

**The Top 25:
How They
Fared**

The Associated Press rankings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Miami (11-0) did not play	Alabama (12-0) beat Florida 28-21	Florida St. (10-1) did not play	Texas A&M (12-0) did not play	Notre Dame (9-1-1) did not play	Syracuse (9-2) did not play	Michigan (9-0-3) did not play	Georgia (9-2) did not play	Colorado (9-1-1) did not play	Washington (9-2) did not play	Nebraska (9-2) beat Kansas State 28-24	Florida (8-4) lost to Alabama 28-21	NC State (9-2-1) did not play	Stanford (9-3) did not play	Ohio State (8-2-1) did not play	Boston College (8-2-1) did not play	Tennessee (8-3) did not play	Washington St. (8-3) did not play	Mississippi (8-3) did not play	N Carolina (8-3) did not play	Penn State (7-4) did not play	Arizona (6-4-1) did not play	Southern Cal (6-4-1) did not play	Mississippi St. (7-4) did not play	Birmingham Young (8-4) did not play

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Tom Shatel

What About The Game?

Tommy — Nebraska locked up its second straight trip to the Orange Bowl today, defeating Kansas State 38-24 in the Coca-Cola Bowl at the Tokyo Dome.

I-back Calvin Jones helped lead the way, rushing for 186 yards on 30 carries. With 2,110 career yards, he joined former Oklahoma State back Thurman Thomas as the only players in Big Eight history to rush for more than 2,000 by their sophomore years.

Freshman quarterback Tommie Frazier ran for three touchdowns and passed for another. He finished 11 of 15 passing for 129 yards and rushed 13 times for 52 yards.

The 11th- and 10th-ranked Huskers finished 9-2 overall and 6-1 in the Big Eight and will play either Florida State or Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Night in Miami.

K-State finished 5-6 and 2-4 in the game played before a sellout crowd of 50,000 at the Tokyo Dome.

The Huskers earned their second straight Big Eight championship, third in five years and ninth under Coach Tom Osborne. Nebraska tied Colorado for the title last season.

A Kansas State win would have given Colorado the Big Eight title and sent the Huskers to the Blockbuster Bowl.

Nebraska will learn its Orange Bowl opponent today when the Associated Press football poll is released.

The victory gave the Huskers, 9-2 and 6-1 in the Big Eight, their 24th consecutive nine-win season, a continuing NCAA record, and put them in their 24th straight bowl game. The streak for consecutive bowl appearances is the longest in college football and one shy of Alabama's NCAA record of 25.

Nebraska will make its 13th Orange Bowl appearance and eighth under Osborne.

Nebraska took a 21-10 halftime lead by scoring on three of its first four series.

Jones picked up 18 yards on a shovel pass from Frazier to highlight an eight-play, 61-yard march that ended when Frazier hit a leaping Corey Dixon with an 18-yard pass in the middle of the end zone with 6:35 to play in the first quarter.

K-State went out 1-2-3-punt on its ensuing series, and the Huskers then rolled 68 yards in 10 plays to go up 14-0. Fullback Lance Lewis and Jones got the Huskers rolling with a pair of 12-yard runs, then Frazier connected with Jones on a 14-yard pass.

Seven plays after that, Frazier ran in from 19 yards with 1:14 left in the quarter. On the play, he pumped once to his right, saw open field to his left and took off running.

NU chewed 6:01 off the clock and ran 14 plays en route to its third score, a 4-yard run by Frazier.

Jones carried the load on the series, Please turn to Page 4, Col. 1

NU Travel Souvenir: Big 8 Title

BY ERIC OLSON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Somehow down on the field — seemingly miles away from the seats — the Texas Southern University band is performing, with four members standing in front of microphones singing to the crowd like the Temptations.

The dancing girls from Long Beach State and Florida State have arrived. Soon, a throbbing disco beat will turn the Tokyo Dome into a hot, happenin' Japanese night club.

Welcome to Samurai Football. You come to a rock show, and a football game breaks out.

