

## Growing up

A young Nebraska volleyball team gains valuable experience, losing to Stanford in a national semi-final match. PAGE 13



## 'Lieding' acts

The Lied Center for Performing Arts continues its season with an array of acts including a Swiss mime troupe and Shakespeare. PAGE 16

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A PERFECT '10'

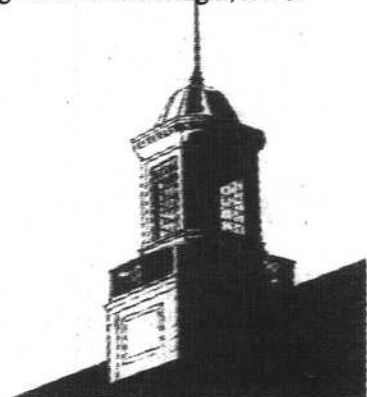
Cloudy, high 10. Flurries tonight, low 5.

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FOUR NEBRASKA FANS watch the Orange Bowl at Pro Player Stadium in Miami. Nebraska won 41-21 over Virginia Tech, but only about 8,000 people bought tickets allotted to NU fans, leaving more than 20,000 seats empty. For complete game coverage, see pages 9-12.

SCOTT BRUHN/DN

## Boredom Bowl?

### Huskers see fewer fans at Orange Bowl

By MITCH SHERMAN  
Senior Reporter

MIAMI — Thousands of empty, orange seats greeted the Nebraska football team to a college football classic, played at a stadium with a professional name and a dismal atmosphere for New Year's Eve.

Huskers and Hokies invaded South Florida in the first Orange Bowl challenge away from the rotting-but-nostalgic Orange Bowl stadium.

Home to the Florida Marlins and Miami Dolphins, the 10-year-old, state-of-the-art Pro Player Stadium served as the setting for NU's 41-21 victory over Virginia Tech.

Only 51,212 fans witnessed the Husker win. It was the smallest Orange Bowl crowd since 1947 when Rice beat Tennessee 8-0, and the smallest to watch an NU bowl game since the 1980 Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas.

"At times, this almost felt like a non-game in terms of intensity and in terms of interest," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "I'm sorry for that."

"But I've been down here a lot of times, and I haven't come away with that trophy very often."

The victory — Nebraska's third straight bowl win and seventh Orange Bowl win in 16 trips to Miami — secured a No. 6 national ranking for NU, which finished 11-2.

By virtue of Ohio State's Rose Bowl win over previously unbeaten Arizona State on New Year's Day in Pasadena, Calif., Florida and Florida State duelled for the national title in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2 in New Orleans.

The Gators won 52-20 in a game that drew as much attention as any game in college football history, but left nearly every other bowl game struggling to stay above water.

No more than 8,000 Husker fans traveled to Miami for Nebraska's third Orange Bowl

in four years. And although 25,000 Hokie fans formed a purple blanket that filled the stadium's west end zone, several entire sections in the upper level remained empty.

"It was pretty weird because there wasn't anybody in the stands, even throughout the game," Nebraska offensive tackle Adam Treu said. "None of us had ever played like that. We didn't know what was going on. I think we maybe felt let down by some of the fans."

Midway through the third quarter, thousands of fans left at the first sign of light rain.

By the end of the fourth quarter, only a few thousand spectators dotted the stadium's 75,000 seats, which sold for \$10 apiece — \$65 less than face value — prior to the game.

"This is actually the first time I've ever played in a bowl game where it wasn't a packed house," defensive tackle Jason Peter said.

"Our Nebraska fans are still great. They can't come to every game that's so far away. We're not upset with them at all."

## Property tax debate to dominate Legislature

By ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

The meat and potatoes of the 95th Nebraska Legislative session will again be property taxes — but issues such as partial-birth abortion and same-sex marriages will be thrown in to spice things up.

Although most college students don't own

any property, property taxes will still affect students indirectly, said Speaker of the Legislature Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion.

For instance, Withem said, state funds that would be used to help local governments after property taxes are cut would be unavailable to the university. That could raise tuition, he said.

Also on the schedule this year are the state budget and the University of Nebraska's request for \$23 million for the college of information

sciences and technology in Omaha.

Sen. Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, chairman of the appropriations committee, said the University of Nebraska at Omaha would probably get the funding.

Please see PREVIEW on 6

## Debt forces local Subways to shut down

By PAULA LAVIGNE  
Senior News Editor

The world's second-largest fast food chain derailed in Lincoln last week when seven of Lincoln's 10 Subway restaurants closed — including the one in the Nebraska Union — leaving their owners buried in about \$1 million in debt.

But the Nebraska Union Subway is one location guaranteed to reopen this week under new management, Subway administrators said.

Last Monday, Subway employees came to work and found the locks changed on six buildings (the Nebraska Union Subway was still closed for winter break).

The six other stores are at 53rd and O streets, in the Gunny's Building at 12th and Q streets, 10th and High streets, 29th Street and Cornhusker Highway, 17th and South streets and 70th Street and Havelock Avenue.

Greg and Jeff Moe, co-owners of the seven closed Subways, have been unavailable for comment. Some Subway workers have speculated that Greg Moe has left the state. What Moe left behind was more than 70 employees unsure about their jobs and paychecks.

And Lancaster County records show the brothers and their corporation, GM-JM Moementum, also left behind about \$1 million in defaults on property ownership and liens.

Two of the shops — at 29th and Cornhusker and 53rd and O streets — were auctioned off to satisfy creditors. They were purchased by the

Please see SUBWAY on 6

## Legislature likely to approve funds for UNO, FDR

By MATTHEW WAITE  
Senior Reporter

Two things now stand between a University of Nebraska at Omaha information science campus and First Data Resources office complex — \$22 million and the Nebraska Legislature.

The Legislature's chief money manager, Appropriations Chairman Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth, said he believed lawmakers will grant NU the \$22 million it needs for the project, but not without some debate.

"I'm still trying to read the body," Wehrbein said. "There are some skeptics. I'll let them speak for themselves."

On Dec. 31, the Douglas County Board voted 6-1 to sell 140 acres of the county-owned AKsaben racetrack to FDR for \$10 million.

It ended horse racing at Nebraska's largest track, which did not hold a live racing meet in 1996, a first since 1944 for the once-nationally prominent Omaha track.

The sale also cleared the way for the credit-card processing company to build an office complex, which will create 2,000 new jobs over the next five years.

Please see OMAHA on 8