

## Former player, drug user to go on anti-drug tour

By Steve Sipple  
Staff Reporter

They aren't the kinds of things Nebraska football fans like to hear, but Travis Turner says they are reality.

"I remember being high in team meetings. (Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne) would never know it," said Turner, a former Nebraska quarterback who now is the college outreach director for Athletes International Ministries in Phoenix, Ariz.

Turner, who started for the Huskers during most of the 1984 and 1985 seasons, said he has experienced drugs and is now using that experience to warn parents that their children aren't immune to drug problems. Nobody's immune, he said.

Turner, 25, is a case in point. During his freshman and sophomore years at Nebraska, he said, he was a frequent user of drugs and alcohol. Nobody expected a clean-cut football player to be a drug user -- and that naivete is a danger, he said.

That will be one of Turner's main points during his anti-drug abuse tour of Nebraska beginning April 18. Turner will hold three anti-drug abuse clinics and take his message to nine Nebraska high schools and to Fairfax, Mo.

Identifying a drug user is the most important step in fighting the problem, Turner said. But identification isn't always easy. He said parents often don't expect drug use from their children, and by the time parents find out about the problem, it's often too late -- their children are already addicted.

"Drugs are reality," Turner said. "It's the reality of where many kids are at. You can really mask a drug problem. And it's not just kids. It's your yuppie-type abusers of cocaine who wear three-piece suits. You'd never know they use drugs."

A lot of people probably didn't know Turner used drugs -- he said in a Sunday Omaha World-Herald story that he had even tried LSD while at Nebraska. Osborne said he didn't know of Turner's problem, but that he's not surprised by Turner's revelations.

"Nothing really surprises me anymore," Osborne said.

Osborne said football players aren't immune to drug problems.

"It's just a part of life. There's a certain percentage of people who use alcohol and drugs," he said. "Football players are no exception."

Osborne said Nebraska's drug testing program, which includes random urine testing, is thorough enough to catch drug users.

"You hear about people trying to beat the system. We don't think it's possible right now," Osborne said.

Turner said he didn't have to worry about Nebraska's drug tests. By 1984 -- the year Turner said Nebraska began random drug tests -- he had stopped using drugs. Nebraska was among the nation's first schools to test players for drugs.

"There's always ways to beat drug tests, but I'm not going to tell about them," Turner said. "Then somebody will read them and say, 'Ah man, why didn't I think of that.'"

But Turner said "Nebraska does all they can do" to keep players from using illegal drugs.

Turner said he stopped using drugs when he started a relationship with God.

"I realized I was unfulfilled with my life and I was looking for happiness in all the wrong places," said Turner, now a father of two. "I found happiness in God."

Turner's turnaround off the football field resulted in improvement on the field. He admits, "I was nothing up to my junior year."

During a drug-free junior year, Turner scored a team-leading 60 points, scoring 10 touchdowns and passing for four more.

