



Daily Nebraskan file photo  
Nebraska wingback Nate Turner runs from Kansas State's Tom Chamberlain. Turner and his teammates will face Oregon State on Sept. 30.

## Osborne calls accusations against Fryar 'ludicrous'

By Jon Nachtigal  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne Wednesday addressed an accusation in the upcoming book "Big Red Confidential: Inside Nebraska Football" that former Nebraska wide receiver Irving Fryar allegedly tried to throw the Cornhusker's 1984 Orange Bowl game against Miami.

"There was never any thought by any coach here at any time that Irving ever threw a game or did anything other than try to win and play the best he could. So anything to that affect is ludicrous," Osborne said.

It was reported Tuesday that the book's author, Armen Keteyian, contends Fryar's Orange Bowl performance was far below his usual performances during the 1984 season. Keteyian points out that late in the Miami game, Fryar dropped a potential touchdown pass from quarterback Turner Gill. Fryar finished the game with five catches for 61 yards.

Keteyian also claims that following the Miami loss, an unnamed girlfriend of Fryar's was questioned by an unnamed Nebraska assistant coach about whether Fryar had tried to throw the game.

"It seems like they should identify who said what because some of those sources might not be credible," Osborne said.

The book, published by Contemporary Books Inc. will be available in bookstores Tuesday. It also alleges that certain Nebraska football players were paid regularly by a booster to sell their complimentary football

tickets and that Husker players allegedly have used cocaine and steroids. Osborne has refused to comment on the book for the most part until it is released.

At Wednesday's practice, Osborne said, the team appeared to be slowed by the afternoon heat.

"The players are a little leg-weary right now. It seemed like we didn't have a lot of snap. Hopefully it is something that will straighten itself out," Osborne said.

The Cornhuskers will hold a scrimmage Friday and then will have a light practice Saturday morning before they are given Sunday off.

## Oregon State picked to finish last again

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

Some things never change. For instance, it is tradition for college football prognosticators to pick Oregon State to finish last in the Pacific Ten Conference. And it is tradition for those same prognosticators to pick the Beavers as heavy underdogs when they face Nebraska Sept. 30.



"Frankly, that's always been," Oregon State coach Dave Kragthorpe said. "We've consistently been pushed to the bottom since I've been here, but that doesn't bother me."

Kragthorpe said Oregon State is picked to finish last because the Pac Ten is split down the middle. He said Southern California and UCLA are the heavy favorites in the conference race, while his squad -- which finished last season with a 2-5-1 conference mark and a 4-6-1 record overall -- was favored to finish 10th.

"It'll be pretty much the same," Kragthorpe said. "You have to start

with USC and UCLA and go from there. It will be that way until the year 2000.

"I really feel this is a two-tiered conference. There's an upper echelon and a lower echelon and it's pretty tough to break out of that level."

Kragthorpe said he hopes Oregon State has improved by the time it faces Nebraska. The Beavers will face Stanford, Washington State and Boise State before squaring off against the Cornhuskers.

"We'll have a pretty good football team here at Oregon State," Kragthorpe said. "Hopefully by the time we play Nebraska, we'll have developed some. I believe we'll have more team speed than in the past. All in all, I think we'll be better than a year ago."

Kragthorpe said he is apprehensive because quarterback Erik Wilhelm has used up his eligibility. Wilhelm closed out his career last season by surpassing former Stanford and current Denver Bronco quarterback John Elway as the Pac Ten's career passing leader.

Kragthorpe said the quarterback situation has not reached the critical stage.

"I do feel good about the talent we have," he said. "But it's not until you get them into a game situation that you can really tell. We have three good candidates, so it's not like the

cupboard's bare."

He said the inexperience at quarterback will not impede the Beavers' passing attack.

"We'll be throwing. There isn't any question about that," Kragthorpe said. "We've led the conference in passing just about every year. We're pretty much a wide-open football team."

Oregon State returns five starters on offense, including center Rob Jack, right guard Pete Steffan, right tackle Mike Bailey, tight end Phil Ross and fullback Pat Chasffey.

Ross, a senior, needs 33 catches to become the Beavers' all-time leading receiver. He has 117 receptions entering this season.

The defensive starters returning include twins Bruce and Scott Sanders at strong-side and weak-side linebacker, and tackle Esera Tuaolo, right end Pellom McDaniels and strong safety Larry Zladic.

Punter Mark Bennett and placekicker Troy Bussanich also return. Bussanich needs 48 points to become the Beavers' all-time scoring leader.

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