

Artificial turf safer than grass, NCAA says

INJURIES from Page 8

caused by the shoes the player wears and the position he plays.

A skilled player like a running back or receiver must make quick cuts and is more likely to be injured on artificial turf, Sullivan said. A linebacker is more likely to get hurt on natural turf because it is easier for a cleat to get caught on grass, he said.

Sullivan's statements agreed with The NCAA News report.

The study reported that 49 linebackers were injured in 1987, 30 on natural turf. The study also reported that of the 22 wide receivers injured last season, 17 were hurt on artificial fields.

Todd Mason, student supervisor of the Nebraska equipment room, said the Cornhuskers use a Converse grass shoe when they play on natural surfaces.

Mason said the Huskers use a variety of shoes on artificial turf. If the turf is dry, Nebraska uses a shoe with short cleats, he said. For better traction, the Huskers use a shoe with longer cleats on wet turf.

"The different type of shoes was Coach (Tom) Osborne's idea to cut down on knee injuries," Mason said. "We take all the shoes with us on a road trip, and depending on the type

INJURY BY PLAYER POSITION (1987 Regular Season)

Position played at time of injury	FIELD SURFACE	
	Natural Grass	Artificial Turf
End	6	3
Tackle	11	5
Guard	14	14
Center	1	3
Quarterback	7	5
Running Back	17	23
Slotback/Wingback	2	2
Flanker/Wide Receiver	5	17
Defensive Lineman	25	28
Linebacker	30	19
Cornerback	25	7
Safety	6	9
Kicker-Punter	3	3
Special Teams	19	7

Total 171 145

Source: The NCAA News

of conditions and the field, we then make the decision as to what shoe we

use." Most artificial-turf injuries happen when cleats stick to the surface, Sullivan said. Shoe companies are making more cohesive shoes that are causing more injuries in other sports like basketball, he said.

"Many times the knee will go and the foot will stay," he said.

Sullivan said that when they play on natural grass, athletes say their legs don't get as tired.

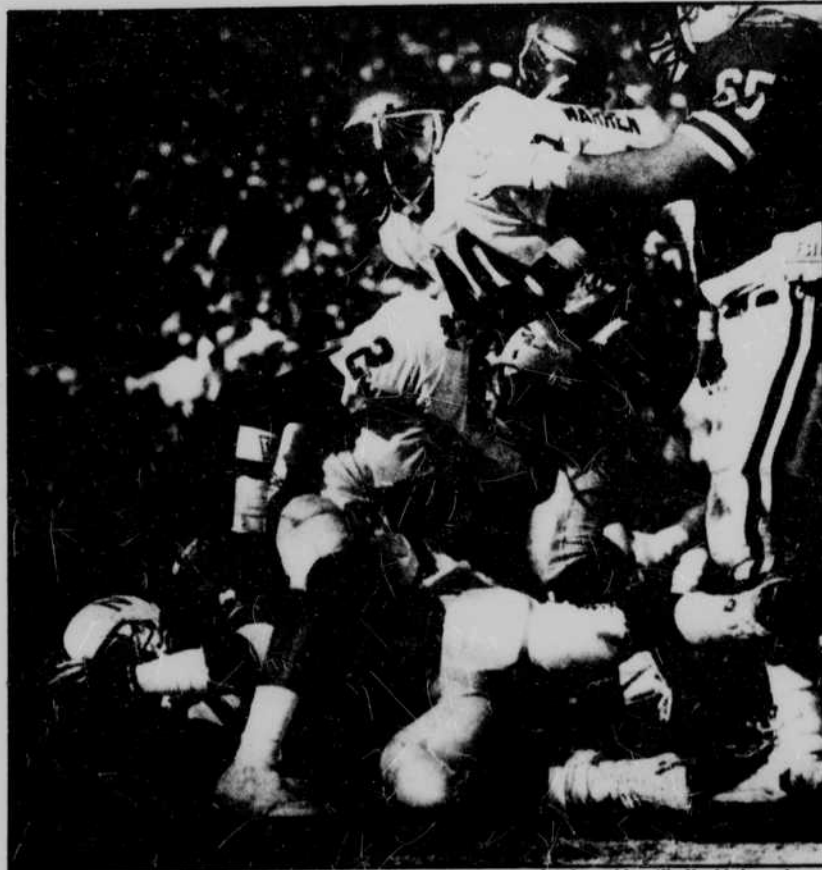
Nebraska strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley said the Huskers take no precautions other than selecting different shoes when preparing for a different field.

