



# Husker Football History

## Over a Century of Winning Tradition

By Mike Babcock, Freelance Journalist

Fans celebrated by waving banners of old gold. "The score stood 10 to nothing in the state university's favor and great and loud were the yells that filled the atmosphere," a newspaper account said.

The date was Nov. 27, 1890. The state university was Nebraska, which had just defeated a team representing the Omaha YMCA. The game, composed of a 35-minute first half and a 43-minute second half, was played in Omaha. So began Nebraska's rich football tradition.

It was an abbreviated opening "season." Nebraska's first football team played only one other game, in February of 1891, an 18-0 victory against Doane College in Crete, Neb. Whether or not Dr. Langdon Frothingham, the team's "coach," was still at Nebraska when the team traveled to Crete is unclear. Frothingham, a new faculty member from Harvard, was made the coach primarily because he had brought a football with him. He returned to Boston in 1891, probably before that second game.

Nebraska didn't actually have a football coach until 1893, when Frank Crawford was hired for an amount reported to have been between \$300 and \$500. His salary included room and board. Crawford also played quarterback in at least one game during his brief tenure as coach.

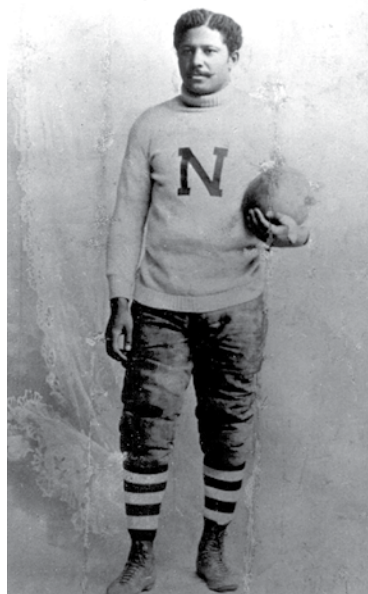
Nebraska's first game against an opponent from outside the state was in 1891, when Iowa won a game played in Omaha, 22-0. The first victory against an out-of-state opponent came in 1892, when George Flippin led Nebraska past Illinois at Lincoln. The score was 6-0.

with Alexander the Great because they have no more teams to conquer."

Booth coached Nebraska from 1900 to 1905, with his teams compiling a 46-8-1 record. In 1902, a team featuring Johnny Bender and Charles Borg went undefeated, untied and unscored upon. Booth's teams produced a 24-game winning streak — 27



The 1905 Nebraska Cornhuskers.



George Flippin, 1891-94.

Flippin was the first African-American athlete at Nebraska and only the fifth black athlete at a predominantly white university. Because of Flippin's presence on the roster, Missouri refused to play a scheduled game with Nebraska at Omaha in 1892. The result was a 1-0 forfeit.

In the early years, Nebraska's football team had several nicknames, including Tree-planters, Rattlesnake Boys, Antelopes, Old Gold Knights (which didn't work well after the school colors were made scarlet and cream around 1900) and Bugeaters. The team was first called Cornhuskers in 1899. Charles "Cy" Sherman, sports editor of the Nebraska State Journal at the time, assigned the nickname.

Sherman, who later gained national prominence as the sports editor of The Lincoln Star, was known as the "father of the Cornhuskers" and was made an honorary member of the Nebraska letterman's club.

Nebraska was an independent football power in the Midwest by then, under the direction of Coach Walter C. "Bummy" Booth.

"Nebraska occupies a unique position in western football," a newspaper account in 1903 said. "Too strong to find fearful competitors, the Cornhuskers can almost weep

counting exhibition victories against Lincoln High School. The 24-game winning streak stood as a school record until the 1995 season, when a 62-24 victory against Florida in the Fiesta Bowl game extended a Cornhusker winning streak to 25.

The streak reached 26 before ending at Arizona State in 1996.

Booth, a Princeton graduate, "raised Nebraska from a second-rate team among those of the Missouri Valley to a position where even the leaders of the Conference look upon her as an opponent to be feared," according to the university's student newspaper in 1905.

