

# The Liberty Bowl

## Nebraska mirror image of Heels' ground game

Carolina will think it's eyeing itself in a mirror when it faces Nebraska in the Liberty Bowl Dec. 19 in Memphis.

ABC-TV will televise the game at 9 p.m. EST (8 p.m. CST).

Just like Carolina, the Cornhuskers have a tough defense, a ground-oriented attack and a flashy runningback.

I. M. Hipp is the Husker answer to Carolina's flashy freshman Amos Lawrence, recipient of rookie-of-the-year honors in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Hipp broke into the Nebraska lineup in the third game of the season when starter Rick Berns was injured. Hipp ran for 1,301 yards this season, 1,263 of them in the last eight games.

Hipp had a bad afternoon three weeks ago in his team's 38-7 loss to Oklahoma on national television when he was held to 33 yards in 15 carries against the powerful Sooners. The loss sent Nebraska to an 8-3 record and to Memphis while Oklahoma goes to meet Arkansas in the Orange Bowl.

But Hipp had four games this season where he rushed for more than 200 yards, including a 254-yard game against Kansas. The sophomore from Chapin, S.C. had a seven yard-per-carry average this season.

Nebraska, in the past, was a team that could run or throw the ball. But the combination of Hipp's proving himself on the ground and the loss of three wide receivers to graduation last year caused the switch to a ground attack. The Huskers threw less than 13 times per game this year with a 7.5 completion average. In 10 games this year, Husker receivers caught passes for 110 yards, compared to 190 yards per game a year ago.

Because of injuries, two quarterbacks split time this year. Tom Sorley, a runner, and Randy Garcia, a better passer, shared the duties this season.

Carolina's defense, regarded as one of the best in the nation, will go head-to-head with a Husker offensive line considered the best at the school in nearly 20 years. Center Tom Davis and guard Greg Jorgensen anchor the experienced line.

Nebraska's defense limited opponents to 214 yards a game this season, while Carolina's defense allowed less than 239 yards. Lee Kunz, a linebacker, keys the Husker defense.

Carolina's defensive secondary, which became famous for its speed this season, suffered a setback against Duke when cornerback Ricky Barden was sidelined with a knee injury. He will miss the Liberty

Bowl after undergoing surgery.

The Tar Heel defensive line is spearheaded by All-America Dee Hardison, one of the quickest big men in college football. He is joined by other standouts such as Ron Broadway at the other tackle spot and noseguard Dave Simmons.

Of course, the spotlights this season fell on the speedy freshman tailback out of Virginia Beach, Va., Amos Lawrence. Lawrence broke the NCAA freshman rushing record this season by running for 1,211 yards. He averaged 6.3 yards per carry but didn't see action in the Tar Heel opener at Kentucky.

The Liberty Bowl is the sixth bowl in eight years for the Tar Heels. Only six schools — Alabama, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Penn State and Texas — have been to more bowls in that period.

### Halftime to honor Presley

Elvis Presley, the entertainer who died in August, will be honored during halftime at the Liberty Bowl. Memphis was his home when he died.

In addition to the tribute to the singer, both school bands will perform at halftime. A spectacular fireworks presentation, with the names of the bowl and the two schools spelled out in the sky, will highlight the pregame ceremonies.

Both teams will be hampered during the next two weeks in their preparations for the game. Exams end for Carolina on Dec. 16, the day the team departs for Memphis, and end for Nebraska Dec. 19, the day of the game. Teams playing in bowls after Christmas have more time to practice.

This is Carolina's first trip to the Liberty Bowl. Other trips to bowls under 11-year head coach Bill Dooley have been to the 1970 and 1976 Peach Bowl, 1972 and 1974 Sun Bowl and the 1971 Gator Bowl.



Carolina's defense will face a tough test in the Liberty Bowl Dec. 19 against Nebraska, which has a tough offensive line and a quick runningback in I. M. Hipp. Photo by Joseph Thomas.

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# CAPTAIN'S TABLE

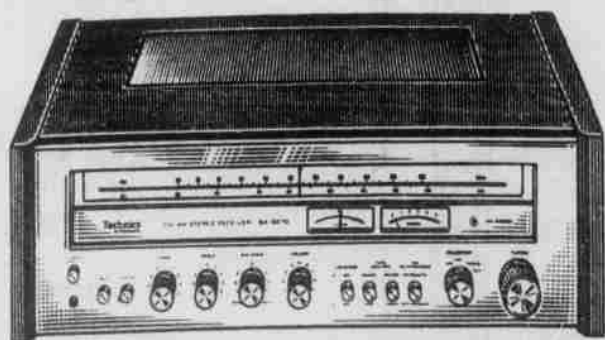
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