

# CAPITAL ONE BOWL

45 G N 31

The Huskers have seventh-ranked Georgia on its heels in the third quarter, but a fumble and big Bulldog plays put a third straight bowl game out of reach

## Alpha dawg



RYAN SODERLIN/THE WORLD-HERALD

NU's Ciante Evans can't quite reach this third-quarter pass to Georgia receiver Chris Conley, and Conley turned it into a 49-yard touchdown that helped the Bulldogs pull into a 31-31 tie. Conley also caught an 87-yard TD.

### NU's momentum comes to screeching halt after fumble

By SAM MCKEOWN  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

ORLANDO, Fla. — Picture a dime at midfield of the Capital One Bowl. For most of Tuesday's game, the on-field differences between Nebraska and Georgia fit on the head of one. A predicted pounding had become a barn burner, the Bulldogs back on their haunches.

Picture, now, a hump. No. 16 Nebraska had climbed it far enough to see across to an offseason comprised more of validation than worry. First came the fumble. Then came the swoon. Followed by the boom of an ill-timed blitz that led to a long, back-breaking touchdown.

The dime turned. The hump grew. All the little things the Huskers didn't do turned a dead heat into a 45-31 loss.

"Everybody's mad," receiver Jamal Turner said.

Said offensive coordinator Tim Beck: "It's just weird."

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### MORE HUSKER COVERAGE, PAGES 6C-10C, 14C



MATT MILLER/THE WORLD-HERALD

Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray, picked off twice in the first half, finished with 427 passing yards and five TDs. He was the game MVP.

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##### VIDEO FROM ORLANDO

Watch game highlights, the postgame press conference and a postgame analysis.

##### FIGHTING TO FINISH

Are the Huskers close to competing with the best? Depends on your point of view, Dirk Chatelain writes.

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##### DOGGED DETERMINATION

After two straight bowl losses, Georgia was determined to finish strong. And the Bulldogs did.

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##### FULL-PAGE PICTURE

Rex Burkhead, playing his final game as a Husker, is a bright spot in another tough bowl loss.

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##### PHOTO SHOWCASES

See photos of the action on the field and the fans in the stands at the Capital One Bowl.

### Bo's upbeat message harkens back to an NU turning point

ORLANDO, Fla. — On Tom Osborne's last official day in a football stadium, I saw some ghosts. This was after another Nebraska bowl loss, the third straight, a streak that must sound familiar to Osborne watchers. Georgia and Nebraska sparred for three quarters before the Bulldogs dropped the hammer. To the rest of the world, it must have looked like the same old, same old Nebraska.

But this one, this loss, was different. This wasn't about getting embarrassed or outclassed for four quarters, a sideline tantrum or referee conspiracies.

It started in the interview room, the same one where, one year ago after the loss to South Carolina, coach Bo Pelini looked exasperated and uncharacteristically appeared to blame his players.

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Tom Shatel

**IN SPORTS:** Despite its shortened rotation, the Creighton basketball team does not plan on slowing down its running game. Page 3C



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