

daily nebraskan sports

Humm's knee mends; injury situation good

By Bill Bennett

Husker quarterback Dave Humm, who has been hampered by an injured knee, has been counted out of Saturday's game with UCLA.

According to George Sullivan, the team's physical therapist, Humm's recovery is "progressing about as well as can be expected."

The Huskers' only other major injury is to offensive left guard Bob Wolfe. Wolfe injured a knee in a scrimmage Saturday, but Sullivan said he should be ready for the UCLA game.

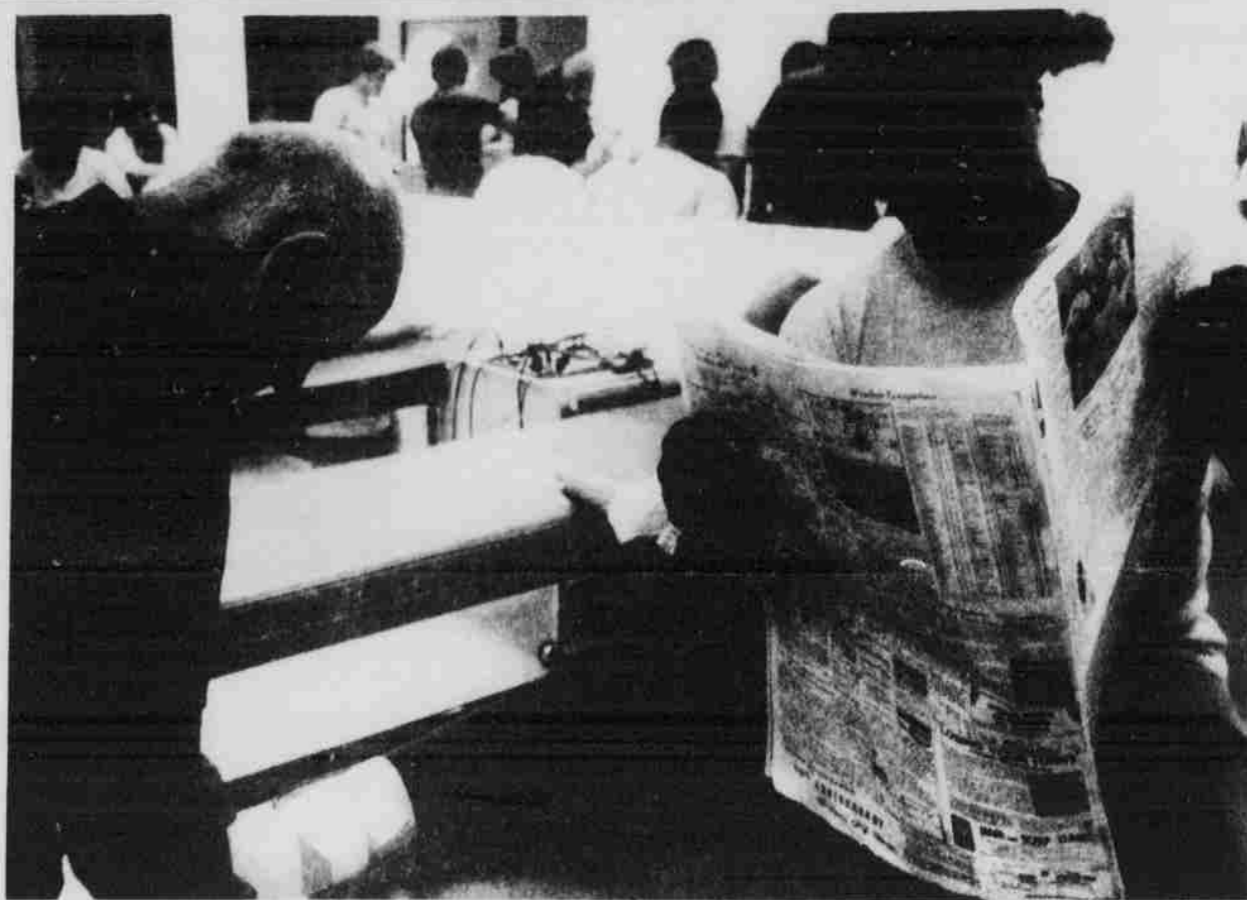
Sullivan said the injury situation this year is good, and as of now, no player would be forced out of play for the year because of an injury.

