

Smith picked 2nd in draft; Rother to Raiders

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's Neil Smith said he wasn't surprised with the results of the National Football League annual draft on Sunday.

But the Cornhuskers' Tim Rother wasn't only surprised, he was disappointed.

Smith, a former Husker defensive lineman, was the second player selected overall in the draft when the Kansas City Chiefs made him their first-round pick.

Rother was a fourth-round pick of the Los Angeles Raiders — the 91st pick overall. He said he was disappointed to be picked so low.

"I know a lot of people were saying that I would be chosen late in the first round but that didn't work out," Rother said in a telephone interview from his parents' home in Bellevue. "The teams were taking guys that I didn't think were as good as I was. But there's little consolation in that they are going to teams that are not contenders and the Raiders are. So everything

will eventually even out."

Smith, who surprised nobody when he became Kansas City's top choice, showed immediately that he does not lack confidence.

"I think that I'm a great player," said Smith, a 6-foot-4, 260-pound lineman.

In order to get the second pick overall and assure themselves of getting Smith, the Chiefs traded to the Detroit Lions their second-round choice — the 29th player overall — and swapped first-round picking order with the Lions. Instead of picking third in the draft, the Chiefs picked second.

That left the Chiefs, 4-11 last year and next-to-last in total defense, without another choice until the third round.

"They showed confidence in me," Smith said. "I'm looking forward to coming to Kansas City."

Kansas City coach Frank Gansz said he was impressed by Smith. Smith, a native of New Orleans, was credited with 65 tackles last season while recording 7.5 sacks.

Atlanta had earlier picked Auburn linebacker Aundray Bruce as the overall No. 1 selection, but Smith was the first player actually taken Sunday when the draft began. Smith said he was impressed when the Chiefs traded to get him.

"The team needs me, that's why they took me. I have in my mind to come and play."

Rother, who walked on at Nebraska, said being picked in the fourth round will make him work harder.

"I got things to prove now," Rother said. "I have an opportunity to go out and make people sorry they didn't pick me. I know I can play and every time I've had to prove something, I do it."

Rother led the Big Eight with 10 quarterback sacks this year and he had 41 total tackles.

Joining Rother as Raiders' draft picks include Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown of Notre Dame, defensive back Terrence McDaniel of Tennessee, and defensive end Scott Davis of Illinois. All three were first round selections.

NFL teams went for needs in the annual draft, picking players to fill gaping holes rather than merely taking the best available athlete.

The first eight picks went about as expected, save for the choice of Wisconsin tackle Paul Gruber by Tampa Bay with the fourth pick of the first round. Prior to that, Detroit picked Bennie Blades, a defensive back out of Miami.

The Buccaneers, who had said last week they wouldn't take an offensive lineman, were expected to go for a wide receiver — either Brown or Sterling Sharpe of South Carolina.

Two former Oklahoma standouts were selected in the first round. Rickey Dixon, All-Big Eight safety, was picked by Cincinnati, who held the No. 5 pick. Keith Jackson, an All-America tight end, was the other former Sooner to go in the first round when he was selected by Philadelphia.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Early judging hurts NU gymnasts at NCAA championships

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

First-round judging hindered the Nebraska women's gymnastics team during the NCAA Championships Friday night at Salt Lake City, Cornhusker coach Rick Walton said.

Walton said he was disappointed and angry with the judging throughout the competition. The judging particularly hurt Nebraska on its opening event — the uneven bars.

Walton said he was particularly disappointed with the scoring of sophomore Jane Clemons' uneven bar routine.

Clemons, the opening gymnast in the uneven bar competition, scored a 9.25 but probably deserved a 9.65, Walton said. But because she was the first performer, her scores were

lower, he said.

Nebraska earned its second-consecutive 10th-place finish in the 12-team field with 183.55 points. Alabama won the team title with a 190.05 score, while No. 1-ranked Utah was second with 189.50 points and UCLA third with a 188.80 score.

"The scoring was real tight and its tough to stay in a meet when the judging is like that," Walton said. "The only way to not have something like this happen again is to play the political games that everybody plays. The inflated scores are not going to happen in the first round."

Walton said high scores in the second rotation were not indicative of how the teams actually performed. He said because the teams went second, it gave the judges more time to

polish their scoring technique.

