

# Husker

# Dynasty

A Fiesta victory caps  
a perfect season and  
a record-setting  
three-year run.

By Derek Samson

TEMPE, Ariz. — After Nebraska's 1995 season, it was only fitting that Tommie Frazier and Lawrence Phillips highlighted the Cornhuskers' second straight national title.

After all, it was Frazier and Phillips who grabbed the headlines all season.

Phillips, returning to his starting spot just a week before the Fiesta Bowl, rushed 25 times for 165 yards and two touchdowns. He also caught a 16-yard touchdown pass in the Huskers' 62-24 win.

Meanwhile, Frazier finished his career with a 33-3 record as a starter and perhaps his best performance.

Frazier earned the most valuable player honors by rushing for a Nebraska bowl-record 199 yards on 16 carries and two touchdowns. He also passed for 105 yards on a 6-for-14 performance.

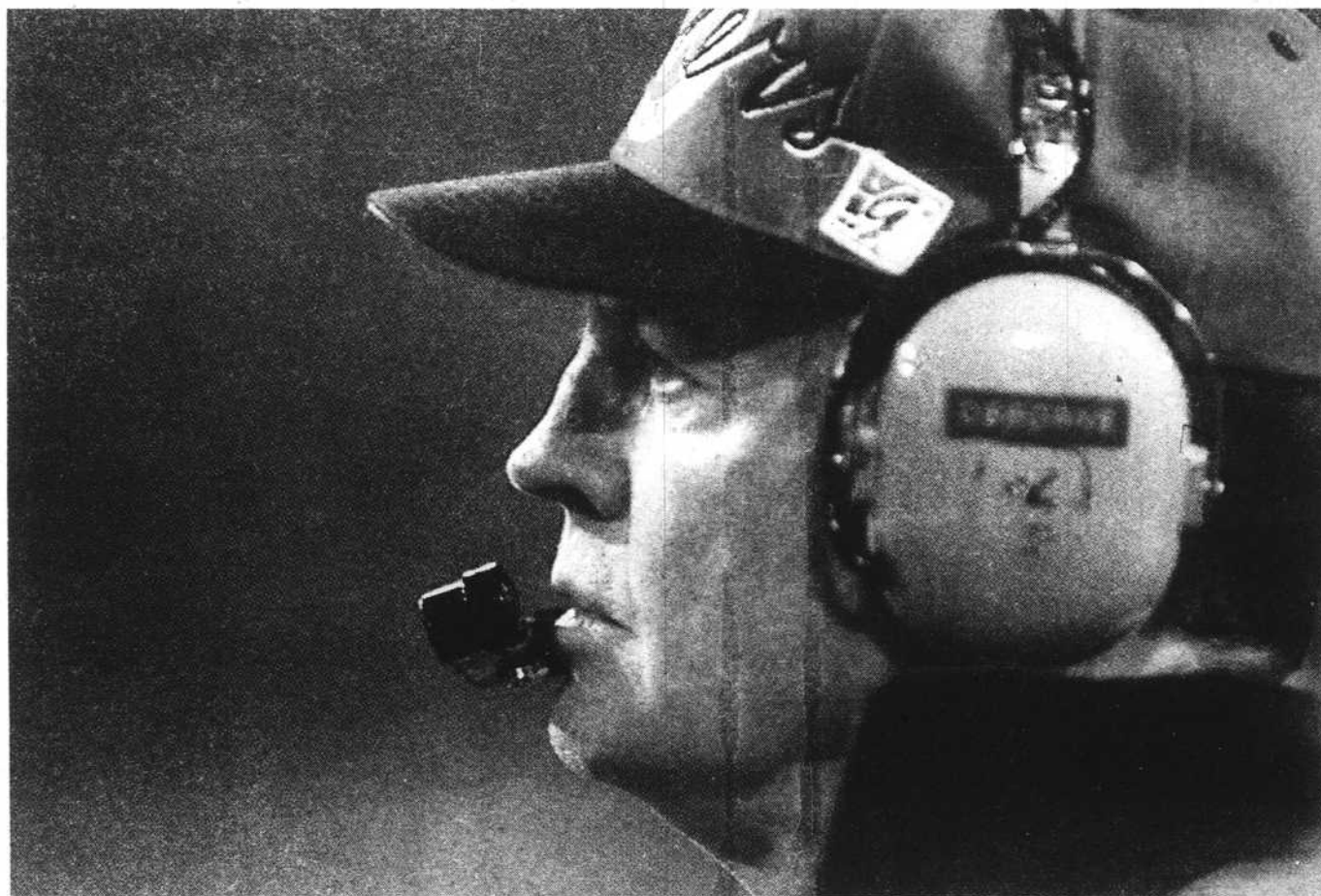
Phillips, a junior, also surpassed the previous bowl rushing record of 117 yards, set by Mike Rozier in the 1981 Orange Bowl.

"All the players think that if we go out and execute on both sides of the ball that no team can really come close to beating us," Frazier said. "I guess they caught us on the wrong night."

And the wrong season.

The Huskers' 38-point rout of No. 2 Florida was only one point less than Nebraska's average margin of victory throughout the season.

"We proved a big point," senior cornerback Tyrone Williams said. "If this game would've been close and we would have won it, people would've probably still been knocking us. With



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne won his second national title in a row after one of his most tumultuous seasons.

the way we won, we just shut everyone up."

Early this season, Nebraska looked as if it hadn't missed a beat since winning the national championship over Miami in last year's Orange Bowl, routing its first two opponents — Oklahoma State and Michigan State — by an average of 41.5 points.

Phillips, despite an NCAA investigation into his relationship with an agent and a California group home, rushed for 359 yards and seven touchdowns — catapulting him into the lead for the Heisman Trophy.

After returning home from rushing for 206 yards against the Spartans, however, Phillips was arrested and charged with assaulting former girlfriend Kate McEwen on the morning of Sept. 10.

Osborne released a statement, kicking Phillips off the team that evening.

**"I don't think any other team could have done what we did, not with how we did it."**

Nebraska cornerback Tyrone Williams

"Lawrence Phillips was involved in an incident early Sunday morning in which he injured a young woman. Fortunately, it does not appear that she was seriously injured. We have told our players that abusive behavior such as this would not be tolerated.

"Lawrence has been under a great deal of pressure recently with the NCAA investigation and with the public scrutiny of his childhood, and this may

or may not have had some bearing on his actions. We will do everything we can to help him get his life back together, but he is dismissed from the football team effective immediately."

A media circus followed the incident, as the Huskers' problems off the field became a national issue.

Several players were involved in legal infractions, including split end Riley Washington with an attempted murder charge. Washington, however, remained on the team.

The controversy hit its peak weeks later when Osborne announced Phillips had returned to the team and could play again in the 1995 season.

"I don't think the university or the football program has done the easy thing," Osborne said after announcing Phillips would return for the Nov. 4 game against Iowa State. "The easy thing would have been to dismiss him.