Lonely KSU Stadium, the little house on the prairie, seems far, far away.

Maybe it's the Sushi vendors, but it's just not the same.

I miss getting up Saturday morning and driving down old two-lane Highway 77, through Beatrice, Neb., and then Marysville, Kan. — past the cornfields and porch swings.

Box Lunches

I miss going down to Aggieville, near the KSU campus in Manhattan, Kan., for some pre-game barbecue at The Last Chance.

Instead, we bopped on over to the concession stand, where they're serving box lunches (with unidentified green contents) for 1,300 yen and Cokes for 500 yen. And then there's the corn puffs you can buy with a guy on the box eating corn on the cob. Just to make Nebraskans feel at home.

I even miss KSU Stadium, the Big Eight's resident junior-college stadium, with the old corn field across the street. Typically, Nebraskans fill up half of KSU's stadium with red.

Not here. For this game, the few hundred Nebraskans here were sequestered in a corner of the Tokyo Dome — much like the visiting fans in Memorial Stadium — although they do have help.

A hundred or so Japanese natives dressed in red Nebraska shirts sat in front of the real Nebraskans, waving "Beat Kansas State" signs on cue.

Japanese for Nebraska?

Goal Posts

Members of the K-State contingent, equally strong at a few hundred, were behind the third-base dugout, adjacent to the Nebraskans behind first base.

They were probably asking themselves the question of the day: If the Wildcats win, how do we get the goal posts back to Aggieville?

No Big Eight champion has ever been decided like this, with Keith Jackson snoring somewhere back in the United States.

No official invite from the Orange Bowl types, who decided to skip this game. Not even a phone call from Miami, Fla., where it will be 2:30 a.m. when their Big Eight champion is decided in the Tokyo Dome, otherwise known as the "Big Egg."

But the Huskers didn't lay a big egg.

While Husker fans here spent the week touring and tasting Japan, Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne has been quietly stewing about everything from buses running on time to the pre-game and halftime pageantry of this game. How well the Huskers — and Osborne — handled their blood pressure figured to be a key.

An Event

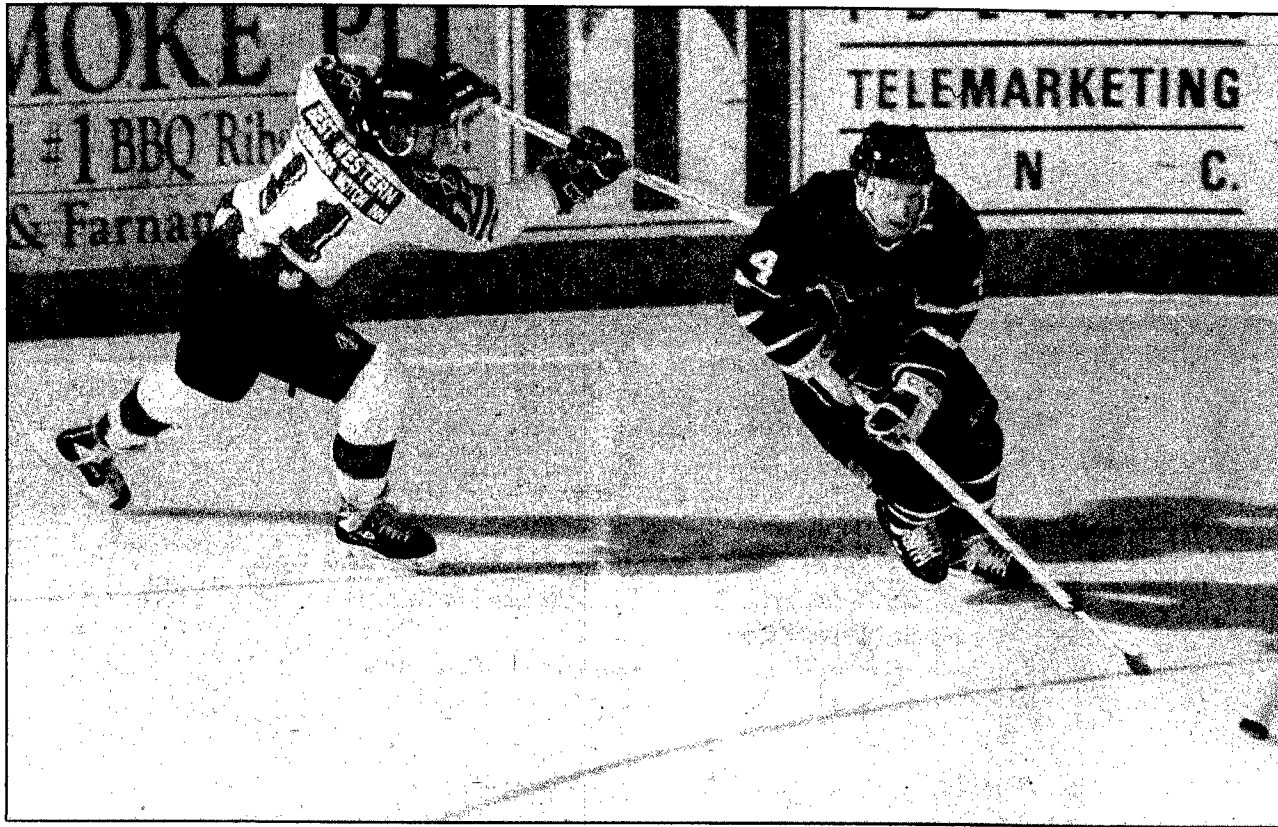
There were at least 50,000 Japanese who couldn't have cared less.