Booth's coaching success was soon overshadowed when Ewald O. "Jumbo" Stiehm was hired as coach in 1911. Stiehm's teams, the "Stiehm Rollers," were a combined 35-2-3 in five seasons. He remains the winningest football coach by percentage (.913) in school history.

The "Stiehm Rollers" won five Missouri Valley Conference championships and had a school-record 34-game unbeaten streak. In 1914, they were 7-0-1 and argued that they were deserving of a mythical national title. In 1915, they were even better, going 8-0 and again claiming the right to be called national champions. The Cornhuskers were considered to play in the Rose Bowl game after the 1915 season, but the university's athletic board voted to turn down any such invitation.

During Stiehm's tenure as coach, Nebraska produced its first official All-America players — Vic Halligan and Guy Chamberlin, "The Champ." Chamberlin, who came from Blue Springs, Neb., played two years at Nebraska Wesleyan before being enticed to transfer to Nebraska.

Stiehm left NU after the 1915 season because the university turned down his demand that he be paid an annual salary of \$4,250 to serve as football coach and athletic director — he also coached the basketball team. The Cornhuskers quickly overcame his departure and continued to enjoy national respect. After Coach Fred Dawson's first team defeated Pittsburgh (coached by Pop Warner) 10-0 in 1921, an Eastern newspaper described the mighty Cornhuskers as "Mankilling Mastodons."

As with everything else in this country, Cornhusker football felt the profound effects of World War I. But the end of the war ushered in the Roaring '20s, a time not only

### Milestone Games

<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>500</b>
Nov. 27, 1890 NU 10 Omaha YMCA 0 Omaha, Neb.	Oct. 17, 1903 NU 16 Haskell 0 Lincoln, Neb.	Oct. 31, 1914 NU 20 Iowa St. 7 Lincoln, Neb.	Oct. 1, 1921 NU 55 Neb. Wesleyan 0 Lincoln, Neb.	Oct. 15, 1927 NU 58 Grinnell 0 Lincoln, Neb.	Oct. 29, 1938 Missouri 13 NU 10 Lincoln, Neb.	Oct. 22, 1949 Oklahoma 48 NU 0 Lincoln, Neb.





of prohibition, flappers and Model T Fords but one in which Nebraska and Notre Dame regularly played football against each other. An 11-game series involving the schools began with a 20-19 Cornhusker victory in Lincoln in 1915 and ended with Nebraska's 17-0 victory at Memorial Stadium in 1925.

The Cornhuskers' only loss in 1921 was against the Fighting Irish, 7-0 at Lincoln. NU handed Notre Dame its only defeat in 1922, winning at South Bend, 14-6, and setting the stage for what was probably the greatest drama of Cornhusker football during the Roaring '20s. On Nov. 10, 1923, before what one newspaper called "the greatest crowd ever assembled in the Missouri Valley to witness a football game" at Memorial Stadium, Nebraska defeated Knute Rockne's "wonder team." The score was 14-7, and the Cornhusker star was Ed Weir, a sophomore from Superior, Neb., who would earn All-America recognition in both 1924 and 1925. Weir led the way to a similarly impressive 14-0 victory against Illinois and Red Grange in the 1925 season-opener at Champaign, Ill.

On Oct. 13, 1923, Nebraska played its first game in Memorial Stadium, which replaced a field that ran east and west just to the south of what is now the South Stadium offices. The Nebraska Athletic Field had been used since 1909. It could accommodate, at most, approximately 10,000 fans, which wasn't enough, given the growing popularity of Nebraska football. The Cornhuskers defeated Oklahoma 24-0 that day in 1923. It would have been an appropriate way to dedicate the stadium. The problem was, the Cornhuskers' new home wasn't officially dedicated until a week later, with a scoreless tie against Kansas. A newspaper account attributed the tie to a "stadium dedication jinx." A year earlier, Nebraska had spoiled the dedication of a new stadium at Kansas by defeating the Jayhawks 28-0.

