

# Huskers head for Orange Bowl

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Dome earlier this season.

Osborne said the Hokies will present his team with some difficulties.

"They've got a reputation for being a pretty sound, hard-nosed football team with a pretty good defense," Osborne said.

Hokie Coach Frank Beamer said his team looked forward to playing the two-time defending champions.

"Nebraska football speaks for itself," Beamer said. "Not many fans put us on the same level as Nebraska. We are working our way up to their level, and that is the level where we want to be."

Orange Bowl officials said they were pleased to play host to a Hokie-Husker matchup.

"This is the first time that Virginia Tech has played Nebraska, and that makes it even more special," said Clark Cook, president of the Orange Bowl Committee. "Nebraska has been to the Orange Bowl many times, and now they get a chance to come back, and that is very exciting for us."

"They have played a major role in our history."

Although the Huskers were ranked behind No. 5 Brigham Young (13-1) Orange Bowl members selected NU based on the strength of its schedule.

The move from Orange Bowl Stadium to Pro Player Stadium of-

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**BILL BYRNE**  
NU Athletic Director

fers different opportunities for Husker fans, Orange Bowl executive Keith Tribble said.

"This is a first-class game and it should be played in one of the finest facilities in the nation," Tribble said. "Pro Player Stadium offers a different venue, so it's an opportunity for fans to see an area of south Florida they have never seen before."

Tribble said more than 63,000 tickets already had been sold, including the 15,000 offered for each team.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne said fans' interest for the game should be high, despite the fact that some people are still stunned about what happened in Saturday's the championship game in St. Louis.

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Louis," Byrne said. "Our fans were hopeful for a third straight title, but it didn't work out."

This will be the 37th bowl game for Nebraska, which has a 6-9 record in its 15 Orange Bowl appearances.

NU's last appearance resulted in Osborne's first national title. The Huskers defeated the Miami Hurricanes 24-17 to complete a 13-0 season in 1994, winning the school's third national title.

Osborne said he was worried about how the Huskers would react to playing in a post-season bowl game that, for the first time in four years, would not determine the national champion.

"That's a concern," Osborne said. "Our players on the team have only experienced the big game. It's still a big game to us, however."

# Cheerleader remains in critical condition

**JENSEN** from page 1

covered with a foam pad.

Although the extent of Jensen's injury remains unknown, the university has announced it will assist with her medical expenses.

Greg Clayton, UNL director of risk management and benefits, said the athletic department's insurance provides medical coverage to student-athletes injured in competition, practice or travel.

The university will pay all of Jensen's expenses for treatment and rehabilitation up to \$10 million, Clayton said.

The university also will coordinate insurance payments with the NCAA's insurance fund, he said.

If Jensen's injury results in a permanent disability, she would receive a monthly stipend under another provision of the university's insurance policy, Clayton said.

That's a possibility Jensen's teammates are trying not to think about.

Swartz keeps the squad updated on Jensen, but the cheerleaders struggle with the uncertainty of her condition. The "waiting game" has taken an emotional toll on them, she said.

"Your mind kind of wanders, and of course you think the worst," Swartz said.

Swartz said Jensen's parents were considering transferring her to a spi-

nal injury center in Denver, but hadn't decided if such treatment would be necessary.

Swartz said the rest of the squad was distressed about their friend.

"The kids are pretty shaken up," Swartz said.

Cheerleaders who traveled to St. Louis for the Big 12 championship game Saturday weren't very concerned with the football game, Swartz said. They wore white ribbons, symbolizing hope, to show Jensen and her family they were thinking about her.

"Everyone was concentrating on Tracy," Swartz said.

