

# sports

## Porter is back on feet after crippling neck injury

By Scott Ahlstrand

**Editor's note:** This is the second article in a two-part series dealing with athletes and injuries. On Saturday, April 12, 1980, sophomore Randee Johnson cracked a vertebra and was partially paralyzed in spring football practice.

Before an afternoon practice on April 21, 1976, Budge Porter was a promising young football cornerback. He was looking forward to a career in physical education and a solid future as a Cornhusker blackshirt.

The Nebraska City native had the perfect size for his position (6' 1", 190 lbs.) and was being red-shirted after playing for UNL's freshman team.

Although he suffered a knee injury his freshman season, Porter was working out with the varsity in spring practice. He was enthusiastic about his future with Nebraska until a freak injury in a 10 minute scrimmage shattered his dreams.

During that 10-minute span, Budge Porter suffered a broken neck.

The injury paralyzed Porter from the neck down and ended any future the young athlete had in football.

### Routine play

Porter was injured in a routine play, I-back I.M. Hipp took the pitch-out and was running around end when Porter came up to make the stop. At the same time, a linebacker teammate smashed into Hipp. Hipp's speed plus the momentum of Porter and his teammate, was too much force for Porter's neck. The collision will remain vivid in Porter's mind.

"I remember the play very clearly," said Porter. "What was amazing was I wasn't even knocked unconscious. I knew what had happened to me because I had been studying the spinal cord in anatomy class. I couldn't feel anything. I just couldn't believe it. I thought I had already had my injury (knee)."

The next year was very discouraging for Porter. Not only was he forced to quit school, but his rehabilitation proceeded at a lethargic pace.

### Basically worthless

"I was basically worthless that first year," Porter said. "I wasn't able to use my arms until the end of the first year, and my legs didn't respond to constant therapy until

my second year."

Although the road to rehabilitation has been a long and tedious path, Porter is satisfied with the results.

"I've had therapy for the last four years," Porter said. "I work with Jane Snyder. She also works with Tom Novak (a former Cornhusker football player, who was paralyzed in a fall). And while the success I've had wasn't easy to see immediately, I can now look back and see the progress."

Although Porter has made great strides in his rehabilitation, it is far from over. Porter isn't completely restricted to his wheelchair any more, and he walks 600 yards without resting, three days a week. His therapy also includes a 1½ hour workout with weights twice a week.

### Intense therapy

"This semester I've been more intense than ever with my therapy," Porter said. "On top of walking and using weights, I'm also having therapy sessions twice a week."

Porter, a senior who will graduate next year with a business degree, knows that he may never completely overcome the injury. But that's not going to stop him from trying.

"I know I might have to continue this therapy all my life, but if that's what it's going to take then I'll do it," Porter said. "It's not healthy to sit in a chair all day, so right now my goal is to get rid of my wheelchair."

Porter started in organized sports in seventh grade and competed in football, basketball and track during all three years of high school. In his senior year of high school, Porter accepted a full scholarship to attend UNL. Budge was the third generation of Porters to play for the Cornhuskers.

### No animosity

"Both my grandfather and father played football for UNL," Porter said. "My brother, Scott, just received a football scholarship from UNL, and my sister was just named a Nebraska cheerleader for next year. I guess you can say our family has a lot to do with Nebraska football."

Although Porter was injured severely, he has no animosity for football or the UNL program. In fact he is one of UNL's strongest supporters.

"I have nothing against UNL or football at all," Porter said. "Both Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne have been super to me. I don't think what happened to me should deter from the game at all. I still believe strongly in organized athletics. What happened to me was just a freak injury."

Since Porter's injury was so serious, it brought out questions concerning the risks involved in playing football. However, Porter said he thinks the violence factor is overrated in college football.

"In high school you can have guys go after each other. But in college football, where the athletes are more mature, you don't have that type of aggression," Porter said. "The injuries that occur in college are due to bigger, stronger, faster players. But you also have improvements in the equipment, and the conditioning to prevent injuries. Boyd Epley (UNL weight coach) told me if my neck hadn't been so strong from lifting weights, the blow I took could have killed me."

## Husker netters drop three important duals

Nebraska's men's tennis team began its Big Eight season on a low note, dropping three dual meets in Lawrence, Kan. during the weekend.

The Huskers lost to Kansas 5-4, Missouri, 7-2, and Oklahoma 9-0 to drop the Huskers' dual record to 16-9.

The Huskers' best performances came from number four singles player Kent Lygaard and the number two doubles team of Hal Koch and Scott Klaus, who both won two out of three matches.

Men's tennis coach Jim Porter said the weekend was a "disappointing one."

Since every match won in a dual meet this season is added to the points scored at the Big Eight meet to determine the team champion, Porter said it was important to win some of the close matches the team lost this weekend.

## want ads

Misc. housekeeping items for sale—two picture frames, pots and pans. Call 477-3050.

Teac A-100 cassette deck, hardly used—\$125. Teac A-450 cassette deck—\$200. Univox electric guitar and Fender Champ amplifier—\$140. Call 435-3253, ask for Marc Koenig.

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May graduates with 24 hours of accounting, GPA of 3.0 or above. Salaries: \$13,500 to \$15,000. Fee paid by employer. Please call Cornhusker Placement Service. 475-0744. Ask for Betty.

For the 1980-81 academic year — position available for the Electoral Commission Director. Apply at the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union, deadline, April 16th.

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**RESIDENCE COUNSELORS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM**

The High School Equivalency Program is taking applications for Resident Counselors beginning August 10, 1980. The High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is a project of the Nebraska Human Resources at the University of Nebraska designed to assist youth from migrant and seasonal farmworking backgrounds between the ages of 17 and 24 to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma GED and prepare the students for employment, higher education, vocational training, or other meaningful placement after their completion at HEP.  
**POSITION:** Residence Counselor

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work closely with Residence Hall staff, Complex Director, Residence Director, and Student assistants in providing a quality environment for both HEP and University students living in the residence halls.
2. Building relationships with students in the High School Equivalency Program which facilitate social, emotional and academic growth.

**SWIMMING POOL MANAGER & LIFE GUARD POSITIONS**  
Part-time positions available this summer and for the 1980-81 academic year. Applications available at the Abel South desk Applications must be returned by Sunday, April 21, 1980. Salary \$3.20 per hour for life guard and \$3.35 per hour for pool manager.  
**AA/EEO**

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3. Responsible for all administrative procedures assigned by the Residence Director.  
4. Work closely with the other areas of the High School Equivalency Program to enhance the chances of academic success for each student.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Sophomore standing or above.
2. 2.5 average or above.
3. No outside employment.
4. Must live in the residence halls.
5. Willing to work at least 25 hours per week.
6. Must be willing to work evenings and weekends.

**BENEFITS:**

1. Room and board.
2. Hourly pay for weekend activities.

Persons interested may pick up an application at the High School Equivalency Program at 501 North 10th Street, Lincoln, NE, 68588.

For more information contact: John McVay, HEP Director, 402-472-3477.

Applications to be considered must be received at HEP no later than 5:00 p.m. April 18, 1980.  
The High School Equivalency Program is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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