Working with injured players is nothing new for Sullivan. He has been the team's physical therapist for 20 years. A coworker, Paul Schneider, has been the team's trainer for 21 years.

Both men work in the training room, which is in the new athletic office building at the south end of the stadium.

Two of the most common things found in the training room are ice and tape according to Sullivan.

"During two-a-day practices, almost 500 pounds of ice is used daily for injuries," he said, "and by mid-October about 18,000 yards of tape will be used."



Husker trainer Paul Schneider tapes the ankle of football player Daryl White before practice.

Glory eludes red shirts

Sports editor's note: Dave McBride's column "Time Out" and Bob Hill's column "Over the Hill" will alternate on Wednesdays.

By Dave McBride

Saturday the eyes of thousands of Nebraska football fans will focus on Coach Tom Osborne's red-clad Husker legion and will stay on the team until long after the final whistle of the 1973 grid campaign has blown.

At the same time, however, some Husker football players are all but guaranteed that no eyes will focus on them. For these team members, the red shirted players, a season of hard practice most likely will draw no glory.

Redshirt is the classification of a player who sees no varsity action during a season. It enables the player to save that year of eligibility for later in his career.

Take Rich Varner, for example. He was a standout lineman for Wichita Southeast High School in Kansas. He came to Nebraska on a football scholarship last fall and started the first two freshman games as an offensive guard. Then he was hurt and was played sparingly in the last two frosh games.

After spring practice was over last May, he was notified that he would be redshirted this season.

Varner said that when he was being recruited he was never promised that he would get to play varsity football as a sophomore. He said he was disappointed about being redshirted, but not suprised.

According to UNL Sports Information Director Don

Bryant, no player actually becomes a redshirt until the season is over and playing time is computed. In Varner's case, because four lettermen are returning at offensive guard positions, he has all but been assured that he would not play this year.

He and other redshirts are practicing with the scout squads, the units that run plays that Husker opponents are expected to use.

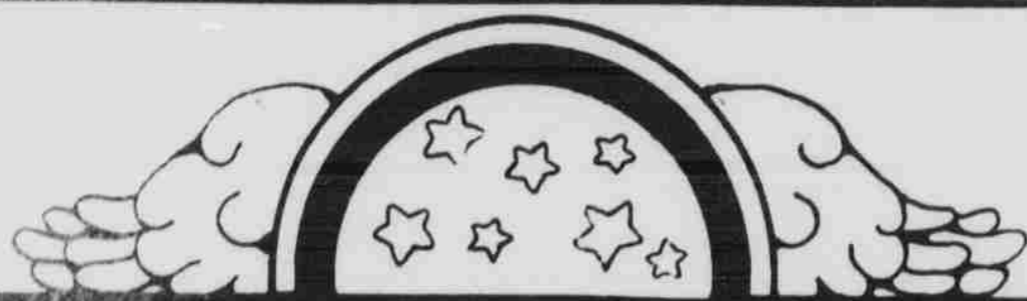
time out

Varner said that while the redshirts don't work on Husker plays or strategy, they still have the chance to develop basic skills and polish their technique.

Motivation to practice is naturally not as great when there is little chance of playing, Varner said. But the desire to learn improve and better their chances of playing next year keep scout squad members going, he said.

While some conferences, notably the Big 10, have chosen not to permit redshirting, it has been used in the Big 8 for some time. More than half of this year's Husker offensive starters have been redshirted.

Redshirting has proven valuable to Nebraska's football program, and while the eyes of Nebraskans will not focus on them this year, Rich Varner and his cohorts are still vital to a winning football team.



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The Nebraska Union Talks & Topics Committee needs members of the University community—students or staff—to help organize and publicize a series of programs this fall and plan more programs for next spring on HUMAN POTENTIALS.

Contact Talks & Topics Chairperson Joan Pfeil at 432-1926 or Program Advisor Suzanne Brown, in Union 115 (472-2454) as soon as possible or come to our meeting Thurs., Sept. 6 at 4:30 Union 115.