

Sports

Knox injury mars spring game

By Jim Rasmussen

The top three I-backs ran for a total of 348 yards, the top two quarterbacks played well and the offensive line opened huge holes. All things considered, Coach Tom Osborne said, the 1984 Spring Game was a success.

Except for the injury to Mike Knox.

Knox, the Huskers' All-Big Eight linebacker, injured his knee late in the first quarter of the Reds' 35-13 victory against the Whites in front of 23,119 fans at Memorial Stadium Saturday.

Head Trainer George Sullivan said he and Dr. Pat Clare, team physician, believed Knox suffered a torn ligament, which would sideline him for six months. The diagnosis was not final, however. Knox was scheduled to undergo surgery Sunday morning, and results of the operation were not known.

If the ligament is torn, Osborne said Knox probably will be redshirted this fall and return for his final season in 1985.

Many bright spots

Osborne obviously was concerned about the injury to one of his top defenders, but also said good things happened in the game.

"I thought it was a good ball game," Osborne said.

"We're probably further along than I thought we'd be after spring ball."

Osborne praised quarterbacks Craig Sundberg and Travis Turner and I-backs Jeff Smith, Paul Miles and Doug DuBose.

Smith breaks record

Smith, Mike Rozier's heir-apparent, rushed for 136 yards on 18 carries for the Red squad. His performance broke the Spring game record of Roger Craig, who rushed for 126 yards in 1981.

"I thought I played well and executed well," Smith said. "And our offensive line blew the defense away."

Miles carried 12 times for 113 yards for the Reds. DuBose carried timers for 99 yards, including a 41-yard touchdown run for the Whites.

DuBose's crowd-pleasing touchdown, tied the score at six midway through the first quarter. DuBose took the handoff from Turner and set off to his right. Using his blocks, he turned the corner, cut back to his left and left everybody behind as he sprinted into the end zone.

"I saw the flow going to the right, and I decided to change and go left," DuBose said. "When I get out in the open field, there aren't too many guys that can catch me once I break."

DuBose said he was happy to see Mike Rozier, who signed autographs on the sidelines. Rozier and Turner Gill accepted a trophy from the Chicago Tribune at halftime. The trophy recognized the 1983 Cornhuskers, who were chosen No. 1 in the nation by a poll of the Tribune's readers.

Quarterback position strong

If Rozier, Gill and the I-backs stole the show Saturday, it wasn't by much. Sundberg and Turner

showed that the quarterback spot could be a bright one for the Husker's next fall. Sundberg completed six of seven passes for 75 yards before leaving the game with a slight ankle sprain with 11:47 left in the second quarter. He scored the game's first touchdown on a three-yard run.

Line receives credit

Turner credited the offensive line for opening a "huge" hole on his 22-yard run.

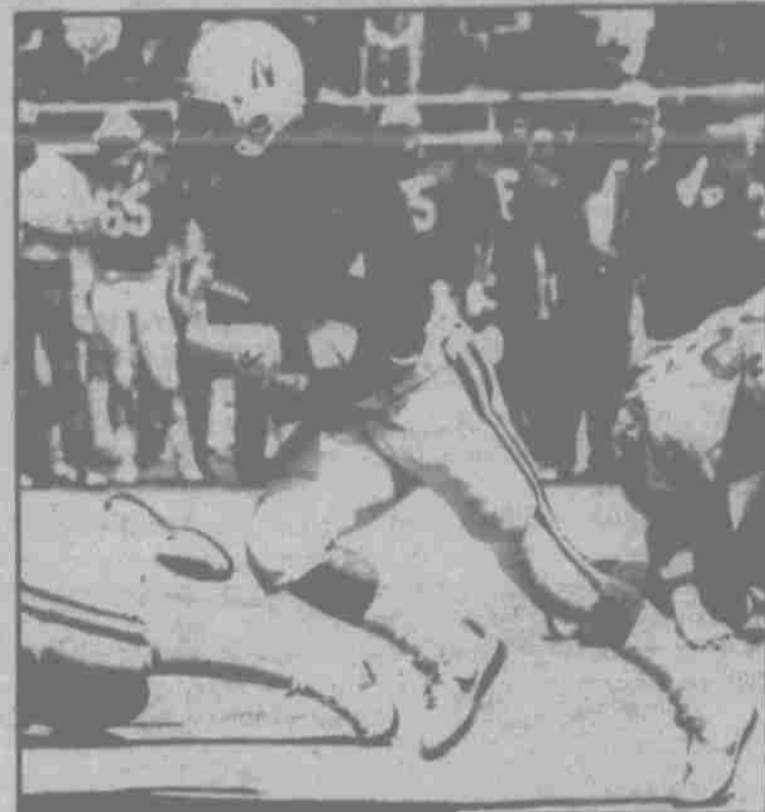
"We have got a great offensive line," Turner said. "I think our line will be as good, if not better, than last year's."

Turner said he thinks the offense will use more of a ball-control approach this season.

"The main thing is to put the ball in the end zone," he said. "We may not do it as quickly as last year, but we'll get the job done."

The second drive, a 15-play, 90-yard drive, ended with a five-yard touchdown by second-team fullback Scott Porter. Porter also scored on a one-yard run in the first quarter.

White team wingback Jim Holscher scored the only fourth quarter touchdown when he caught an eight-yard pass from quarterback Jeff Taylor.



David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

I-back Jeff Smith rushes for a few of his record 136 yards in Saturday's Red-White game.