Dawson, whose teams won three Missouri Valley Conference titles, was succeeded as coach by E.E. Bearg in 1925. Four years later, D.X. Bible arrived.

Bible, who came from Texas A&M, wasn't Nebraska's first choice to replace Bearg. Nebraska tried to lure Rockne from Notre Dame. He declined and suggested the Cornhuskers approach Bible, who had turned A&M into a Southwest Conference powerhouse.

Bible coached the Cornhuskers from 1929 to 1936. His teams won six Big Six titles and featured a number of All-Americans, among them Ray Richards, Hugh Rhea, Lawrence Ely, George Sauer and Sam Francis. Bible's best team probably was the one in 1933, the year Sauer earned All-America recognition. The Cornhuskers finished 8-1, their only loss coming at Pittsburgh.

After the 1936 season, in which Nebraska ranked No. 9 in the first Associated Press poll, Bible left in the same direction from which he had come, accepting a job at Texas. Bible was quickly replaced by Major Lawrence McCeney "Biff" Jones, who had coached at Army, LSU and Oklahoma.

Cornhusker football was important to the state in the late 1930s. With the Great Depression coming to an end, it gave Nebraskans something in which to take pride. Bowl games are taken for granted by Nebraska fans now. The Cornhuskers made an NCAA-record 35 consecutive bowl trips from 1962 to 2003. But Nebraska had never been to a postseason bowl when Jones' fourth team accepted an invitation to play in the Rose Bowl game on Jan. 1, 1941.

The celebration that followed the acceptance of the school's first bowl bid lasted 24 hours in Lincoln, according to newspaper reports. University classes were canceled, and students stormed the state capitol, demanding that the governor lead the singing of the school song, "There Is No Place Like Nebraska."

The 1940 team featured All-Americans Warren Alfson and Forrest Behm. Though it lost, 21-13, to a Stanford team that featured quarterback Frankie Albert and the innovative T-formation offense, it retains a special place in Cornhusker history. Hall of Fame Coach Bob Devaney used to joke that he'd been in the state several years before he found out the Cornhuskers had lost the 1941 Rose Bowl game.

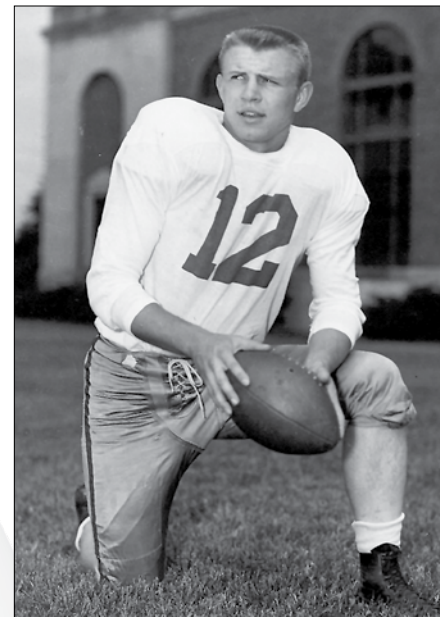
Jones left for military service after a 4-5 season in 1941, the first in a string of losing seasons that didn't end until 1950. After Jones' departure, Nebraska had six head coaches in the next eight years. Among the six was A.J. Lewandowski, a four-sport Cornhusker letterman who, at one time, served not only as head football coach

but also head basketball coach, athletic director and athletic department business manager. One of the few bright spots, during an otherwise glum period, was Tom "Train Wreck" Novak, who earned All-America recognition as a senior on a 4-5 team in 1949. Novak's jersey number (60) was the first to be retired by Nebraska.

The 1949 team was the first to be coached by Bill Glassford, who produced three winning seasons in his seven years. Glassford's best team was the one in 1950, which featured Bobby Reynolds, a sophomore from Grand Island, Neb., who rushed for 1,342 yards and scored 157 points. The 1950 Cornhuskers were 6-2-1 and finished second in the Big Seven Conference.

