



The Iron N  
353 Nebraska Union  
Student Involvement Mailbox #210  
[theironn@gmail.com](mailto:theironn@gmail.com)

**To:** ASUN Executive Committee  
**From:** The Iron N  
**Date:** February 26, 2014  
**Subject:** 2014 Husker Football Student Migration Game

---

As dedicated Husker fans and football student section leaders, The Iron N has a strong interest in which game is chosen for the 2014 Husker Football student migration game. The goal of declaring one Husker away game each season as the "student migration game" is to give as many students as possible the experience of travelling to an away game and supporting our Huskers on the road. Additionally, it's an important opportunity for us as Husker fans to lend strong support in critical, marquee road games that are often some of the most difficult and important games on the Huskers' schedule.

With these factors in mind, The Iron N would like to make two main recommendations for the 2014 student migration game, as well as provide a third backup option in case the first two end up not working out logically. As it turns out, Nebraska's road schedule for the 2014 campaign consists of most of the Huskers' most crucial matchups; we've narrowed it down to the two that we think will be most important and the strongest attractions for students.

#### Main Recommendation #1

**Nebraska at Wisconsin – Saturday, November 15, 2014**

Key features:

- **HUGE rivalry** – Nebraska-Wisconsin has grown naturally over the last two and a half years in the Big Ten into a fierce rivalry across all sports – *especially* football.
- **Big Ten West heavyweights** – with the addition of Maryland and Rutgers prompting divisional realignment, the Huskers and the Badgers are the two clear frontrunners that will be fighting for dominance of the Big Ten West annually.
- **Strong matchup** – Wisconsin was one of the best teams in the Big Ten last year, and look to be a top competitor again.
- **Big Ten Championship berth on the line** – if the early part of the season plays out right and both teams have strong records in mid-November, this game could decide the divisional championship. Even from this far out, this is the most important game on the Huskers' 2014 schedule.
- **Short distance** – the drive from Lincoln to Madison is just over 7 hours.

Key drawbacks:

- **Cold November** – it might be getting pretty cold in mid-November in a place like Wisconsin.
- **Unruly fans** – a relatively minor issue, but Wisconsin fans, especially the student section, aren't known to be the most pleasant or sportsmanlike (ask Husker fans who were in Madison for our 2011 loss).

## Main Recommendation #2

**Nebraska at Michigan State** – Saturday, October 4, 2014

Key features:

- **Our first B1G game** – Michigan State will be the defending Big Ten and Rose Bowl champions, so it's a huge matchup.
- **Early-season energy** – it's the Huskers' second road game of the season, and the first conference road game. If the team is on a roll heading into conference play, we can bet on a lot of energy and hype from students and fans surrounding the season, which would bode very well for student attendance.
- **Warm early October** – early October should still be great weather for a student road trip.

Key drawbacks:

- **Long distance** – the drive from Lincoln to East Lansing is just under 11 hours.
- **Cross-division matchup** – Michigan State will be in the Big Ten East, so it's not quite as important as the Wisconsin game (but still a very good matchup).

## Backup Recommendation

**Nebraska at Northwestern** – Saturday, October 18, 2014

In the case that the Wisconsin and Michigan State matchups become infeasible or impossible for any reason, the Northwestern game would be our backup recommendation. The NU-NU matchup has certainly provided high entertainment and close finishes over the past three years; also, Ryan Field in Evanston usually doesn't come close to selling out, so our chances of getting a significant block of tickets would be much higher. (The Husker invasion for the 2012 comeback game, in which the Sea of Red covered about half of the stadium, is a perfect example.)

## Conclusion

Ultimately, The Iron N selected Wisconsin as our first-choice recommendation because of the huge and growing rivalry with the Badgers, and the even bigger possible implications of this game on the Huskers' season. Despite the late-season date, likely chilly weather, and possibly hostile environment, Wisconsin was the overwhelming consensus at our January general meeting.

That being said, the Michigan State game would also be a strong choice, and comes in as a close second – it's a longer trip for students, but a matchup against the defending Big Ten and Rose Bowl champions, early enough to take advantage of conference play hype and fair weather, would be a great draw for students.

We understand that a key factor of the student migration game is the availability of tickets in the opponent's stadium. Both Wisconsin and Michigan State might be difficult games to get a sizeable visiting ticket allocation to, but if possible, these games remain far and away our top two choices.

The Iron N is planning on organizing a formal bus trip to whichever game is selected, for as many students as would like to go. We see this student migration game as a prime opportunity to re-create a unified home student section atmosphere, in order to give the team critical support in one of their biggest games of the season.

On behalf of The Iron N exec team and our dedicated member corps, thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact us for any further information, recommendations, or any other issues pertaining to the Husker student experience!