

FSU's Passing Grounds Nebraska; Hurricanes Overthrow Oklahoma

Win Over OU Perfect End To Frustration

Miami (AP) — The demons are gone for Miami Coach Jimmy Johnson.

The No. 2 Hurricanes ended two years of frustration and won college football's national championship Friday night, defeating No. 1 Oklahoma 20-14 in the Orange Bowl.

They did it behind Steve Walsh's two touchdowns and a dominating defense.

"If there's such a thing as exorcism, this is it," Johnson said after his players carried him off the Orange Bowl field.

"It's unbelievable what this University of Miami football team has been through the last four years. Everybody throws rocks at us but I'll tell you what, they've got heart," he said.

"They've been hurting for the last three or four years and so have I, so this makes the hurt a little better. The other guys win every once in a while," Johnson said.

First Perfect Season

The win gave Miami a 12-0 record for the first time in its 62-year football history and left little doubt that the Hurricanes, the only unbeaten-untied team in the nation, will be crowned national champions for the second time in five years when The Associated Press releases its final poll Sunday.

The Sooners finished 11-1 and had the nation's longest winning streak snapped at 20 games.

"It's something we wanted for three years," said Walsh, the Miami quarterback. "We've been in the other locker room like Oklahoma and we know how that feels. It's really an unbelievable feeling to win and it's such a relief."

Miami lost 14-10 to Penn State in last year's Fiesta Bowl with quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who threw five interceptions. The year before, the Hurricanes lost 35-7 to Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl when Testaverde threw three interceptions. The Fiesta Bowl was for the national title; a win in the Sugar Bowl could have given Miami a shot at the championship.

OU Rushers Stopped

Miami's defense bottled up the potent Oklahoma attack, which averaged nearly 500 yards per game during the regular season, including 428 on the ground. The Sooners were held to 255 total yards on this night.

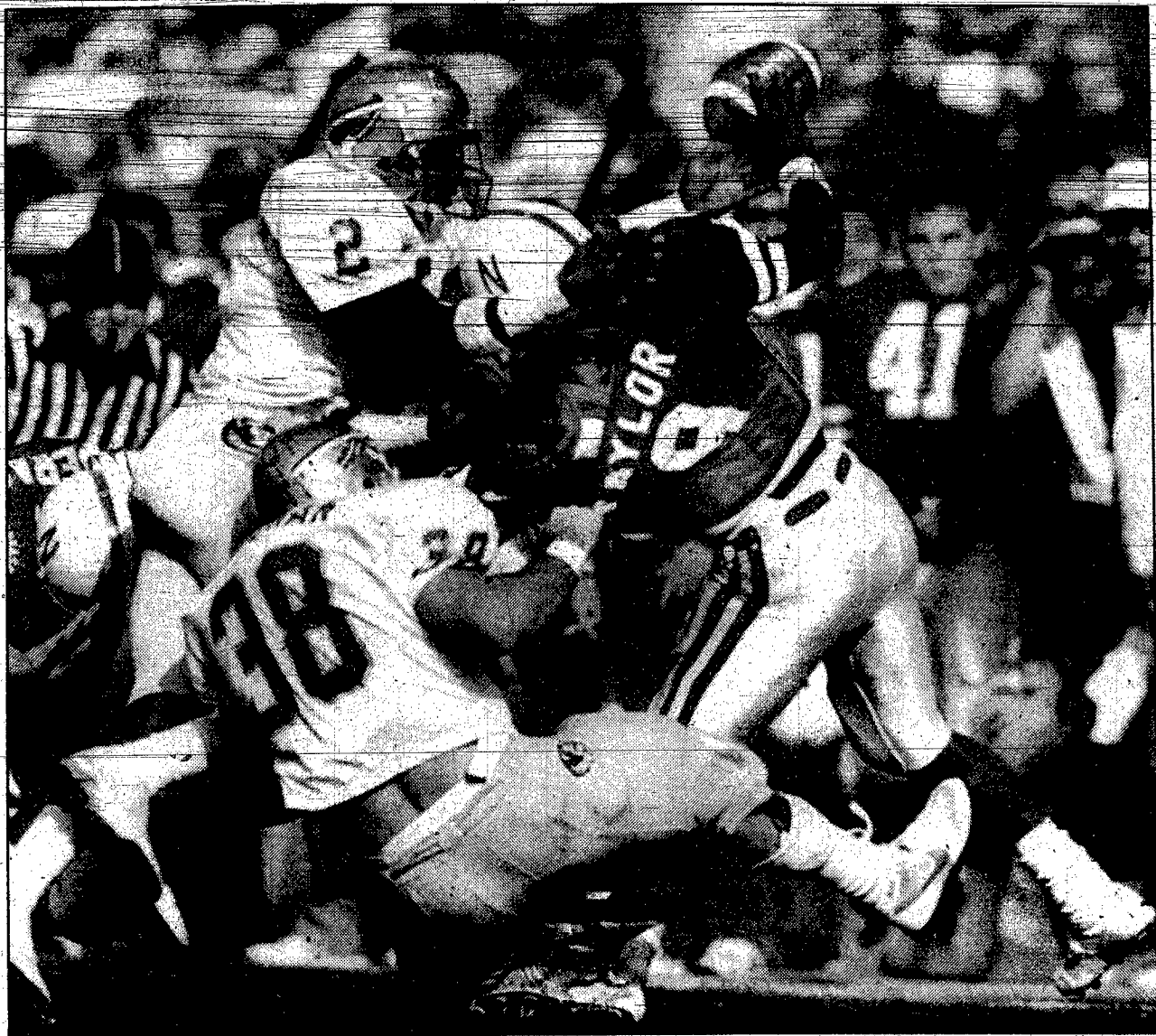
Greg Cox, Miami's career-scoring leader and the 12th player in NCAA history to pass the 300-point mark, sent a 56-yard field goal, the first of two, soaring well over the crossbar at 6:08 of the third period for a 10-7 lead.

