

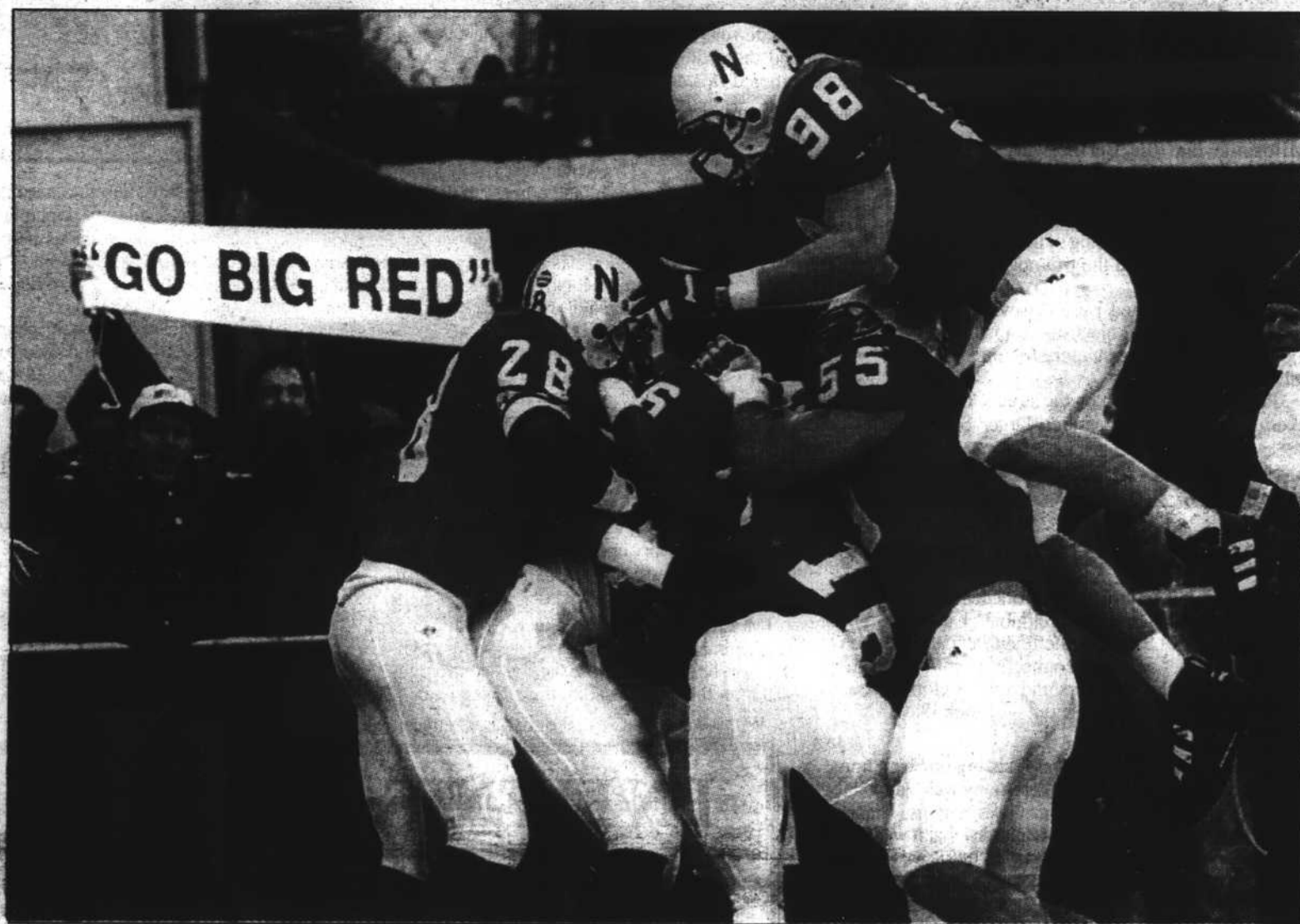
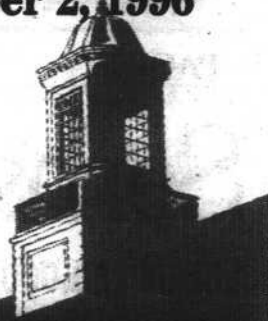
Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 96

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 66

Monday
December 2, 1996



JAY CALDERON/DN

NEBRASKA DEFENDERS (from left) Jamel Williams, Jay Foreman, Eric Stokes, Jason Peter and Grant Wistrom celebrate after Foreman returned an interception 21 yards for NU's first touchdown Friday. The Huskers beat Colorado 17-12 at Memorial Stadium to win the Big 12 North Division.

NU, Texas headed for St. Louis

Cornhuskers and Longhorns are ready to face off for Big 12 bragging rights.

By MITCH SHERMAN
Sports Editor

One more hurdle and the Nebraska football team is headed to Bourbon Street.

The Cornhuskers, ranked third in the nation after Friday's 17-12 win over Colorado at Memorial Stadium, earned the first-ever Big 12 Conference North Division championship and the right to play Texas Saturday in St. Louis.

"We feel like we are playing good enough football to beat anybody in the country right now," quarterback Scott Frost said, "and we are going to have a chance to prove that."

