saturday at Minnesota.

"This is a big test for Nebraska basketball," Nee said. "It's the first time we're truly going to take these guys on the road. We'll get tested in Omaha and then get tested again in Minneapolis. I want to see how our kids respond. These road games are just what the Huskers need."

Nebraska already has two tournament titles under its belt — the Big Island Invitational in Hawaii and the Ameritas Classic in Lincoln.

Meanwhile, 2-0 Creighton's only victories have been at home against the University of Nebraska at Omaha and at Southern Methodist University.

"The three games in Hawaii put us a little ahead of schedule," Nee said. "We're playing our sixth game and Creighton is playing their third game. That's such an advantage to Nebraska because you get a lot of things tested."

"One possibility would be that Creighton would spread out the floor and play ball control," he said. "But when I see our team, I don't see why a team would do that. I would play us straight up. We have not shown consistency in any areas."

Boone wants to improve, hopes to end with a bang

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

Nebraska guard Jaron Boone has been a dominant force this season in the Cornhuskers' basketball lineup.

Boone opened up the season by being named the most valuable player at the Big Island Invitational in Hawaii, after leading the Huskers with 59 points in the three-game tournament.

Last Saturday at the Ameritas Classic, Boone was awarded tournament MVP honors once again after scoring 25 points against Grambling State. He also was named Big Eight player of the week.

"It's great to have achieved all of those awards," Boone said. "But I can't ease up."

The addition of point guard Tyrone Lue has been a key factor in helping Nebraska's backcourt excel this season. Lue, Boone and Erick Strickland are the top three point leaders for the Huskers this season.

"(Lue) complements me and Erick really well because he has the capability to penetrate and pitch and get us the open shot," Boone said. "It takes a load off our backs to have a scoring point guard."

Boone leads Nebraska with 100 points this season, Strickland is second with 76, and Lue is third with 65. The three players have accounted for about 52 percent of the Huskers' offense.

A 6-foot-6 senior from Salt Lake City, Boone has been a key player

for Nebraska over the course of his career. Since his sophomore season, Boone has started in 65 of the Huskers' 67 regular-season games. He needs just 235 more points this season to become one of Nebraska's top five scorers of all time.

"Throughout my career certain (statistical) categories have dropped, and others have gotten higher," Boone said. "I'd just like to keep everything consistent and hopefully reach my career bests this season."

This year, Boone leads the Huskers in points and assists, and he has scored in double figures in 29 consecutive games.

Boone said that to achieve his goal of having career bests in every statistical category, he needed to work on his rebounding.

"I think I need to go to the boards a little more," he said. "Once I get that accomplished, more things will open up for the team."

This year, Boone said, the difference has been the Huskers' heart and togetherness; something that past teams have lacked.

"This year, it's more of a team-work-oriented team," Boone said. "There is not one specific leader. We each play our own roles. There are six seniors on this team, and I think we all fill the leadership role in some way."

As for next season, Boone said he was not looking that far in advance.

"I just want to make this a special season," Boone said. "It's my last year, and I want to go out with a bang."