Walsh, whose 30-yard pass to fullback Melvin Bratton opened the scoring just 3:28 into the game, added a 23-yard touchdown pass to flanker Michael Irvin at 12:23 of the third quarter, sealing Miami's third victory over Oklahoma in as many years.

Cox kicked 49-yard field goal with 3:41 left in the game to make it 20-7.

Oklahoma's second touchdown came on a trick play known as the "fumbleroosky" — a 29-yard run by All-

Please turn to Page 35, Col. 3



Chris Young/World-Herald

Florida State All-America defenders Deion Sanders, No. 2, and Paul McGowan, No. 38, swarm Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor, No. 9, and forced him to fumble out of bounds at the FSU 48-yard line. . . . NU gave up the ball 10 plays later when I-back Tyreese Knox lost a fumble at the Seminole 3-yard line with 6:58 left in the game.

'Mass Confusion' Costs NU on 56-Yard Play

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Tempe, Ariz. — Two Nebraska wrongs nearly produced the right result on a 56-yard pass play from quarterback Steve Taylor to split end Morgan Gregory in the final three minutes of the Fiesta Bowl.

But after a confusing play call and a mixed-up alignment, a penalty for an ineligible receiver downfield nullified the play and allowed FSU to hang on for the 31-28 victory.

"It was mass confusion," Taylor said. "I could have called time out. We all just thought we could handle it, and

we just didn't do a good job of it."

The official play-by-play said Nebraska was penalized for illegal procedure and the referee announced the flag was for illegal formation.

But Coach Tom Osborne and NU tight end Tom Banderas, who technically was called for the infraction, said the penalty was for ineligible receiver downfield.

Nebraska had the ball first and 10 at the NU 42 when wingback Richard Bell carried in a play.

That's when the confusion began. "We had three guys on the wrong side," Banderas said. "The play had me on the side where I wasn't in the pat-

tern, but I was the primary receiver."

"It was a bootleg left and I was on the right side. So I shifted over to the other side."

Banderas said two other receivers, Gregory and Bell, were outside of him, which technically made him a tackle in the formation.

Gregory, split to the left, backed off the line of scrimmage, apparently keeping Nebraska from being called for too many men on the line.

"That was a very smart play by Morgan Gregory," Osborne said.

"We had guys off the line of scrimmage, which I thought made the tight end eligible."

Osborne said he wasn't certain exactly what had happened, and that it was possible the Huskers "might not have had enough guys on the line of scrimmage."

Banderas said there is one way he might have saved the play.

"If I had stayed in and blocked, we wouldn't have got the penalty," he said. "But I was the primary receiver, so I had to go out."

Taylor said the play came in confused.

"I had it straightened out, but I don't know if Banderas heard me or not," he said. "It's not Banderas' fault. It's all of ours."

Husker Fumble, Penalty Costly In Last Quarter

By Lee Barfknecht

World-Herald Staff Writer

Tempe, Ariz. — All week before the Fiesta Bowl, Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne and Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden said their teams were so evenly matched that a turnover or a penalty might decide the game.

In the Seminoles' 31-28 come-from-behind victory Friday, it was both.

Nebraska I-back Tyreese Knox's fumble at the Florida State 3-yard line kept the Huskers from turning a 28-24 lead into an 11-point edge with 6:58 left in the game.

"That really hurt us badly," Osborne said.

It also gave FSU quarterback Danny McManus a chance to be a hero, and he did it in record-smashing fashion.

The senior from Dania, Fla., drove the Seminoles 97 yards for the eventual winning touchdown, a 15-yard fourth-and-goal bullet to Ronald Lewis, with 3:07 to play.

