

Huskers gain high marks for improving

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne gave his team passing grades for its spring season — literally.

The Cornhuskers, who have been known for their prowess running the ball, worked this spring on trying to improve their passing game in time for the fall season, Osborne said.

"We are really working hard to become a better passing team," Osborne said after his quarterbacks threw for 263 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the annual Red-White game last Saturday at Memorial Sta-

dium.

He said a pair of interceptions and occasional sporadic play by the Nebraska quarterbacks showed that work still needed to be done in time for the Huskers' season opener Sept. 4 against North Texas State.

"We have a pretty good idea of what our capabilities are," Osborne said. "We've got great speed at our receivers spots, but we're still not real smooth."

Nebraska first-string quarterback Tommie Frazier, who was named the Big Eight's Offensive Freshman of the Year last season, has made improvement in his passing accuracy,

— 66 —
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NU football coach

— 99 —
according to Osborne.
"His throwing has improved,"

Osborne said. "The big thing is him moving from a 45 to a 55 percent passer — I think he's moving in that direction."

With the knee injury suffered by redshirt freshman Ben Rutz in one of Nebraska's four Saturday scrimmages, the Huskers are left with only four healthy quarterbacks entering the fall, including redshirt freshman Matt Turman, who was moved from wingback at the start of the spring season.

Osborne said the low number of quarterbacks is a concern.

"We're probably as thin at quarterback as we've ever been in terms of

depth," he said. "But the quality is reasonable and hopefully we'll get Ben Rutz back."

Along with talk of passing more, the Huskers will also be trying to repeat their national rushing title of a year ago.

And the player who will have the majority of the responsibility to help get this goal accomplished will be Nebraska 1-back and Heisman Trophy contender Calvin Jones.

Jones, who rushed for 1,210 yards last season and earned second-team All-American honors, said if there

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Nee assistant says coaches not giving up on recruiting

Three athletes still considering Huskers

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball recruiting team has a long way to go and a short time to get there.

With the May 15 deadline looming ahead, the Cornhuskers have received only one letter of intent.

But Assistant Coach Gary Bergen said he thought things were in pretty good shape.

"We're all right," he said. "We're still working real hard and being real patient."

The lone letter of intent has come from Clinton "Mikki" Moore, a 6-foot-10, 200-pound center from South Carolina.

To make matters worse, others have unexpectedly abandoned ship.

Herb Baker, who originally signed with the Huskers, had a change of heart last week and will now attend Alabama-Birmingham.

Bergen said Baker would have been a big addition to the team.

"We were disappointed, but we will be able to adjust," Bergen said.

Another unexpected hole opened when Andre Woolridge announced that he was transferring to Iowa, Bergen said.