"Anytime you have a two-session meet like this one the gymnasts don't get what they deserve," Walton said. "The teams in the second rotation were no better than we were, they just had the benefit of being in the second round."

Walton said the balance beam competition was also a problem for Nebraska, as four of six Husker competitors fell.

Sophomore Michele Bryant had the highest score on the balance beam with a 9.20. Junior Crystal Savage finished with a 9.05. The Huskers' team total on the balance beam was a 44.85.

Bryant was the top performer in the all-around competition, finishing in a tie for 20th-place with a score of

37.15. Junior Jeaneane Smith finished in 24th position in the all-around competition with a 36.45. Oklahoma's Kelly Garrison-Steves won the NCAA all-around title for the second-consecutive year with a 38.90 score.

Walton said the lone bright spot in the competition was the the improvement Nebraska made in its team score. The Huskers improved the 179.5 score they tallied last year, but their 183.55 was their second lowest score of the season.

Walton said he is proud of Nebraska despite its finish.

"We had some outstanding routines done by our kids," Walton said. "They are respected by the other teams here (at the NCAA Championships). Where we finished is not in-

dicative of our program. We're going to be back here every year."

Walton said the tight scoring will benefit Nebraska in future years. He said the Huskers are more determined to work harder and be in a better position in 1989.

"You just have to work the system to benefit you," Walton said.

Walton said he is happy that Nebraska finished among the nation's top 10 teams because there are other squads who have never been to a national championship meet.

"I am proud of this team," Walton said. "They are the best team to this day that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has ever had. They have a lot of poise and class and are an outstanding gymnastics team."

Cornhuskers add to problems, raise questions at spring game

By Chuck Green
Senior Editor

Nebraska's biggest problems grew and its most pressing questions remained unanswered after Saturday's annual spring football game.

The Red team, made up of first- and fourth-team players, defeated the Whites 37-14. The White team was comprised of second- and third-team players. But injuries marred the climax of what Nebraska coach Tom Osborne called "a reasonably good spring."

Four plays into the game, freshman quarterback Mickey Joseph strained his left knee while being tackled. Joseph said he planted his foot and his knee kept twisting.

"I'm really disappointed," Joseph said, "but I'll be fine. It won't set me back at all."

Joseph said his mother was in town for the game and that she, too, was disappointed, but "she understands," he said. "That's a mom for you."

Joseph began the spring as the No. 3 quarterback, behind Steve Taylor and Gerry Gdowski. Taylor has missed most of the spring with a re-aggravated thigh injury, which he suffered last season, and Gdowski injured his shoulder during drills last week. Neither played in Saturday's game.

"It's hard to get a lot of continuity on offense when your top three quarterbacks are out," Osborne said.

That left Jerry Dunlap to lead the Whites and Tom Haase and Keithen McCant for the Reds. All three are sophomores.

"I thought Haase, Dunlap and, at times, McCant all did reasonably well today," Osborne said.

Mike Preston also played for the Reds.

Nebraska's tight end situation also became worse. Todd Millikan, the No. 1 player at that spot, missed most of the spring with walking pneumonia

and a pulled groin. After the game's first series, second-team tight end Chris Garrett suffered a dislocated shoulder while defending on a punt return.

Osborne said Garrett will undergo surgery on his shoulder today and that the injury may affect him through next season.

"He'll go to the start of fall camp before he's really well again," Osborne said. "It'll be nip and tuck."

In addition to Garrett and Joseph, Nebraska trainer George Sullivan said offensive lineman Jeff Anderson suffered shin contusions, I-back Ken Clark left the game with a hip pointer and outside linebacker Broderick Thomas sprained an ankle.

Besides the injuries, several concerns Cornhusker coaches had about various positions on the team remained unsolved after the game.

The biggest worry, Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said, was finding starters for the Husker defensive line, which graduated three starters from last season.