McManus, named the game's outstanding offensive player, finished with a Fiesta Bowl-record and career-high 375 yards passing. That was the most ever against Nebraska in Osborne's 15 years as head coach, topping the 363 by Oklahoma State's Ronnie Williams in 1985.

McManus' 51 attempts also were a bowl record and his 28 completions were three short.

Husker Comeback

But the Huskers, who at times used the wishbone formation for the first time ever, weren't finished.

After completing two passes to the FSU 42, NU quarterback Steve Taylor found Morgan Gregory along the sideline. The sophomore split end slipped a tackle and sprinted to the FSU 2 for what looked like a 56-yard gain with 2:35 to play.

But a penalty for an ineligible receiver downfield wiped that out and any remaining Nebraska hopes for a comeback before a crowd of 72,112, the third-largest in Fiesta Bowl history.

"I don't understand yet what happened on that play," Osborne said. "But it was a tragic play, as far as we're concerned."

Bowden wasn't interested in explanations. All he cared about was the result. "We were very lucky to win the game," he said. "I feel more lucky than I feel good. But I'd rather be lucky. It's good to be lucky sometimes."

'Dominated Second Half'

The feeling on Nebraska's side was misery.

"This is really disappointing, especially being my last game," senior offensive tackle Keven Lightner said. "We were 2 yards from winning it. There is no way they could have come back from 11 points down."

Tight end Tom Banderas, called for being the ineligible receiver out of a botched formation, said the disappointment for him surpassed that

Please turn to Page 32, Col. 1

Sugar Tie Gives Orangemen Blues

By Gary Myers

The Dallas Morning News

New Orleans — Dick MacPherson couldn't believe what he was watching: The Orangemen's perfect season was ending with one second left in Friday's Sugar Bowl when Auburn's Pat Dye took the easy way out and went for a tie, a decision that infuriated the Syracuse coach.

"I have no idea what he was thinking. You have to make a decision that if you like ties, then why did you come here in the first place. I don't like ties," MacPherson said after the 16-16 tie robbed his team of the little claim it would have had to the national championship. "I personally would have went for it. And we would have made it."

Syracuse, which ended its season 11-0-1, took a 16-13 lead with 2:04 left on Tim Vesling's 38-yard field goal, which followed MacPherson's decision not to go for it on fourth and inches from the Auburn 22-yard line. He went for the

points that gave Syracuse the lead.

"I told my team a field goal was as good as a touchdown," MacPherson said. "I made a jerk of myself."

Only because of Dye's subsequent decision.

Auburn moved down the field in a well-executed, two-minute offense. The first key moment was on fourth and six from the Syracuse 30 when Dye elected to go for it rather than bring in place-kicker Win Lyle for a 47-yard field-goal attempt.

It paid off when Jeff Burger completed an 8-yard pass to Stacy Danley just over linebacker Terry Wooden with 28 seconds left. That got Auburn to the 22, but on the next two plays, Burger didn't throw into the end zone. He completed a 7-yard pass to Lawyer Tillman and a 2-yarder to Danley, who called time out with four seconds to go when he couldn't make it out of bounds at the 13.

Dye had a choice: Throw into the end zone on the final play and go for the

victory or send Lyle in and go for the tie. "I thought I could rest, and we would go for a touchdown," Lyle said.

Dye took the tie, the first in the Sugar Bowl's 54-year history.

"We played too good and too hard to go back to Birmingham with a loss. You win some, you lose some, you are going to tie some," Dye said. "It boiled down to if I was going to throw it one more time. My decision was not to get beat. I made the decision that if we executed on the field goal, we were not going to get beat. I'm disappointed we didn't win, but I'm glad we didn't get beat."

MacPherson was incensed when Dye's comments were relayed. As Dye walked off the field, he told a television camera, "If Syracuse didn't want the tie, they should have blocked the kick."

MacPherson: "He shouldn't talk about Syracuse. Now he's starting to coach my team. He should worry about coaching his team. I thought they would

Please turn to Page 36, Col. 1

Aggies Snatch Towel, Clean Up

By Thomas Bonk

The Los Angeles Times

Dallas — Who would have thought that Tiff Brown, the Heisman Trophy winner, would bring shame, shame on old Notre Dame?

Texas A&M's 35-10 crushing victory over Notre Dame Friday afternoon in the Cotton Bowl was bad enough to inflict severe bruises on Irish pride, but surely Brown didn't have to throw in the towel, too.

It was a bad week for Brown. First, he wrecked his car, then he wrecked his image.

It happened in the fourth quarter on what became the final play of Brown's college career after the whistle had already sounded. Brown chased a mem-

ber of Texas A&M's kickoff team and tackled him from behind because that person had stolen his towel.

His towel?