"We just try to build them as big, strong and fast as we possibly can," Epley said.

Sullivan said Nebraska plays on natural grass only in bowl games. The Huskers played on natural grass twice last season when they played Arizona State and Florida State in Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

Sullivan said he favors artificial turf because wounds are kept cleaner. He said the Huskers would tear up a natural grass field because the team has limited practice space.

The NCAA should continue testing different shoe types, Sullivan said. The NCAA may decide to choose safer shoes, he said.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska I-back Tyreese Knox scores a touchdown during the Cornhuskers' 31-28 loss to Florida State. Statistics show that football players suffer more injuries on natural playing surfaces such as the one at Sun Devil Stadium — the site of the Sun Devil Bowl — than on artificial surfaces.

Florida, Fryar and NU team face dilemmas

Florida's dilemma

Willie McClendon, a 6-foot-2, 220-pound tailback from Jacksonville, Fla., signed his national football letter of intent with Florida two weeks ago. McClendon rushed for more than 2,900 yards last season as a senior in high school, breaking the Florida single-season rushing record held by Emmitt Smith, who is also a running back with the Gators.



Chuck Green

McClendon, who was rated as the No. 11 prospect in the nation by recruiting expert Max Emfinger, had narrowed his choices to Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Nebraska before signing with the Gators last Wednesday.

McClendon's choice places the Florida coaching staff in an awkward but enviable predicament. They already have the services of Smith, who appears to be firmly entrenched in the starting tailback job for his remaining three seasons. Also, the Gators recently hired a new offensive coordinator who plans to install a single-back offense. Therefore, it looks as though McClendon may be the best backup running back in the nation.

Except for one thing. Florida also signed, among others, Dexter McNabb from Del Funiak, Fla. McNabb was the top-rated back in Florida last season and the No. 10-rated player in the nation on Emfinger's list, and the Gators wanted him even more than McClendon.

Have fun, Willie!

OSU's on top

The second Collegiate Baseball-

Cornhusker gymnast Bryan began sport at an early age

By Richard Cooper Staff Reporter

Gymnastics runs in the family of Nebraska's Brad Bryan.

Bryan, a freshman from Albuquerque, N.M., is the latest addition to a long list of gymnasts from his family, which include his sister, Debbie, and his father, Jack, who started coaching him



Bryan

ESPN poll is out, and Oklahoma State remains the nation's top team, even though the Cowboys haven't yet played a game. Oklahoma is ranked No. 12 and Nebraska — surprise, surprise! — is nowhere to be found.

Don't look for that to change for the Cornhuskers this season. Or next season, either. . . .

All-Bowl team

Early last week, the Daily Nebraskan received the 12th annual All-Bowl Team selections. Nebraska defensive tackle Neil Smith and wingback Dana Brinson were included on the first team (Brinson was listed as the kick returner).

At quarterback was Florida State's Danny McManus, who riddled Nebraska's defense all day in the 31-28 Seminole win/Husker choke at the Sun Devil Bowl.

The only other Big Eight player on the team was Oklahoma State I-back Thurman Thomas, who led the Cowboys to a Sun Bowl win against West Virginia on Christmas Day.

It never ends

Nebraska football fans don't need to be reminded of the numerous brushes with the law several Husker football players have suffered during the last year or so. Unfortunately, the problem doesn't seem to end with their college careers.

Former Nebraska wingback and All-America selection Irving Fryar, now a wide receiver with the National Football League's New England Patriots, was arrested again last week, this time on a weapons charge.

Fryar was stopped by New Jersey state police in Pemberton, N.J., for allegedly speeding. After the officer saw a large survival knife on the back seat and an empty gun holster sticking out from under the driver's seat, Fryar was removed from the car and an automobile search began.

The search revealed a .38-caliber handgun between the seat and seat

cover, and a loaded 12-gauge shotgun in the trunk. Several hollow-tipped bullets were also found.

Though the weapons were registered, police said, it was illegal for Fryar to transport them unless he was moving all his possessions and the guns had been taken apart.

The arrest was the latest in a long list of unfriendly relationships between Fryar and members of law enforcement organizations over the past couple of years.

Some things never change.

Green is a news-editorial and criminal justice major and is a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

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