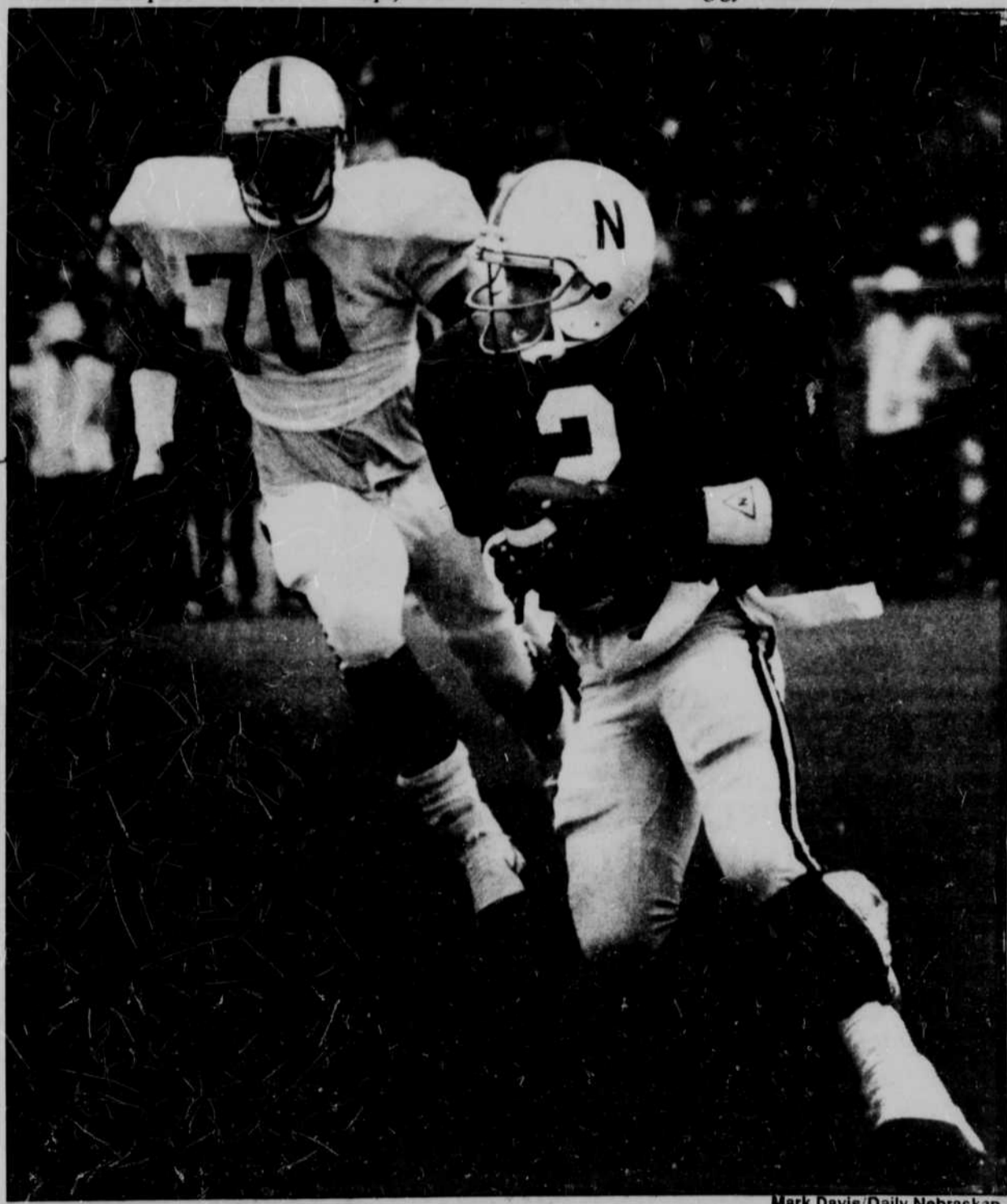
McBride said it's still a significant concern.

"At this point, all the other positions are pretty well shored up," McBride said. "But I don't feel like I could make a first team (defensive line) today. The only player I know of is (middle guard) Mike Murray."

Murray, a 5-foot-10, 240-pound junior, will be the No. 1 middle guard going into fall camp, which begins Aug. 1, McBride said. Lawrence Pete, last season's starter, quit the team last week for personal reasons.

McBride, who coached the Whites, said the combined offensive output of 613 yards disappointed him from a defensive standpoint, but "I think some individual efforts were very good."

McBride praised the play of inside linebackers Pat Tyrance and Kenny



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska quarterback Mickey Joseph eludes defensive tackle Joe Sims.

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