Reynolds was hampered by injuries as a junior and senior and couldn't duplicate the offensive statistics that earned him national recognition and the nickname "Mr. Touchdown" as a sophomore.

Glassford's 1954 team also finished second in the conference and earned a trip to the Orange Bowl because Big Seven champion Oklahoma, in the midst of an NCAA-record 47-game winning streak, wasn't allowed to make a return trip to the bowl under a "no-repeat" rule. Nebraska, which had lost to Coach Bud Wilkinson's Sooners 55-7, didn't fare much better in Miami, losing to Duke 34-7.



All-America halfback Bobby Reynolds.

Glassford resigned, after considerable controversy and a player revolt, following the 1955 season. Six losing seasons, the last five under Coach Bill Jennings, followed. Jennings was a popular assistant under Pete Elliott, who spent only one season as head coach.

Though Jennings' teams never produced winning records, they had a knack for dramatic upsets, the most notable being a 25-21 Homecoming victory against Oklahoma on Halloween in 1959. The victory ended the Sooners' record of 74 consecutive conference games without defeat. They had won 44 consecutive conference games.

The Cornhuskers opened the 1960 season by defeating fourth-ranked Texas in Austin, 14-13. But such upsets couldn't salvage Jennings' job, and he resigned after a 3-6-1 record in 1961.

Devaney was hired by Athletic Director William H. "Tippy" Dye after a search based on Dye's stated goals of Nebraska's being No. 1 in the nation in football and getting the best football coach in the country, regardless of who he was or where he was. Both goals were achieved.

Jennings was an excellent recruiter, and Devaney inherited talented players when he arrived from Wyoming in 1962. That was apparent from the beginning as Devaney turned the program around immediately. Despite a 47-8-0 record and five bowl appearances in his first five seasons at Nebraska, Devaney had detractors following 6-4 records in 1967 and 1968. The Cornhuskers' recruiting efforts fell off, and some boosters wanted Devaney and his staff fired.

In 1969, the offense was redesigned. The Cornhuskers went to an I-formation with a balanced line, at the suggestion of then-assistant coach Tom Osborne, and recruiting picked up because of the change in offensive philosophy. Nebraska began

600

Oct. 24, 1959  
Missouri 9  
NU 0  
Columbia, Mo.

700

Sept. 20, 1969  
USC 31  
NU 21  
Lincoln, Neb.

750

Sept. 29, 1973  
NU 20  
Wisconsin 16  
Lincoln, Neb.

800

Oct. 1, 1977  
NU 31  
Indiana 13  
Lincoln, Neb.

900

Oct. 19, 1985  
NU 28  
Missouri 20  
Columbia, Mo.

1,000

Nov. 6, 1993  
NU 21  
Kansas 20  
Lawrence, Kan.

1,100

Oct. 20, 2001  
NU 41  
Texas Tech 31  
Lincoln, Neb.



an NCAA-record streak of nine-win seasons in 1969 (which reached 33 before ending in 2002) and set the stage for back-to-back national championships in 1970 and 1971.

The Cornhuskers won their final seven games in 1969, including a victory against Georgia in the Sun Bowl, to initiate a 32-game unbeaten streak that didn't end until the first game of the 1972 season, Devaney's last year as head coach. He had planned to retire as coach after the 1971 season but was convinced to stay one more year to try to win an unprecedented third consecutive national title.

The first championship season, in 1970, came on the heels of a 17-12 victory against Louisiana State in the Orange Bowl. Nebraska went into the game ranked No. 3 in the Associated Press poll, but both teams ahead of the Cornhuskers lost that day. There was no such suspense in 1971. Nebraska began the season ranked No. 2 by the Associated Press and moved up to No. 1 after a 34-7 victory in its opener against Oregon. The Cornhuskers remained atop the AP poll all season, as they defeated second-ranked Oklahoma in what was, and still is, called the "Game of the Century" on Thanksgiving Day in Norman, Okla., and wrapped up the title by defeating second-ranked Alabama 38-6 in the Orange Bowl game on New Year's night.