They were there to see an event. A Japanese sports happening. The atmosphere almost resembled a Super Bowl, with the teams marching in from opposite ends of the dome through a tunnel of red, white and blue balloons.

The Texas Southern band played both fight songs — continuously throughout play — as the Japanese cheered for either team, waving purple or red pompons, depending on which color was placed at their seat.

Amazingly, Nebraska cheerleaders got one sector of Japanese to chant

Please turn to Page 4, Col. 3



JEFF BUNDY/THE WORLD-HERALD

TURNING THE CORNER: Thunder Bay's Kevin Hoogsteen, left, tries to stop Omaha's Joe Harney's move with the puck in the first period.

Lancers Rumble, Thunder Bay Tumbles

BY MIKE PATTERSON
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The sellout crowd at Ak-Sar-Ben gave the Omaha Lancers what they deserved Saturday night after their 5-2 victory over Thunder Bay.

A thunderous ovation.

The win before 5,908 — the 64th straight sellout at Ak-Sar-Ben — boosted Omaha back into a tie for third place with Des Moines in the 10-team United

States Hockey League. The Lancers are 12-7 and have 26 points, eight behind league-leading Dubuque and four behind second-place Thunder Bay.

The win was a sweet one for the Lancers, who avenged a pair of recent road losses to the defending league champions.

Omaha will ride the momentum into a 7:05 home game tonight against Sioux City, a 9-3 winner Saturday over St. Paul.

"This was a big win for us," Omaha Coach Mike Guentzel said. "We played hard, and we played gritty."

The Lancers didn't so much win the game as survive it against the physical Flyers. Both teams took a number of penalties as tempers flared on several occasions in the second and third periods.

Omaha lost left wing Dan Tompkins early in the second period when he suffered a leg injury after being checked

by Flyers defenseman Ryan Sharpe. Lancers defenseman Todd Bethard pulled a groin muscle and was sidelined for much of the third period and center Mike Peluso needed stitches in his lower lip after taking a high stick in the third period.

But all those bumps and bruises couldn't overshadow the play of Omaha goalie Bob Petrie, who really put the hurt on the Flyers. The top-ranked goalie in

Please turn to Page 6, Col. 1

Bonds Agrees To Giant Offer Of \$43 Million

Louisville, Ky. (AP) — Barry Bonds, the biggest prize in this year's free agent sweepstakes, reached tentative agreement with the San Francisco Giants on Saturday night for a six-year contract worth about \$43 million.