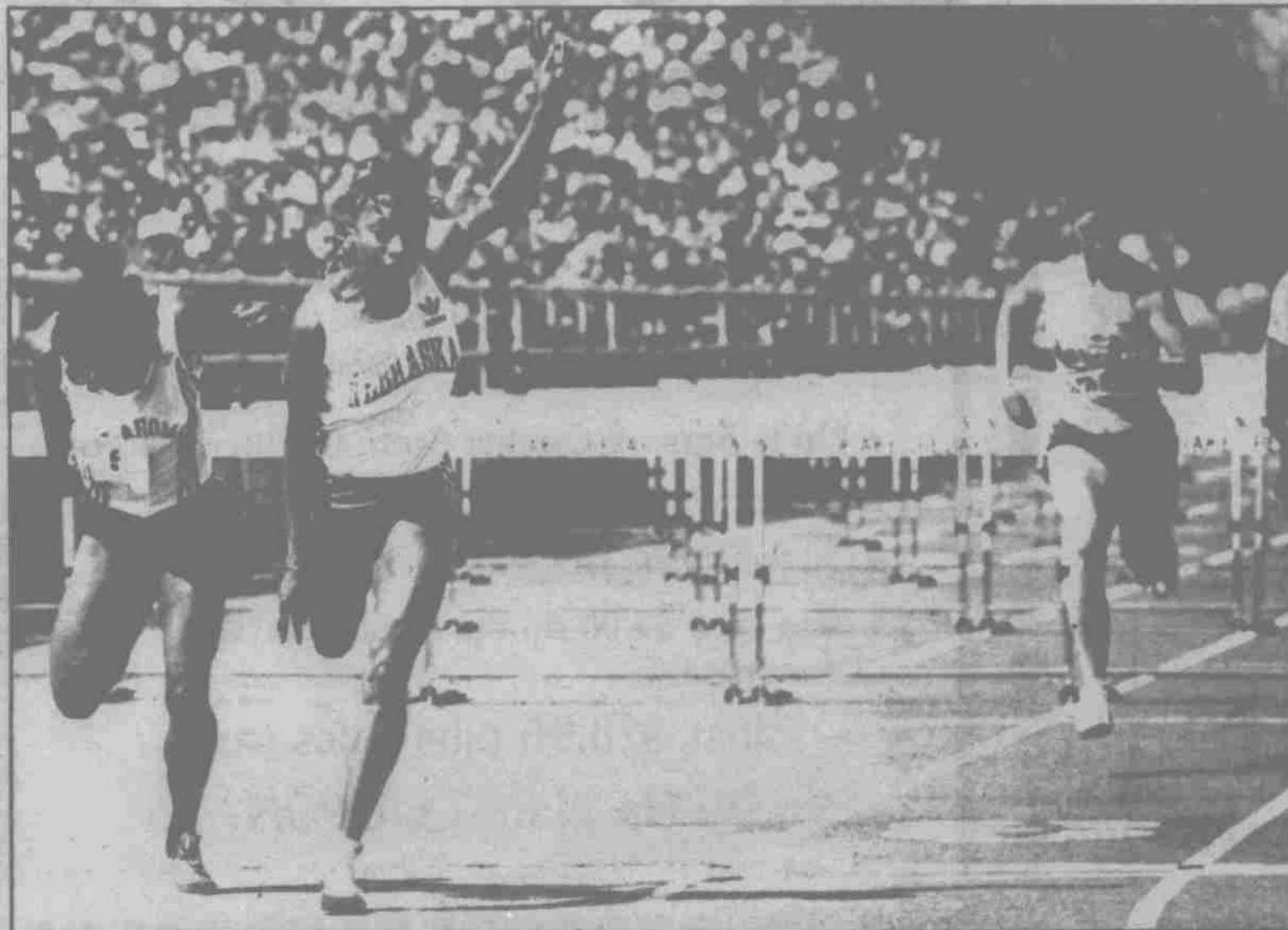


David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Cornerback Todd Fisher leaps in an attempt to tackle Paul Miles. Miles finished as the game's second-leading rusher with 113 yards.

Husker tracksters hit a bad run of luck

By David Creamer



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Rhonda Blanford finishes ahead of the field in the Drake Relays' newest event, the 100-yard hurdles.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln track team was plagued by mistakes at the Drake Relays in Des Moines Saturday.

Nebraska's Rhonda Blanford turned in the teams only winning performance, with a 13.75 in the women's 100-meter hurdles. Blanford edged Oklahoma's Sherifa Sanders who clocked in at 13.79.

The Husker's troubles began in the women's 3200-meter relay when freshman Carol Nunnally and Nichole Ali dropped the baton on the third exchange. Nunnally went to the ground after the baton which had bounced to the infield grass. She flipped it to Ali who missed it.

By the time Ali scooped the baton from the track, the Huskers had lost their lead. Before the baton was dropped the Huskers were running ahead of the Drake-Relay record pace for the 3200-meter relay.

The Husker's finished second with a time of 8:43.02. Purdue won with a time of 8:37.96.

Ed Ross, who had the best time in the men's 110-meter high hurdles Friday, was the next Husker to falter in the finals.

Ross, who was leading in the field over the first two hurdles, hit the third hurdle, and didn't clear the fourth. For the second year in a row, Tony Dees of Mississippi won the event, with a time of 14.00. Ross qualified with a time of 14.20 on Friday.

In the women's 800-meter medley relay, again the mistake was made on the third hand off.

Nebraska was leading, when Angela Thacker ran into the back of Marcia Tate on the exchange and knocked Tate to the track.

Continue on Page 9