Big Eight Conference teams finished an unprecedented first (Nebraska), second (Oklahoma) and third (Colorado) in the final AP poll for the 1971 season. The Cornhuskers' Larry Jacobson was voted the Outland Trophy winner. The 1971 Nebraska team is widely regarded as being among the best in college football history.

Cornhusker All-Americans became commonplace during Devaney's tenure as coach. Among the 18 who received such recognition were Johnny Rodgers, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1972, and Rich Glover, who won the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award that same season.

### All-Time Sagarin Rankings

All-time college football rankings according to the Jeff Sagarin computer poll. The following are the all-time highest-rated teams since 1956.

	Year	Rating	W-L-T
1. Nebraska	1995	117.05	12-0-0
2. Nebraska	1971	116.47	13-0-0
3. Mississippi	1959	109.74	10-1-0
4. Oklahoma	1971	109.68	11-1-0
5. Ohio State	1973	109.51	10-0-1
6. Washington	1991	109.47	12-0-0
7. Oklahoma	1973	109.40	10-0-1
8. Oklahoma	1974	108.19	11-0-0
9. USC	1972	107.66	12-0-0
10. Nebraska	1972	106.96	9-2-1
11. Oklahoma	1972	106.50	11-1-0
12. Florida State	1987	106.44	11-1-0
13. Miami	2001	106.36	12-0-0
14. Oklahoma	1986	106.33	11-1-0
15. Notre Dame	1966	106.32	9-0-1
16. Notre Dame	1970	106.09	10-1-0
17. Penn State	1994	105.82	12-0-0
18. Florida State	1993	105.28	12-1-0
19. Nebraska	1997	104.99	13-0-0
20. Alabama	1971	104.61	11-1-0
21. Miami	1988	104.33	11-1-0
22. Texas	1970	104.22	10-1-0
23. Syracuse	1959	104.13	11-0-0
24. Notre Dame	1988	103.86	12-0-0
25. Miami	1987	103.79	12-0-0
26. Nebraska	1970	103.58	11-0-1

Devaney, who succeeded Dye as athletic director, picked his own successor as coach — Osborne. And the success continued, uninterrupted. Under Osborne, the Cornhuskers won or shared 13 conference championships and won national championships in 1994, 1995 and 1997.

The 1994 season began in late August at the Kickoff Classic and concluded with a dramatic, come-from-behind, 24-17 victory against Miami in the Orange Bowl game to clinch Osborne's first national championship. The season was full of memorable moments, including a much-publicized quarterback situation, with three different quarterbacks starting games during the season. At the start of the year, Tommie Frazier led the Huskers. But he was sidelined in midseason by a blood clot problem in his

leg. In Frazier's absence, Brook Berringer became the starter. Berringer had problems of his own, suffering a partially collapsed lung, which led to walk-on Matt Turman taking his turn as the starter. Through it all, a dominating offensive line led by Outland Trophy winner Zach Wiegert, and a punishing defense carried the Cornhuskers and allowed them to claim the school's first national championship in 23 seasons.

In 1995, Nebraska became only the ninth major program to win back-to-back national championships since the Associated Press established its rankings in 1936. The Cornhuskers overwhelmed every opponent, including No. 2 Florida in the Fiesta Bowl game, with an offense that averaged 399.8 rushing yards per game and an aggressive and opportunistic defense.

According to the computer rankings of Jeff Sagarin, published regularly in USA Today, the 1995 Nebraska team was the best in modern collegiate history (post-1956). The 1971 Cornhuskers were a close second in Sagarin's rankings, and the 1972 team, despite finishing 9-2-1, was 10th.

The 1995 national championship might have been an unprecedented third in a row for Nebraska if Byron Bennett's 45-yard field goal attempt with one second remaining in the 1994 Orange Bowl game had been successful. The kick sailed wide left and heavily favored Florida State escaped with an 18-16 victory against a Cornhusker team that had gone through the regular season undefeated and untied.

A restructured defense, which included Butkus Award-winning outside linebacker Trev Alberts, helped put Nebraska in a position to play for the 1993 season's national championship.

