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Northwestern fans cherish Rose Bowl

■ **NORTHWESTERN:** Much like Oregon fans a year ago, Wildcat fans have contracted Rose Bowl fever

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — There's only a week to go until final exams at Northwestern, the school known for having the brains of the Big Ten. The buzz on campus, however, isn't about tests, it's about Rose Bowl tickets. And how to get them.

With the once hapless Wildcats heading to Pasadena for the first time in over 40 years, pigskin fever has hit with a vengeance. "Students are talking about football. That hasn't happened in nearly 50 years," said John Paynter, the school's director of bands who, as a student, cheered on the

Wildcats at their last bowl appearance — the 1949 Rose Bowl.

On Monday, so many California-dreaming fans jammed the phone lines to inquire about bowl tickets that the university's voice mail system broke. That was the first day the university was open after Michigan's victory over Ohio State handed the Wildcats the Rose Bowl bid.

Mary Doi, a senior and self-described fairweather fan, was among those trying to get tickets. "It's a once in a half-century chance," she said.

Until this season, when the Wildcats became the nation's favorite underdogs, racking up a 10-1 record and capturing the Big Ten championship, the average SAT scores of Northwestern freshmen was more often a source of

pride than the football team — especially during a 34-game losing streak between 1979 and 1982.

But this year's team was different, and students started attending games in droves — although this was the first season they had to pay for tickets.

Dyche Stadium, which seats 49,256, sold out three times this year; the school's last sellout was in 1983.

Charles Chun, a senior, remembers his reaction last spring when told he'd have to pay for his tickets.

"I thought, 'Why should I have to pay to go see us lose?'" he said, smiling. "But it all worked out all right."

As for those much-desired Rose Bowl tickets, Northwestern will be allotted 21,904 at \$80 each.

WEDNESDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AL
■ CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Sent Chris Tremie, catcher, outright to Nashville of the American Association.
■ NEW YORK YANKEES—Named Jim Thursby assistant director of media relations and Gene Keohane baseball operations assistant.

NL

■ CINCINNATI REDS—Named Tommy Thompson manager and Andre Rabouin pitching coach of Charleston, W. Va. of the South Atlantic League.
■ COLORADO ROCKIES—Extended the contract of Bob Gebhard, general manager, through the 1999 season and appointed him to executive vice president.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

■ CALGARY CANNONS—Named Tom Valcke general manager.

BASKETBALL

NBA
■ HOUSTON ROCKETS—Signed Clyde

Drexler, guard, to a multi-year contract extension.

FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE AMERICAN FOOTBALL

■ WLAF—Named David Tossell director of information and manager of NFL International public relations.

HOCKEY

NHL

■ BOSTON BRUINS—Sent Blaine Lacher, goalie, to Providence of the AHL.
■ NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Sent Ricard Persson, defenseman, to Albany of the AHL. Recalled Cale Hulse, defenseman, from Albany.
■ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Recalled Bob Halkidis, defenseman, from Atlanta of the IHL.

COLONIAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ UTICA BLIZZARD—Released Tom Cole, goalie; Tim Sullivan and Jamie Allan, forwards; and Garrett Burnett, defenseman.

EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ JOHNSTOWN CHIEFS—Released Rich Rennie, forward.

COLLEGE

■ AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL—Announced the addition of women's field hockey and women's lacrosse programs for the 1996-97 academic year.

■ DAVIDSON—Named James Murphy athletic director.

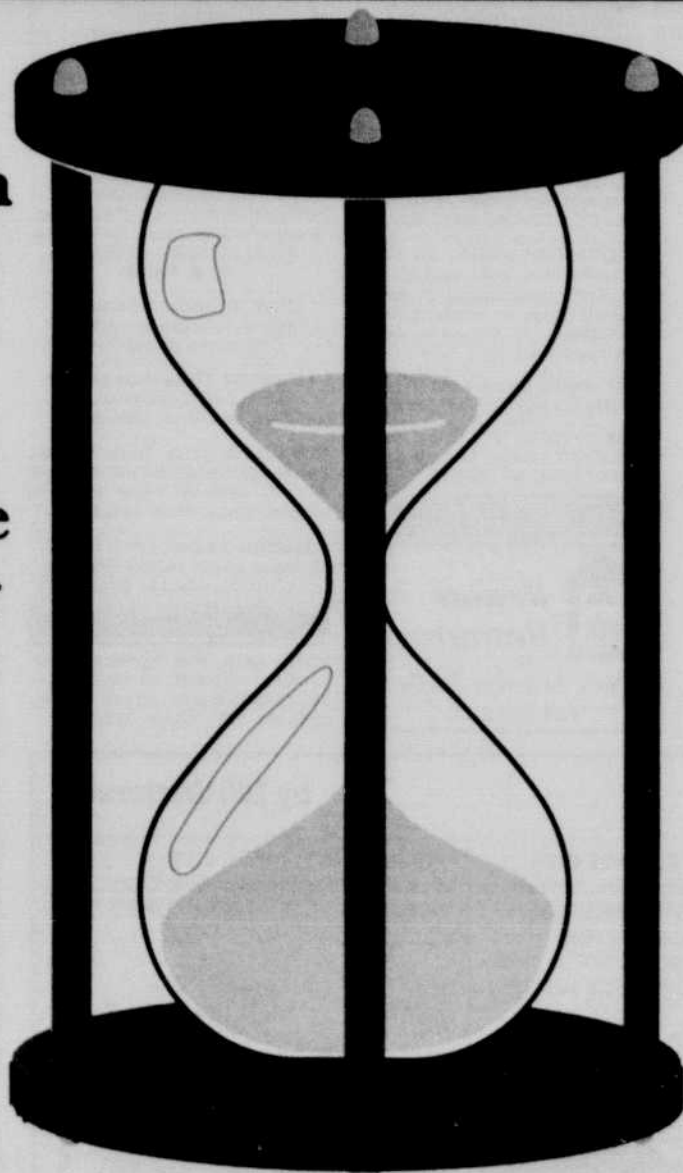
■ HAWAII—Fired Bob Wagner, football coach; Rocky Alt, slot backs-offensive special teams coach; Michael Carter, quarterback coach; Jim Cochran, offensive line coach-recruiting coordinator; Trent Miles, wide receivers coach; Ulma Aloa, defensive line coach; Mark Banker, outside linebackers-defensive special teams coach; Ken Flajole, secondary coach; and George Lumpkin, assistant head coach-defensive coordinator.

■ PRINCETON—Named George VanderZwaag associate director of athletics.

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