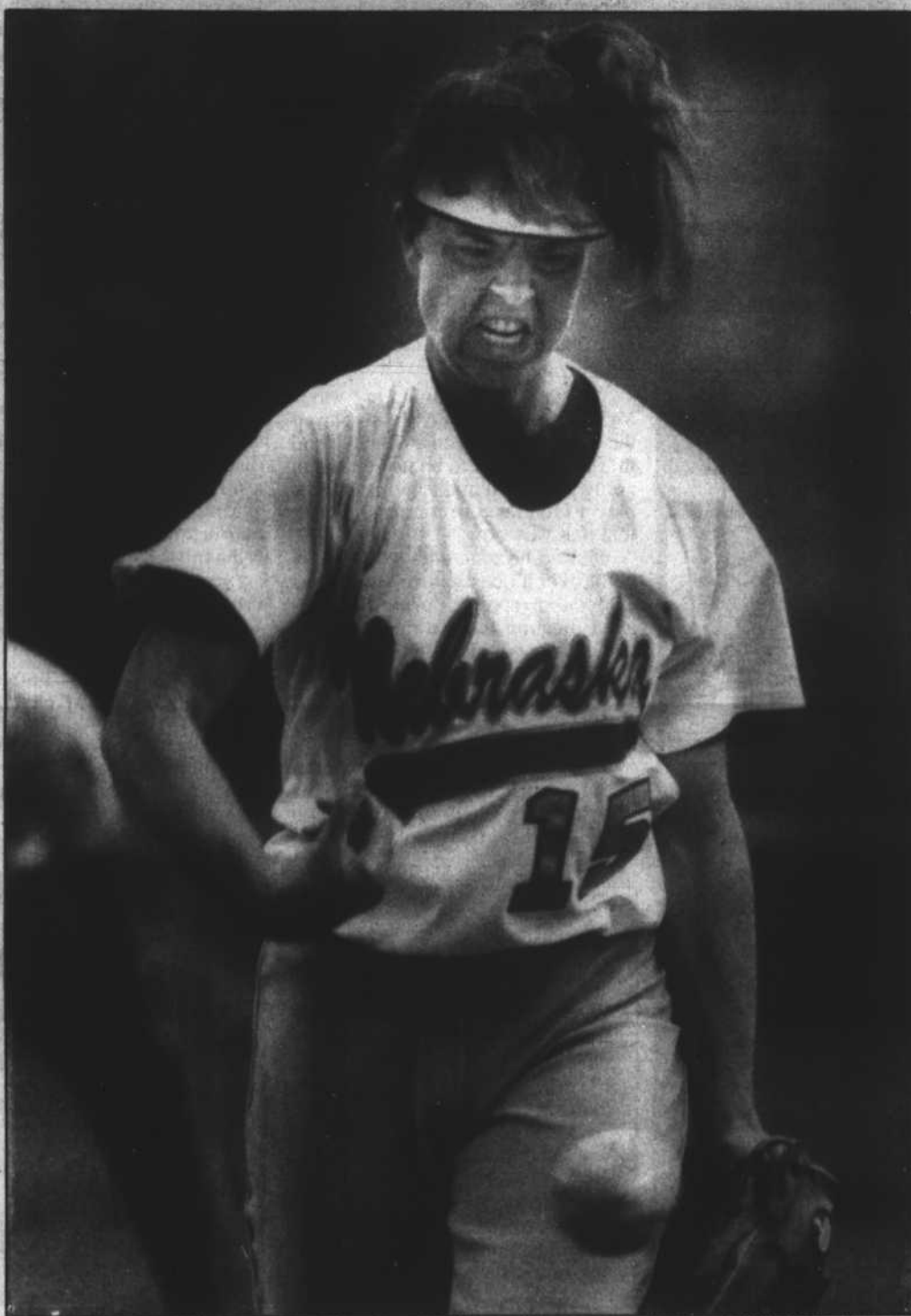
"When Woolridge decided to leave we started talking about maybe changing our recruiting strategy," he said. "We've become aware of where there might be an available guard."

Bergen said he hoped the Huskers would sign at least two more recruits.

Three possibilities still remain strong:

● Melvin Brooks of Chowan County College in North Carolina will make his decision early next week after he finishes final exams,

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Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Cody Dusenberry pitches in a game last weekend against Iowa State. The Cornhuskers will play Creighton in a doubleheader tonight at 6.

Softball squad has momentum to take on CU, Revelle says

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

After snapping a losing streak Sunday, the Nebraska softball team is looking to start a streak of a different kind tonight in a doubleheader with Creighton.

The Cornhuskers broke the school-record 10-game skid with 10-9 and 4-3 wins over Iowa State, and Nebraska coach Rhonda Revelle said the wins would help her team psychologically for today's 6 p.m. contests at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

"We finally won a high-scoring, close game," Revelle said. "We are playing with a lot of pride. We are playing to prove something to ourselves."

The one thing Revelle said she knew she would see from her team against Creighton, as well as in every other game, was a great effort.

"When you look at the whole big picture, like a first-year coach and all the injuries, you see that everything that could happen has," Revelle said. "Through it all, the one thing they've maintained has been their fight."

"It would have been real easy for them to throw in the towel."

