

Freshmen receive varsity experience

By Scott Jones

Making Nebraska's varsity football squad as a freshman is a rare accomplishment.

But three of five freshmen who spent much of the fall with the varsity said they are glad to be back on the freshman team.

Keith Bishop, Lee Kunz and Kelvin Roehrs worked with the varsity from the second week of practice until the Indiana game three weeks ago. They now are with the freshmen team. Another freshman, Ken Brown, has remained with the varsity.

Freshman defensive tackle Mark Goodspeed would be happy just to be playing. Goodspeed, who also played with the varsity, broke his right arm in a 30-0 freshman win over Kansas State's junior varsity.

Kunz had moved up to share a second team linebacker post, but neither he, Roehrs, Goodspeed nor Bishop saw much action in practice or in a game.

"Get some experience"

"I'd love to be with the varsity but they've got three centers and I don't know the offense very well," said Bishop, a Midland, Tex. native. "I think it would help me more to play and get some experience. That's why the coaches played me with the freshmen."

Head Coach Tom Osborne said freshmen are still being considered for varsity positions.

"There are several freshmen that could play on the third team but they wouldn't play that much so we thought it's better that they be with the freshmen," Osborne said.

"We're still looking at freshmen. If we see anybody who looks good in their games and can help us, we'll bring them up," he added.

Glad to be back

Roehrs, a middle guard from Lincoln Southeast, and Kunz also are glad to be back with the freshmen.

"I was glad to be up there but I didn't like sitting around," Roehrs said. "It kind of set me back, too, because I didn't have much time to practice. Now I can get some experience."

Kunz a Lakewood, Colo. native echoed Roehrs and added, "I even felt I was getting out of condition."

Wingback Brown, conversely, is pleased that he will stay with the varsity.

As second string wingback with Tom Heiser, the Cincinnati native has caught two passes for 40 yards and carried the ball six times for a net loss of one yard.

Arm fracture

Goodspeed, now on the sidelines, fractured his arm while hauling down the Kansas State quarterback after a pitch on an option play. As the quarterback fell, Goodspeed said, "I was turning, put my arm back to support myself and I heard it snap."

"When I stood up I knew it was sprained or broken because it really hurt," he said.

Osborne said a hardship case ruling will be requested for Goodspeed to preserve four remaining years of eligibility. Varsity players Steve Lindquist and Jeff Hansen were injured last year as freshmen but still retained four years of eligibility because hardship cases were approved.

Goodspeed attended Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Mo., where, in addition to his football performances, he set a state discus record of 188 ft. As a senior, the 6 ft. 6 in. 235 pounder also was the indoor shot put champion.

Two-sport star

Kunz, whose cousin Terry is Colorado's fullback, also was a two-sport star. At Wheat Ridge High School he was twice the high jump and discus state champion.

Last year, he leaped 6 ft. 9 in. and heaved the discus 190 ft.—best nationally for high school performers.

Brown was a football and basketball star at Elder High School in Cincinnati. He averaged about 20 points per game when his team was twice the state triple-A basketball champion.

Brown said he has altered his running style since coming to Nebraska. He ran in a dancing style in high school but now is taught "how to get the ball and not to dance but just run over the guy."

Brown said he wants to enter broadcasting in the future and is working for campus radio station KRNU from 8 to 9 a.m.

Roehrs started three years at Southeast, primarily at middle guard. He was all-state as a junior and senior.

He is a pre-med major and hopes to become a radiologist.

Walkons aid freshman football team

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"They said they considered me among their top 10 walkons and encouraged me to try out." Hager is 6 ft. 1 in., 170 pounds and runs the 40 in 4.9 seconds.

Hipp and Steward have government grants to aid them financially but Vering and walkon safety John Ingram downplayed the importance of a scholarship.

"A scholarship isn't that important

to me," said Ingram, from Omaha Westside. "As long as I get to play I can pick it up later."

Ingram started as safety against Kansas State and is rated by assistant freshman coach Guy Ingles as slightly ahead of what 1973 Silver Creek walkon Larry Valasek accomplished as a freshman.

Valasek is now the second team varsity safety.

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