Well, not just any old towel, but a blue one with gold trim that has "T 81" embroidered on it. The "T" is Tim, and "81" is his uniform number. The towel, a gift from a friend of teammate Cedric Figaro, had been stuck in Brown's football pants until it was stolen.

The missing towel saga turned out to be better than the game.

Notre Dame, 6-4, led 10-3 and was about to widen the margin when Alex Morris intercepted Terry Andrysiak in the Aggies' end zone on a one-handed catch.

Texas A&M, the Southwest Conference champion at 10-2, drove 80

yards for the tying score, producing two touchdowns in a span of 76 seconds to take an 18-10 halftime lead.

Notre Dame committed four turnovers that led to 22 Texas A&M points.

The towel thief was Warren Barhorst. He is a non-scholarship Aggie football player and now the most famous member of Texas A&M's gimmicky 12th-man kickoff team, which Coach Jackie Sherrill culled from the school's student body.

Barhorst, who admitted taking Brown's towel, said that he did it because other teams had been stealing A&M towels all season long and he was fed up with it. Barhorst held up his trea-

Please turn to Page 38, Col. 4

Bowl Results

FIESTA BOWL	
Florida State 31	Nebraska 28
CITRUS BOWL	
Clemson 35	Penn State 10
COTTON BOWL	
Texas A&M 35	Notre Dame 10
SUGAR BOWL	
Syracuse 16	Auburn 16
ROSE BOWL	
Michigan State 20	USC 17
ORANGE BOWL	
Miami 20	Oklahoma 14

Inside Sports

Paterno Praises Clemson Coach

Penn State's Joe Paterno says he was outcoached by Clemson's Danny Ford after the Tigers hand the Nittany Lions a 35-10 loss in the Citrus Bowl. **Page 36.**

HELP NEEDED: Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee says his upperclassmen must play better in order for the Huskers to improve as a team. **Page 30.**

NOT A SURPRISE: Omaha Bryan's appearance in tonight's final of the Metro Conference Holiday Basketball Tournament against Millard South isn't a surprise to Bears Coach Tim Cannon. **Page 30.**

FIRST APPEARANCE: The New Orleans Saints will make their first National Football League playoff appearance Sunday when they play host to the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC wild-card game. **Page 31.**

Spartans Beat Trojans To Break Pac-10 Hex

Pasadena, Calif. (AP) — Coach George Perles said he hopes his Michigan State Spartans have made Rose Bowl visits a little less scary for Big Ten teams.

"I don't know if we proved anything, but I hope it clears up a lot of anxiety for the people who come out here in the future," Perles said Friday after the eighth-ranked Spartans defeated No. 16 Southern California 20-17 to release the Pacific 10's stranglehold on the Rose Bowl.

The Spartans' victory snapped a six-game losing skid by Big Ten champions in the Rose Bowl. The Pac-10 representatives had beaten the Midwestern visitors 12 of the last 13 New Year's Day meetings in Pasadena.

"People talk about the jinx," Southern Cal Coach Larry Smith said of the Pac-10's previous domination, "but maybe now they'll forget about it and just play the game."

USC Turnovers

Lorenzo White gained 113 yards on 35 carries and scored twice for the Spartans, and John Langeloh kicked the game-winning field goal with 4:14 remaining.

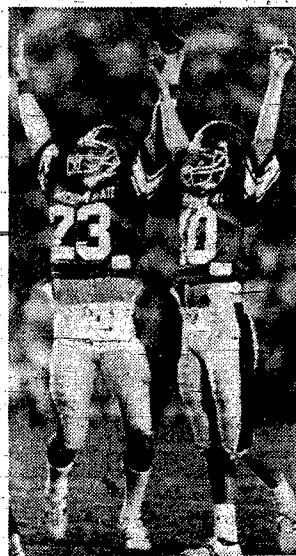
The Trojans, victims of five turnovers in a season-opening 27-13 loss to Michigan State at East Lansing, also had five costly turnovers in the Rose Bowl rematch.

Southern Cal quarterback Rodney Deete threw three interceptions and lost a fumble in Friday's defeat.

The lost fumble, coming on the snap from center, was recovered by the Spartans' Todd Krumm and snuffed a Trojan drive at the Michigan State 23 with 1:33 left.

Then John Miller's interception of Deete's "Hail Mary" pass at the Michigan State 13-yard line with three seconds left sealed the victory.

The Spartans committed no turn-



The Associated Press

MSU's Greg Montgomery, left, and John Langeloh after Langeloh's game-winning field goal. . . . It was his second field goal of the fourth quarter.

"It was a nervous game," Perles said. "The thing we did, have done, is not have turnovers."

"I'm disappointed in the way we lost," Smith said. "We made more mistakes and that's why they won."

"We ended up No. 1 in the nation in turnovers (only 25 total, but 10 in the two games against the Spartans). We

Please turn to Page 35, Col. 3