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Grant



Joseph

Mickey and Mikey Show opens to equal reviews

By John Payne
 Senior Reporter

Welcome to the Mickey and Mikey show, starring Nebraska junior quarterbacks Mickey Joseph and Mike Grant.

The ratings have been high, the reviews good, but there has been word of an eventual breakup.

At the end of spring practice both quarterbacks graded even, and little has changed since then, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

Osborne said that he would prefer not "shuttling quarterbacks in and out."

"I guess if we had to, I'd rather do it by quarters," he said. Although he's not completely opposed to the idea, the 6-foot-2, 210-pound Grant also said he didn't mind the idea of a platoon system, at least initially.

"I'm not setting any timetable," he said. "But a decision will have to be made eventually. I don't think it can go on for 11 games."

Although he and Joseph are good friends, Grant says that hasn't made it difficult to compete for a starting position.

"I think we both have an on/off switch," Grant said. "We are friends, but if we went out there and didn't compete, it would hurt the team."

Grant, who injured the collarbone in his throwing arm in last year's Homecoming game against Iowa State, says he understands why the battle with Joseph is so close.

"I think I do certain things well

and he does certain other things well," Grant said.

The Tampa, Fla., native is taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the injury.

"Right now it feels good," he said. "We'll see when it gets hit." The 5-11, 180-pound Joseph played in eight games in the 1989 season, completing 4 of 12 passes for 69 yards and two touchdowns, with no interceptions. He was the Huskers' sixth-leading rusher with 210 yards.

Grant, who missed the team's final four games, played in five, completing 8 of 17 passes for 123 yards and two touchdowns. He had a 6.1 yard rushing average, carrying 27 times for 166 yards.

Osborne said that who starts in the Sept. 1, home opener with Baylor would be determined by who grades the highest in two major scrimmages and one minor one.

In Saturday's first major scrimmage of the fall, Joseph, from Mar- rero, La., was the second-leading rusher, carrying seven times for 39 yards and one touchdown, a 15-yard run. He completed 2 of 5 passes for 19 yards and no interceptions.

Grant rushed four times for 22 yards and scored on an eight-yard run. He threw seven times, complet- ing one for 21 yards.

Osborne expressed pleasure with the offense's execution regardless of who was calling the signals.

"The offensive execution was probably as good or a little better than I expected," he said. "We only had one or two turnovers at the most with the top two units. So that wasn't bad."



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Freshman graduate assistant coach and former Cornhusker quarterback Turner Gill signs autographs for fans during the team's photo day.

Turner Gill guides backs in return to Husker turf

By John Payne
 Senior Reporter

It has been seven years since Nebraska football fans last watched Turner Gill's familiar swagger across the Memorial Stadium turf.

But you'd never guess that by looking at the swarm of admirers surrounding the former Nebraska quarterback at the football team's annual Photo Day Aug. 10.

Gill, arguably the best ever to play his position at Nebraska, returned to Lincoln in July to take an assistant coaching position with the junior varsity squad. He will be working with the running backs and quarter- backs this fall.

As Nebraska's quarterback from 1981 to 1983, he led the Cornhuskers to three straight Big Eight champi- onships -- a feat not accomplished before or since. No. 12 triggered the offense -- and came within an eyelash of winning national championships his junior and senior seasons.

While teammate Mike Rozier went on to win the Heisman Trophy and wingback Irving Fryar was the first player chosen in the NFL draft, Okla- homa coach Barry Switzer repeat- edly said Gill was the one who con- cerned him.

Gill says he knows Nebraska fans still are appreciative:

"There's a definite recognition here," he said. "At times that makes it a little hard to do the job, but all the attention is just part of being an ath- lete."

"On the other hand, I was already familiar with the offense, so it made it a little easier to step into the job. This is a good place to get myself estab- lished in coaching. I wanted to get the immediate experience."

Gill received his bachelor's de- gree from the University of North Texas this year, and on June 11 he and his wife, Gayle, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jordan Hillery. While studying, he worked as a volunteer assistant coach at North Texas.

Will Gill try to emulate Tom Osborne's coaching style? "I think that there will be similarities there," he said, "because our personalities are pretty similar. We're both kind of reserved, we don't get real excited about things."

Gill played in two narrow victo- ries over rival Oklahoma -- 28-24 in 1982 and 28-21 in 1983 -- and two memorable losses -- 27-24 at Penn

See GILL on 27

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