



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Husker linebacker Steve Damkroger fights to recover a fumble in Nebraska's 48-7 win against Oklahoma State.

## Linebacker reviews feelings for team

By Joni Kramer

Since beginning football at Nebraska three years ago, Husker linebacker Steve Damkroger says he hasn't changed much as a person, but his feelings toward the team have changed.

"The only change I've felt in myself is that I've matured, but I'm pretty much the same otherwise," Damkroger said. "I'm playing more now than I did in past years, which makes me feel a lot closer to the team than before."

Damkroger also added that the team's talent since he started playing has been just as good as in past years, if not better.

Learning he was to start against Oklahoma State was a good feeling, according to Damkroger, and he said he's satisfied with his performance in that game.

"When I found out, I was very happy," Damkroger said. "I wasn't sure how well I had played, but after watching films of the game, I think I had a better game than I had originally thought. I didn't get much criticism from the coaches, so I guess I did all right."

In his first year at Nebraska, Damkroger was redshirted, and even though he wasn't playing, he says he didn't miss a lot.

"I was kind of glad to get redshirted. I got a lot of practice, and attended a bowl game, so I didn't really feel I missed much my freshman year," Damkroger said. "Maybe I could have learned a little more playing freshman ball, but the year basically wasn't a bad experience."

Because of being redshirted two seasons ago, Damkroger is currently in his sophomore year of eligibility, and said he is hoping for a good season.

Being from Lincoln, Damkroger said, is part of the reason for choosing Nebraska as his place to play.

"I looked at some smaller schools, but decided I wanted to go to Nebraska," Damkroger said. "I feel it was the best choice for me."

Even though football is more or less a job, according to Damkroger, he said he enjoys it.

"Because it pays for my education, I look at it as a job, because if it weren't for football I'd probably be working somewhere else to pay for school. But, I really enjoy the game, otherwise I wouldn't be out there," Damkroger said.

Damkroger is currently studying wildlife management. He said he has about 2½ years of study here, and then he's not sure of his future after that.

"If I got a chance to play pro football, I'd like to try," Damkroger said. "As of now I'm not sure what I'll be doing in the next few years."

Damkroger said that having played for Nebraska will definitely be an advantage to him in whatever he does.

"I've met a lot of people and gotten some recognition, which will help after I'm done playing football here," Damkroger said. "What I've learned will help me in whatever I decide to do. Football has disciplined me a lot and taught me to put quite a bit into what I do."

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