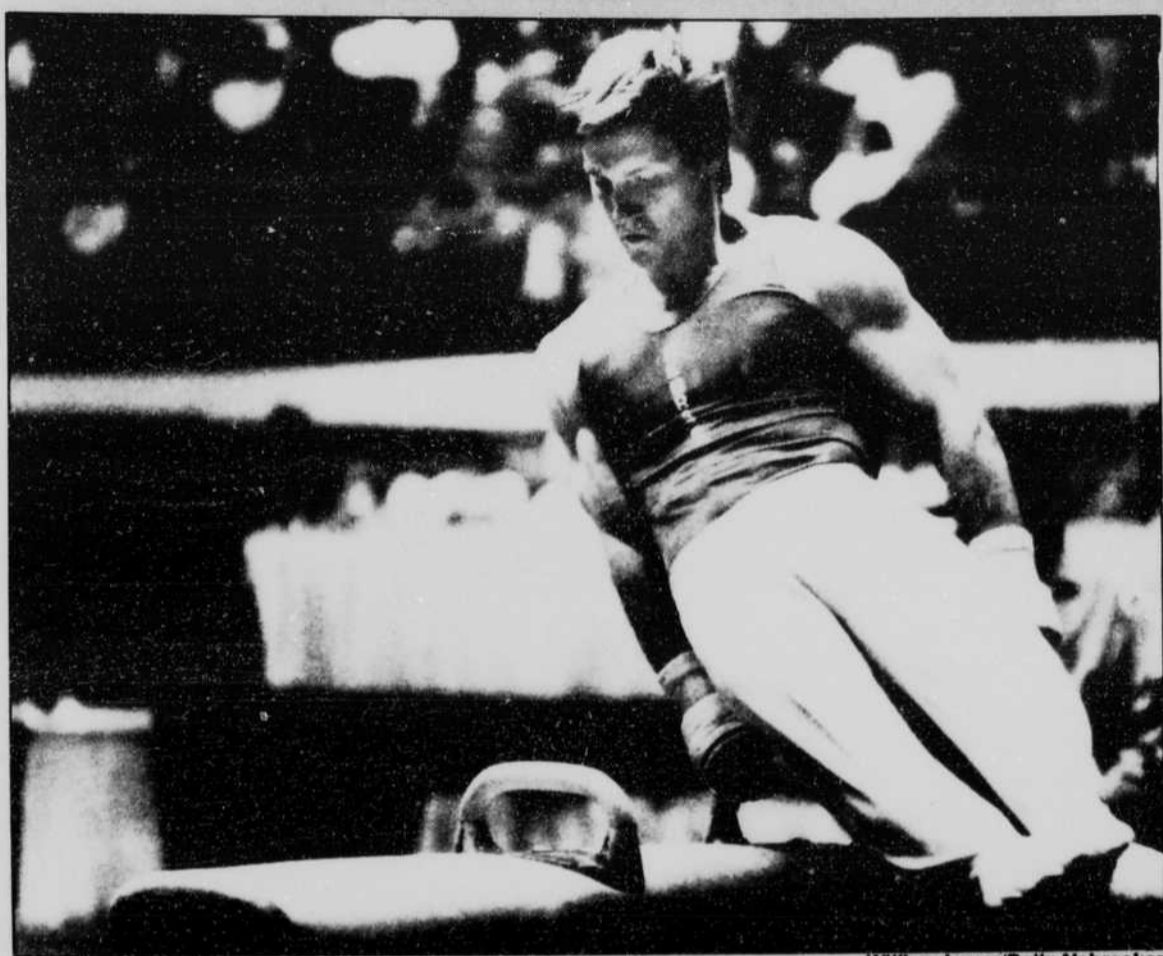
He scored six touchdowns and passed for three as a senior, helping lead Nebraska to a 9-3 record.

After Turner stopped drug use during the spring before his junior year, he said "a huge weight on my shoulders was lifted."

"All of a sudden I was a decent quarterback -- not a great quarterback, but I could get the job done," he said.

Turner has a new job now. He and a group of athletes will tour Nebraska's high schools, where they

See TRAVISTY on 14



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Patrick Kirksey competes on the pommel horse. Kirksey has been Nebraska's top gymnast this season.

## Spanish gymnasts may decide team title

By Mike O'Malley  
Staff Reporter

When the NCAA men's gymnastics championships take place tonight through Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, they will have a foreign aura to them.

Houston Baptist enters the meet with an international connection that has propelled the Huskies to the nation's top ranking. Five of the top six gymnasts for Houston Baptist are from Spain.

Houston Baptist Coach Hutch Dvorak said the acquisition of the Spaniards "was a total accident."

But it's no accident that the Huskies are competing in the three-day meet, as they received an automatic bid by compiling the highest average team score in the Midwest region.

Joining Houston Baptist as automatic qualifiers are UCLA from the West, Illinois from the Midwest and Penn State from the East. The six teams that received at-large bids include Nebraska, Ohio State, Stanford, Minnesota, Iowa and Arizona State.

The meet begins at 7 p.m. tonight with the qualifying round for teams and individuals. The top three teams from that competition will advance to the team championships at 7 p.m. Friday.

Saturday's session will be split into 1 and 7 p.m. time intervals. The early session will be devoted to the all-around title, while individual titles will be determined in the late session.

Dvorak said Houston Baptist's foreign connection began when

the Huskies' soccer coach was in Spain recruiting. The coach found out about Jose Barrio, who became a national champion on the high bar.

"At that time, my team was really down and there weren't any American gymnasts beating down the door," Dvorak said. "I said (to Barrio), 'Well, if you're the great gymnastics recruit get me Alphonso Rodriguez.' I was kidding, but as it turned out, Jose and Alphonso had been buddies since childhood. He was being recruited by UCLA, and as luck would have it, he decided to stay with his buddy Jose and come to Houston Baptist."

