



DN File photo

Leodis Flowers in action in Memorial Stadium.

Flowers bloom in Miami

By Jeff Singer
Senior Editor

The Miami Dolphins are hoping flowers will bloom this fall.

And Leodis Flowers, a former running back at Nebraska, is hoping he has as big of an impact with the National Football League's Dolphins as he did with the Cornhuskers two years ago.

Flowers, who signed on as a free agent with Miami this spring, was Nebraska's leading rusher in 1990 with an average of 104.4 yards per game, earning him second-team All-Big Eight honors.

But the Omaha native said he left the Huskers following a successful junior year because he had to deal with a lot of things off the field and wasn't able to concentrate on football.

After working at several temporary jobs to pass time, Flowers said he kept in touch with Nebraska Running Backs Coach Frank Solich to find out when NFL teams would be coming to Nebraska to look at players. Flowers got his opportunity to perform for the Dolphins in March, and Miami consequently offered him a one-year contract in April.

Flowers is currently on Miami's second-string squad, and said the hardest thing to adjust to is playing in the Dolphins' pass-oriented system after performing for the run-dominated

Huskers.

"I'm just learning the system right now, because they pass a lot out of the backfield, and I think I caught all of two passes in Nebraska," Flowers said.

Flowers said getting the opportunity to play pro football is a dream come true.

"Every kid that ever plays football wonders if he can make it to that level; it's great to finally get that opportunity," Flowers said.

Peeler wrong choice for conference

It looks like the Big Eight conference has started to use justice in selecting its male athlete of the year — criminal justice that is.

Anthony Peeler, who has recently been trying to match his criminal records with his athletic records, was honored as the Big Eight's top male athlete last month, which served as both an injustice and embarrassment to the entire conference.

Two weeks ago, Peeler pled guilty to a felony weapons charge and two misdemeanor assault charges on a 20-year-old woman, and followed that incident with another assault charge on a 19-year-old woman (Peeler was acquitted of the second assault).

So how does the conference reprimand the Missouri basketball star for his actions off the court? By naming him the Big Eight's top athlete, of course.

The groups that should be offended by the award are not the other Big Eight athletes nor the conference's coaches, rather the numerous women's organizations throughout the country.

Honoring Peeler as the Big Eight's top male after he was charged with the two assaults on the coed women is like recognizing Los Angeles Lakers Forward James Worthy as husband of the year after he was arrested two years ago for hiring two prostitutes in Houston.

And in a twist of ironies, Peeler was chosen as the 15th pick in last week's NBA draft by — you guessed it — the Lakers.

But at least there are some teams in the National Basketball Association who can see the importance of having athletes who represent their team well both on and off the court, as an executive with the Portland Trail Blazers said it would be an embarrassment to announce that Peeler was the club's choice in the draft.

So, you ask, who should've been named athlete of the year over Peeler? Well the choices are small yet understandable.

Oklahoma State forward Byron Houston would've been an excellent choice, as he shattered numerous school records as a Cowboy in helping lead the school's basketball team to national prominence.



Jeff Singer

Another candidate would've been, Husker fans control your laughter, Colorado quarterback Darian Hagan. He helped lead the Buffaloes to a national title in 1990, and without Hagan, the Buffs would still be annually competing with Iowa State for that elusive third-place finish in the Big Eight.

Remembering that the award is based on an athlete's contributions to his team over his four years of eligibility, it becomes easier to see why these two men would make for a better choice. After all, both Houston and Hagan helped resurrect their teams into national powers after some shaky years before they arrived, while Missouri was a power before Peeler, during Peeler and will be after Peeler.

Next time, the Big Eight should be more careful in selecting its athlete of the year, since this year's choice only hurts the already-questionable reputation of the conference.

Next thing you know, Jeffrey Dahmer will be honored as the nation's chef of the year.

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