Creighton holds a 2-1 series lead this spring, with the last two wins coming in Omaha.

Revelle said an off-the-field controversy involving the two schools' baseball programs had turned up the heat on the softball rivalry as well.

"I think the whole Creighton and Nebraska controversy this spring hasn't affected us directly, but it definitely has intensified it," Revelle said.

Revelle said Creighton fans were vocal during the two games the Huskers lost to CU in Omaha. She said she hoped Husker fans would repay the favor.

Another important factor for Revelle is how her 13-22 Huskers finish off the season and build for next year.

"What we have been doing all year, since this is my first year, has been trying to do a lot to build a foundation for the future," Revelle said.

Cornhusker players left door open for cold NFL draft

Ever heard of Rudy Harris?

Oh, come on. The running back from Clemson was the 91st pick in this year's draft.

How about Roosevelt Potts? Surely, you've heard of him. The Northeast Louisiana running back was the no. 49 pick.

And, by all means, you've heard of Natrone Means, the 41st pick from North Carolina.

No?

Okay.

Then, have you ever heard of Derek Brown?

Evidently not many others have. The former Husker 1-back was the 109th player chosen Sunday.

Yep, that's right: Brown, who left Nebraska early for the fame and fortune of the NFL, was drafted behind Roosevelt, Rudy and Natrone.

Throw in Garrison Hearst, Jerome Bettis and Robert Smith — among others — and Brown was the 12th running back chosen this year.

To boot, Brown wasn't even the first running back chosen by the Saints, who took Lorenzo Neal of Fresno State — Lorenzo who? — before Brown. And so the cold winds of the NFL draft cut through another Cornhusker.

The draft has never been particularly kind to Nebraska stars.

Although the Cornhuskers have had 13 first-team All-Americans since 1984, only three of those — Broderick Thomas, Danny Noonan and Neil Smith — have been chosen in the first round.

No Huskers were selected in the first round this year although John Parrella (No. 55 to the Buffalo Bills), Will Shields (No. 74 to the Kansas City Chiefs), Tyrone Hughes (No. 137 to New Orleans) and Lance Lewis (No. 184 to Indianapolis) fared fairly well.

But even though six Huskers were drafted this year — the most players since 1983 — the draft was particu-



Todd Cooper

larly cruel to Brown and outside linebacker Travis Hill.

Or, better yet, they were cruel to themselves.

Brown had no business beckoning the pros a year early. Although he was the Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year, the oft-injured Brown never proved that he could take a pounding.

He never proved that he was one of the best running backs in the nation.

And besides that, Brown didn't even prove that he was the best player on his team. That, in the least, should be a prerequisite before you leave school early for the pros.

And the draft sent a pro memo to Hill: Denial isn't just a river in Egypt,

Travis.

Sure, it was a cruel twist of fate when Hill twisted his left knee in the Orange Bowl. The senior was probably on his way to a long pro career and certainly a first round pick before that fateful injury in the second half of his final collegiate game.

But the travesty of this situation wasn't that Hill got hurt.

It was the way he handled it. After Nebraska head trainer George Sullivan said that an MRI showed that Hill suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament, Hill chose to ignore the news.

And the draft chose to ignore him for six rounds.

Nebraska outside linebackers coach Tony Samuel told the Omaha World-Herald that MRIs by pro scouts showed that Hill only had a first-degree tear.

A third-degree tear requires surgery.

A tear is a tear is a tear. But Hill clearly didn't want to have to tear up

any pro checks by admitting that he tore his ACL.

Instead of listening to coaches and trainers and participating in Nebraska's highly successful knee rehabilitation program, Hill went home.

And more importantly, his health would have been guaranteed. Instead, Cleveland Browns officials, who took a risk and took Hill as the 180th pick of the draft, have said that Hill might have to sit out the 1993 season.

That will give Hill much needed time to heal his injured left wheel.

And while he's at it, he can sit and watch the linebacker the Browns chose in front of him; Rich McKenzic of Penn State.

Oh, come on. Surely you've heard of him.

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