"Because they did so well, Miguel Rubio decided to come

See NCAA on 14

## Defensive improvement in scrimmage pleases Osborne

By Nick Hodge  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he was pleased by the Cornhuskers' defensive improvement in Wednesday's scrimmage at Memorial Stadium.

"Defensively, we played a little bit harder today than we did last Saturday," Osborne said. "I was disappointed at times Saturday by the defensive intensity. Today they played pretty hard."

"I think there was good effort and

pretty good hitting."

Wednesday's scrimmage, the Huskers' third this spring, was dominated by the defense. Nebraska's top offensive units only scored two touchdowns and a field goal.

Osborne said the Husker defense was able to exploit the offense because the defense has more facets of its game implemented than the offense.

"We've thrown a lot at them so the defense has more in," Osborne said. "They've got a couple blitzes and some different fronts, where of-

fensively it's a little bit confusing."

**'I think there was good effort and pretty good hitting.'**

--Osborne

Sophomore I-back Scott Baldwin scored on a seven-yard run, while quarterback Mike Grant hit I-back Lamont White for a 27-yard touchdown pass.

Senior place kicker Chris Drennan connected on one of two field goal attempts. Drennan made a 23-yard attempt, but failed to make a 32-yarder.

Osborne said he was concerned by the amount of offensive penalties.

"The penalties really hurt the offense today," Osborne said. "On Wednesday, we have high school officials. On Saturday, we have the Big Eight officials. I think there's a little tendency sometimes for the high school officials to officiate a little closer. I'm not saying it's nei-

ther good nor bad. That's just the way they work."

Osborne said he was pleased that the Huskers made it through the scrimmage with only one significant injury. He said junior wingback Brad Devall suffered a severely sprained ankle after making a short reception. Devall shares the No. 1 wingback duties with sophomore Nate Turner.

Osborne said he is concerned by Devall's injury because Turner has been hampered by a sore quadriceps muscle that forced him to sit out the scrimmage.

## Nebraska to host round-robin tournament this weekend

By Darran Fowler  
Staff Reporter

A tournament described as the next best thing to the College World Series will be staged when the Nebraska softball team competes in the Husker Power Matchup this weekend.

Nebraska Coach Ron Wolforth said he is excited about the three-day competition because of the caliber of competition it includes. In addition to Nebraska, Florida State, Arizona State and Kansas will compete.

The round-robin tournament begins at 6 p.m. Friday at the Nebraska Softball Complex, with Nebraska facing Florida State. Kansas will square off against Arizona State at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Kansas plays Florida State at 2 p.m., with Nebraska facing Arizona State at

4 p.m. Florida State will then battle Arizona State at 6 p.m., with Nebraska facing Kansas at 8 p.m.

Four games will also be played on Sunday, beginning with Kansas facing Arizona State at 10 a.m. Nebraska will square off against Arizona State at noon, and Kansas will play Florida State at 2 p.m. Nebraska will conclude the tournament by facing Florida State at 4 p.m.

Wolforth said the tournament field was expanded from three to four teams this year because lights were installed last summer at the Nebraska Softball Complex. He said he hopes to expand to eight teams in the future.

"We're really trying to get a tournament in here with caliber teams," Wolforth said. "This will be the best softball tournament north of the sun belt ever. We are hoping to expand that. It's really going to depend on how this year's

tournament goes."

Wolforth said Arizona enters the tournament as the favorite. But, he said, the field is wide open especially since Nebraska, 18-20, has won five of its last six games.

Arizona State gave the Huskers their fourth and fifth losses of the season by scores of 5-4 and 9-3 at the Roadrunner Invitational in Las Cruces, N.M. in March.

"Our team can perform to the level of this tournament," Wolforth said. "It's going to a very good brand of softball. It's not certain who's going to win this thing. It's gonna be interesting -- anybody can win it. It should be exciting."

Wolforth said his biggest concern this season has been Nebraska's batting. The Huskers are hitting .227 as a team, which he said is 40 points below what he forecasted at the beginning of the season.

"We have never had a team that has struggled as much offensively as we have this year," Wolforth said. "It's always been the case that the upperclassmen carried us and the lower class usually comes along and peaks around the Big Eight. This year, the upper class players haven't been able to carry us and get the hits. That even puts more pressure on the freshmen."

Wolforth said he encourages students to see the tournament. All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their IDs will be admitted free.

Wolforth said, that if the weather is nice, the tournament offers an excellent opportunity to relax in the sun and watch some good softball.

"They (fans) do make a difference in any sport," he said. "We would definitely play better."