The deal is by far the largest in baseball history, topping the \$32.5-million, five-year contract signed this year by shortstop Cal Ripken and the Baltimore Orioles.

The average annual value will be at least \$7,166,667, making Bonds the highest-paid player in baseball, a spot previously held by Chicago Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandberg at \$7.1 million.

The deal was astounding not only for its size, but for the team that agreed to it. The Giants are in the process of being sold from Bob Lurie to a group headed by Safeway Inc. Chairman Peter Magowan. The sale is slated for approval by owners during the winter meetings, but Magowan's people already are running the team and making contractual commitments even though they don't legally own it.

"The San Francisco Giants and outfielder Barry Bonds have reached a

Please turn to Page 11, Col. 1



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIDE HERO: Alabama defensive back Antonio Langham celebrates after scoring the winning touchdown on a 27-yard interception return. Langham also helped seal the victory by tipping a pass that teammate Michael Rogers picked off with 2:54 left.

Tide Holds Off Florida, Awaits Voters' Decision

Birmingham, Ala. (AP) — Alabama has done everything it can. Now it's up to the voters.

After edging Florida 28-21 in the first Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday, the second-ranked Crimson Tide must wait until this morning to be assured of a chance to play top-ranked Miami for the national championship.

Alabama, 12-0, is going to the Sugar Bowl and expects to play 11-0 Miami on Jan. 1. But under the new bowl coalition system, that matchup won't happen unless the Tide stays ahead of No. 3 Florida State in today's final regular-season Associated Press poll.

If 10-1 Florida State passes Alabama and moves up to No. 2, the Seminoles will play Miami in the Fiesta Bowl and

the Tide probably will play No. 5 Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl.

"That did not even enter my mind," Alabama Coach Gene Stallings said. "We're an undefeated football team and we've played a lot of tough teams. Yeah, we'll be No. 2."

The AP poll will be released this morning at about 9:30 CST. The bowl coalition will announce its bowl pairings afterward.

The AP vote could be close because voters might compare Alabama's narrow win over No. 12 Florida with Florida State's 45-24 rout of the Gators last week. On the other hand, Florida State has a loss — and it was to Miami 19-16 on Oct. 3.

Alabama had a 62-point lead over

Please turn to Page 5, Col. 1

Courier, Sampras Will Play Exhibition in Omaha

Two of the top-ranked men's tennis players in the world — Jim Courier and Pete Sampras — will play an exhibition match Feb. 5 at the City Auditorium.

Courier, ranked No. 1 by the Association of Tennis Players (ATP), and the third-ranked Sampras will meet in the third annual Healthy Choice Challenge. It will mark the first men's professional tennis match in Omaha since 1984, when John McEnroe played Vitas Gerulaitis.

The match was announced Saturday by the promoters, Pro Motion Events, Inc. Tom Thompson and Nancy Lieberman-Cline are producers of the event.

"Courier and Sampras are two of the hardest hitting players on tour," Thompson said. "Seeing these guys play in person is amazing. You can't appreciate great tennis until you've seen it live."

Courier rocketed through the world

rankings during the 1991 tour, climbing from No. 25 to No. 2. He won the French Open and ATP Championship that year and reached the final of the U.S. Open. Courier started off 1992 by defeating then-No. 1 Stefan Edberg in the Australian Open.

He is the first American to hold the No. 1 ranking since McEnroe held the spot in August 1985.

Sampras also has risen quickly in the rankings. He became the youngest

player to win the U.S. Open when he captured that Grand Slam event in 1990 at age 19. Sampras, ranked No. 2 earlier this year, has won 12 ATP singles titles.

A portion of the proceeds benefits the Nebraska chapter of the American Heart Association.

Ticket prices range from \$40 for floor level to \$8 for upper level. Tickets go on sale Dec. 19 and are available at all TicketMaster outlets, the auditorium box office or by calling 422-1212.