Nebraska can prove on Saturday that it is the best of the Big 12, and with a win in the league's championship game, the 10-1 Huskers will be invited to the Sugar Bowl, Jan. 2 in New Orleans.

Awaiting at the Superdome: No. 1-ranked Florida State.

By virtue of their 24-21 win over Florida on Saturday in Tallahassee, Fla., the 11-0 Seminoles clinched a spot in the Bowl Alliance's premier showdown.

If Nebraska gets past Texas, the Sugar Bowl would pit the winners

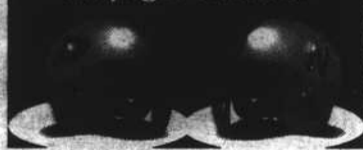
of the last three national championships and renew a rivalry between two of college football's most successful coaches, Tom Osborne and Bobby Bowden.

It would also be a rematch of the 1994 Orange Bowl, in which FSU beat Nebraska 18-16 to claim the 1993 national title, Bowden's first. Nebraska has lost only one game since and Osborne has doubled Bowden's championship total with wins in 1994 and '95 over Miami and Florida, respectively.

But the Huskers say they aren't looking past the Longhorns, who defeated Texas A&M 51-15 on Friday to claim the Big 12 South Division championship.

Tickets are still available for Saturday's 12:04 p.m. game at the

Complete game coverage
on pages 8 and 9.



Trans World Dome in St. Louis. Nebraska, which has sold nearly all of its 7,500 tickets, received an additional 1,200 tickets from the other five North Division schools.

Athletic Department donors will be given priority, but any fans can purchase tickets (which cost \$40 and \$60) beginning today at 8 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis.

The ticket office phone number is 1-800-8BIGRED or 472-3111.

Despite small community, Judaic studies thrive

Professors work to expand teaching and research to maintain students' enthusiasm.

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

In a state with a small Jewish population, the university's Judaic studies program thrives on the interest of students of all faiths.

When the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln began the Harris Center for Judaic studies three years ago, educators knew it would be an uphill battle to find students who had a base knowledge of Judaism.

But many non-Jewish students are enthusiastic about the program, said Jean Cahan, an assistant professor in political science and philosophy who was instrumental in developing the program.

"Sometimes one finds a program established where one thinks there wouldn't be a large (Jewish) community," Cahan said. "We lack a pool of students who are already knowledge-

able about basic things in Judaism."

In its newsletter, the Judaic studies program is described as the "only Judaic studies program in the U.S. created to serve a primarily non-Jewish constituency." But the program is making great strides toward educating students about Jewish culture, customs, religion, literature and history, she said.

Non-Jewish students usually join the program for one of two reasons, Cahan said.

"Students are drawn to it because they think Judaism is somewhat exotic and different, and they want to

learn about a culture that in many ways is non-Western," Cahan said. "Another type of student sees Judaism as a foundation or background to their own culture or religious background — the background of Christianity."

Last year, the fourth year of the program, UNL started offering all those enthusiastic students a Judaic studies minor. The university will create a major in the program as soon as there are enough students able to excel in higher-level coursework, and enough professors and money for more

Please see JUDAIC on 7

Weather contributed to accidents

Icy roads combined with gameday and holiday traffic made for a dangerous weekend.

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

Slick road conditions in Lincoln sent vehicles crashing and grinding into each other during the five-day vacation.

Lincoln police reported 106 vehicle accidents Wednesday through Saturday — 52 resulted in property damage, 28 involved injuries. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office reported 12 accidents outside the city.

Across Nebraska, holiday travel claimed two lives. A two-car accident on U.S. Highway 275 near Pilger Friday night killed two people and hospitalized one.

But rain and cold might have reduced a different traffic calamity in Lincoln as police saw less drunken drivers on city streets.

Lincoln police Sgt. Jim Spanel said 17 arrests for drunken driving during vacation seemed low for a weekend with a home football game. On game day, police arrested only five people for drunken driving.

"I think the weather might have had something to do with people staying home," Spanel said. "I think the cold weather dampened their spirits."

Officers patrolling downtown bars Friday saw less traffic and less activity than usual before and after the game, he said.

Nine people were arrested Saturday, which was closer to normal, Spanel said. Conditions Saturday were dry, but slightly colder.

Heavy rains and light snow created miserable conditions for holiday travelers and Nebraska football fans during the Thanksgiving vacation.

Spanel said inclement weather and high traffic volume probably brought the number of accidents above normal.

Less than a half-inch of snow fell Wednesday and turned to ice in the evening, which contributed to a series of collisions in west Lincoln, Spanel said.

Nearly a half-inch of rain showered Lincoln Friday, but temperatures stayed above freezing most of the day. City streets were wet but not extremely slick, Spanel said.

The football game and Thanksgiving travel brought more traffic to Lincoln and caused more accidents than usual, he said, and out-of-town drivers might have had a particularly tough time navigating through Lincoln, causing even more crashes.

Across the nation, more people die in traffic accidents during Thanksgiving weekend than any other holiday, according to a report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Last year in the United States, 527 people died in automobile accidents during the Thanksgiving weekend. From Thanksgiving to New Year's, 4,382 people died in accidents.