The last time an Osborne-coached team had been in a position to win a national title was in 1983, when the Huskers began the season in the first Kickoff Classic ranked No. 1. After 12 consecutive victories, a missed two-point conversion at the end of the Orange Bowl game against Miami cost Nebraska the national title, 31-30. But Osborne's decision to go for two points, instead of settling for an almost-certain tie, earned him national respect. The 1983 team, nicknamed "The Scoring Explosion," featured a backfield that included the "Triplets" — Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar.

Rozier set the school record for rushing yards in a season, gaining 2,148 to lead the nation, and was awarded the second Heisman Trophy in Cornhusker history. Offensive guard Dean Steinkuhler became Nebraska's third winner of both the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award in 1983. Dave Rimington won both awards (the Outland was his second) in 1982, playing for a team that probably was more balanced, overall, than the 1983 team. The 1982 Cornhuskers also finished with a 12-1 record, but their loss came early in the season, 27-24 to Penn State at State College, Pa. That Nebraska team was ranked No. 3 in the final national polls of both major wire services.



Hall of Fame Coach Bob Devaney.

### Milestone Victories

1

Nov. 27, 1890  
NU 10  
Omaha YMCA 0  
Lincoln, Neb.

100

Nov. 16, 1907  
NU 63  
Denver 0  
Denver, Colo.

200

Oct. 31, 1925  
NU 12  
Oklahoma 0  
Lincoln, Neb.

250

Nov. 25, 1933  
NU 7  
Iowa 6  
Lincoln, Neb.

300

Oct. 24, 1942  
NU 7  
Oklahoma 0  
Norman, Okla.

400

Oct. 23, 1965  
NU 38  
Colorado 13  
Lincoln, Neb.

500

Oct. 16, 1976  
NU 51  
Kansas St. 0  
Lincoln, Neb.





Hall of Fame Coach Tom Osborne.

Nebraska won three consecutive Big Eight championships from 1981 to 1983 and shared the title with Oklahoma in 1984. The Cornhuskers entered the Big 12 as winners of the last five Big Eight titles and reached the first Big 12 Championship Game in St. Louis. Had they not been upset by Texas, they would have played for yet another national championship in the 1997 Sugar Bowl game.

Nebraska returned to the Big 12 playoff in 1997 and defeated Texas A&M for its first title in the new conference on the way to becoming only the second major college program since national rankings were first established by the Associated Press to win three national titles in four seasons. Notre Dame won national championships in 1946, 1947 and 1949.

A 27-14 victory at Washington, which was ranked No. 2 or No. 3 in the nation depending on the poll, certified the Cornhuskers as national championship contenders. A 45-38 overtime victory at Missouri kept their title hopes alive. And a 42-17 victory against No. 3 Tennessee in the Orange Bowl boosted them to the top of the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll.

The Missouri game was the most memorable. The Cornhuskers trailed 38-31 with 1:02 remaining, no timeouts and a first down at their own 33-yard line. Quarterback Scott Frost took them down the field in seven plays, all passes, the last deflected by Shevin Wiggins and caught by Matt Davison.

Davison's cradling of the ball in the end zone, with no time remaining, immediately went down among the greatest plays in Nebraska football history, along with Rodgers' punt return for a touchdown in the 1971 "Game of the Century" and Jerry Tagge's stretch for a touchdown in the fourth quarter of the 1971 Orange Bowl game to give the Cornhuskers their first national championship.

But the 1997 season's most significant event occurred on Dec. 10, when Osborne announced he would step aside after the bowl game, to be replaced by long-time assistant Frank Solich, a three-year Cornhusker letterman as a fullback for Devaney and a co-captain as a senior in 1965.

Osborne was head coach for 25 years, the longest tenure in school history. He was Nebraska's 25th head coach, not counting Frothingham, who was probably the "coach" of the 1890 team in name only. Under Osborne's direction, the program achieved remarkable success, exceeding any in its rich history. The Cornhuskers were 255-49-3 under Osborne, a winning percentage of .836. The 255 victories are the sixth-most all-time among major college football coaches. The winning percentage ranks fifth all-time. His achievements are such that the National Football

Foundation waived its three-year waiting period so that he could be inducted into its Hall of Fame in December of 1998.