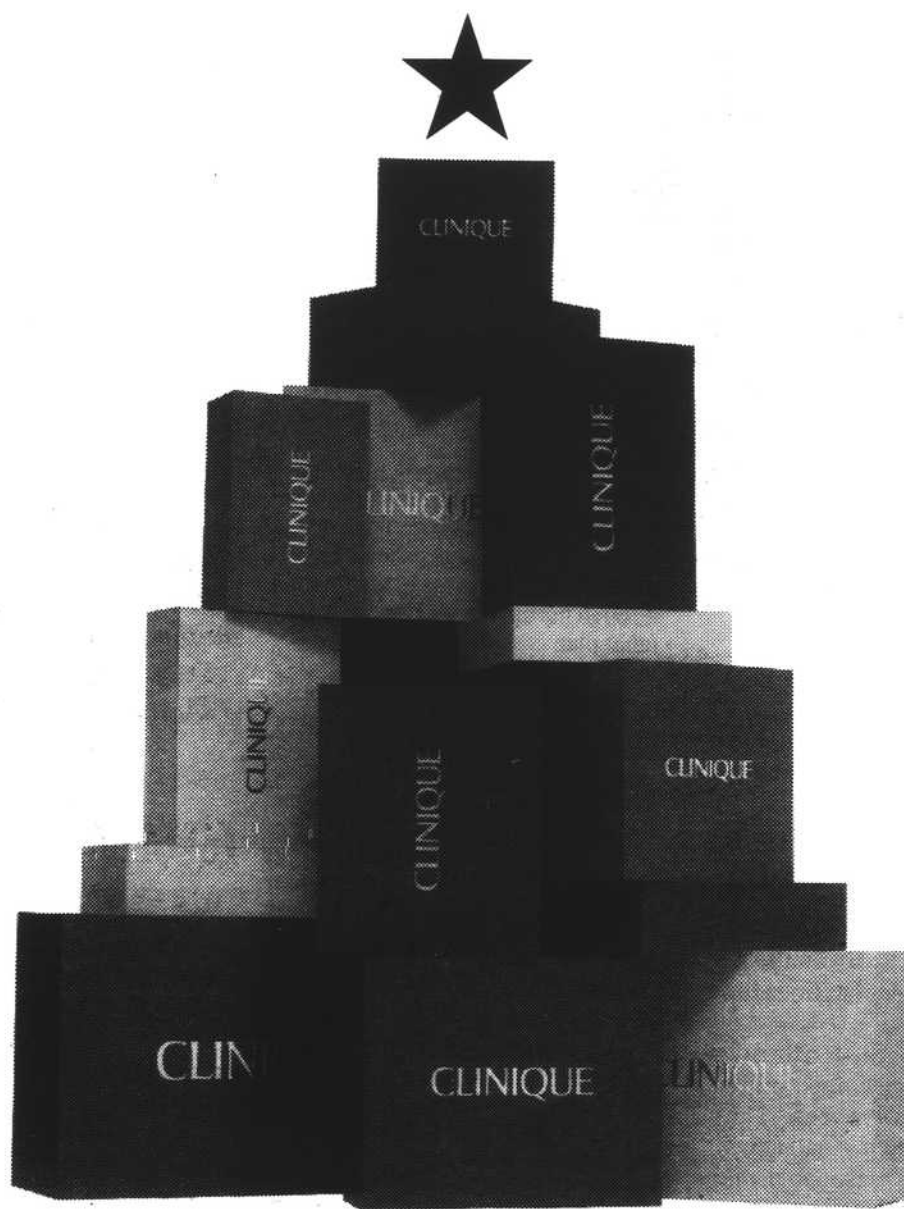
Cheerleaders at the Nebraska basketball game Saturday night were emotional because Jensen had planned to cheer with them at that game, Swartz said.

"Some of them felt pretty guilty cheering knowing that Tracy was supposed to cheer at that game," she said.

The squad has spent a lot of time at the hospital, but hasn't been allowed to see Jensen, Swartz said.

During a brief visit, Swartz said, Jensen was conscious and fully alert. She has difficulty talking because she requires a ventilator to breathe, but she still communicates with family and friends, Swartz said.

"It's a circus in that IC waiting area," Swartz said. "She's got a lot of people there concerned about her."



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