

Charge clouds Rodgers' future

by Gary Seacrest

Johnny Rodgers' future as a Nebraska football player remains in doubt after the All-American flanker was arrested on an open charge Saturday night and freed on \$150 bond.

Cass County Att. James F. Begley said Rodgers, a 20-year old UNL junior, was under investigation for possession of marijuana. The county attorney said a decision would be made Thursday, when Rodgers is scheduled to appear in Cass County court in Plattsmouth, on whatever, if any, charge will be filed.

Rodgers said Tuesday that if he is convicted he probably wouldn't play next season. But the football star maintains he is innocent of any wrongdoing and said, "They have no evidence to charge me with possession of marijuana."

In a prepared statement Head Coach Bob Devaney said, "We plan no action in regard to Johnny Rodgers at this time because the matter still rests with the civil authorities and the

courts. Any statement or action on our part at this time would be premature."

Last June, Rodgers was placed on a two-year probation after pleading guilty to larceny from a person. After court probation was announced, Devaney decided to let Rodgers play during the 1971 season. However, the Husker coach put Rodgers on a two-year probation as a football participant.

Begley said Rodgers was arrested about 6 p.m. Saturday by the Nebraska State Patrol on Interstate 80 near Greenwood. The county attorney said Rodgers was a passenger in a car driven by another man, who was identified as John H. Grant, 20, of Omaha. The car was stopped by the patrol for an alleged speeding violation.

The county attorney said he was awaiting a state laboratory report on the "type and quantity of substance" found in the car.

Rodgers has not participated in spring practice this year while recovering from surgery on his thumb.

R & I racketeers will nab nifty new nets

The endless hours spent by UNL tennis buffs waiting for an open tennis court will soon be a thing of the past.

Sixteen new tennis courts, located south of the Harper-Schramm-Smith dormitory complex and east of the Cather-Pound complex, are expected to be completed and ready for play in three weeks, according to University officials. The 16 new courts, along with the six present courts south of the Men's Physical Education Building, will give students a total of 22 tennis courts to choose from.

This week workers are surfacing the Harper-Schramm-Smith tennis courts and next week, if good weather continues, will begin surfacing the Cather-Pound courts.

An artificial putting green, located south of Harper-Schramm-Smith, is expected to be ready by the start of the first summer session. New handball courts, located across from Cather-Pound, are completed and are ready for student use.

The new sports facilities are part of a \$328,994 recreation project, which has been financed by student fees and revenue bonds for residence hall construction earmarked for recreation facilities.



More tennis courts on the way . . . workmen surface the new tennis courts south of Harper-Schramm-Smith dormitory complex.

sports shorts

North Platte Junior College sprint standout Karl Webb has signed a national letter of intent to attend UNL.

Webb, a triple gold medal winner in the 1970 Nebraska state high school meet, was national junior college 220 champion last season. In the national junior college finals last year, he won the 220 in :21.4, placed third in the 100 (:9.6) and finished fifth in the triple jump (46-9½).

Kansas scored a 6-3 tennis victory over Nebraska Monday on the UNL courts.

The Husker tennis players take a 6-6 season record to the Air Force Academy for a dual Friday, then travel to Boulder for a triangular on Saturday with New Mexico and Colorado.

The Nebraska crew's eight-man boat finished fourth Saturday in the Springfield (Ill.) Invitational Collegiate Rowing Regatta.

This was one of our better

... races," said Peter Zandbergen, UNL crew member. "It was a surprise that we defeated two crews—Minnesota and Notre Dame—that have a tradition of fine oarsmen."

Fairbury's Tom Siegal is one of the latest high school football players to sign a national letter of intent to attend UNL.

The 6-2, 205-pound Siegal has been a football, basketball and track standout at Fairbury. As of Tuesday 41 athletes had signed football letters of intent to play for the Huskers.

UNL's women's softball team will play two home games this week on the field behind the Women's Physical Education Building.

The Nebraska women host Concordia Wednesday at 5 p.m. and Kearney Thursday at 4:30 p.m. The UNL team also travels to Kearney for an 11 a.m. game Saturday.

The Nebraska soccer club beat Iowa State 4-3 Sunday in Boulder, Colo., to capture seventh place in the Big Eight soccer club tournament. Colorado beat Kansas 4-1 to win first place in the tournament.

The UNL hockey club will meet for the last time this year Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Gymnasts end season, prepare for next year

The 1971-72 gymnastics season is over, but the work goes on for coach Francis Allen's Cornhuskers.

That goes double for NCAA qualifiers Hoppy Batten and Larry Evermann. Batten, a two-event Big Eight champion, and Evermann, who finished third for the second straight year on the pommel horse at the recent Big Eight meet, are working four to five days a week—standard practice in a sport which requires tremendous concentration and physical conditioning.

Batten had the best season for a Husker gymnast in years. He averaged 9.0 (10 is perfect) in floor exercise, 8.97 in vaulting and 9.2 on the high bar; won Big Eight titles in the high bar and vaulting events; and just missed the national finals—finishing seventh in vaulting and eighth on the high bar.

"I was satisfied with my routines at the nationals," Batten said of his performances at

the April meet at Iowa State. "I did the best I could—like I had all year, but I missed by two-tenths of a point in both events. That's a close range, but still a wide range in that competition."

Batten, a Lincoln junior, said going to the NCAA meet was a tremendous experience. "I saw the best gymnasts in the nation and I learned a lot from watching them. I'm looking forward to Berkeley (site of next year's meet), I'll tell you that. All my events will be just as tough next year, but I hope to win or finish in the top three in both events (high bar and vaulting) next year."

Evermann, who finished 10th on the pommel horse in the recent NCAA meet, said his second trip to the nationals was about like the first except that he was a lot more confident.

"It (the NCAA meet) was the big one, of course, but I still knew what I had to do," he said. "I didn't place like I'd have liked to have, but the competition was fantastic."

The junior from Lincoln averaged 8.48 on the season, but anticipates scoring in the low 9's next year. His goal for next year: "Nothing less than first in the Big Eight."

Summing up the 1971-1972 season, Allen said he was very impressed with the way the Huskers worked. "Out of all the states, Nebraska has one of the poorest high school gymnastics programs," he said. "The fact that these guys can come from that kind of system and do as well as they have tells me something about how hard they've worked."