In Osborne's final five seasons, Nebraska was a combined 60-3.

"I want to make sure when I leave this program I leave it in the best shape I possibly can," an emotional Osborne said at the news conference to announce he would be retiring. "So I'm very anxious that anybody who is thinking about going to the University of Nebraska understands that there probably isn't a whole lot (that's) going to change. One guy's moving out. But in terms of the overall program, in terms of stability, in terms of our ability to get the job done, not much is going to change."

To that end, Osborne, with Athletic Director Bill Byrne's sanction, picked long-time assistant and former Cornhusker fullback Frank Solich as his replacement. Despite being beset by injuries, Solich's first team in 1998 managed nine victories and Nebraska's 30th consecutive bowl trip. His second team went 12-1, avenging its only loss to Texas in the Big 12 Championship Game and defeating Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl game to finish No. 2 (ESPN/Coaches) and No. 3 (AP) in the national rankings.

The 1999 team would be Solich's best, even though the 2001 team, led by the Cornhuskers' third Heisman Trophy winner Eric Crouch, played for the BCS national championship in the Rose Bowl game, against a Miami team laden with NFL talent. The trip to Pasadena for the "granddaddy" of all bowl games was Nebraska's first since its first-ever bowl trip, following the 1940 season.

Defining plays in Crouch's Heisman Trophy dash included a 95-yard touchdown run against Missouri and a 63-yard touchdown reception in a 20-10 upset of No. 2-ranked Oklahoma.

Solich coached for two more seasons, making dramatic changes on his staff following a 7-7 record in 2002, and his final team went 9-3 in the regular season. The Huskers went on to add a victory over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl to finish with 10 wins in 2003.

Despite Solich's 58-19 record (.753), first-year Athletic Director Steve Pederson was concerned about the program's direction. In announcing his decision to replace Solich, Pederson said, "I don't apologize for having high expectations. They're part of a great athletic program, and the most disappointing thing you can ever deal with are no expectations."

Among his expectations were that Nebraska would be playing for or gaining on the national championship "on a consistent basis. This is the best job in the country," he said, "and anybody who doesn't want to win the national championship shouldn't bother applying."

Pederson chose Bill Callahan, who had coached the NFL's Oakland Raiders to Super Bowl XXXVII less than 12 months earlier. His introduction came 41 days after Pederson fired Solich, ushering in a new era of Cornhusker football.

Callahan credits former Cornhusker Barry Alvarez, for whom he once served as an assistant at Wisconsin, with being "integral in my development as a coach." And he shares Pederson's expectations. "I'd tell the Husker Nation that the goal, the No. 1 goal and objective, is to win the national championship," Callahan said at his introductory news conference. "I'm fully committed to that responsibility, and that's one that I, again, take very seriously as a football coach and as an administrator."

The program hasn't gone through such sweeping changes since Dye hired Coach Devaney, who began Nebraska's streak of 35 bowl games and 42 winning regular seasons.

Callahan, who brought the pass-oriented West Coast Offense to a program that has been noted for its running game, wasn't available when the search for Solich's successor began. But "if you started out and said, 'What are you looking for?'" said Pederson, "you're looking for Bill Callahan."

Consecutive Sellout Games

600

Oct. 18, 1986  
NU 48  
Missouri 17  
Lincoln, Neb.

700

Oct. 5, 1996  
NU 39  
Kansas St. 3  
Manhattan, Kan.

750

Nov. 4, 2000  
NU 56  
Kansas 17  
Lincoln, Neb.

1

Nov. 3, 1962  
Missouri 16  
NU 7

100

Sept. 29, 1979  
NU 42  
Penn St. 17

200

Oct. 29, 1994  
NU 24  
Colorado 7

250

Sept. 7, 2002  
NU 44  
Utah State 13