

## Scholarship reduction ends Steer's NU career

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

With the blink of an eye, Tom Steer's lifelong dream of playing football for Nebraska was over.

Steer's football days at Nebraska ended last spring when he was informed by Osborne that he would be given a medical scholarship and not be allowed to continue playing football.

"At the end of spring ball, every player goes in and has a quick meeting with Coach Osborne," Steer said. "I was expecting to hear everything was going good like I did the year before."

"Instead, I was told I had the option of either accepting a medical scholarship or transferring schools."

The medical scholarship would pay

for the rest of Steer's school, but would not allow him to play football.

"Basically, they cut me and felt bad about doing it so they offered me a medical scholarship," he said. "They felt that would justify it."

Steer, a former all-state player for Crete, said he had recovered from the hamstring injury that caused him to be offered a medical scholarship.

"I only lost one-tenth of a second off my 40 (yard dash) time and it wasn't because of my hamstring because I'm recovered from that," he said. "They thought it was because of the injury, but I think it was because I beefed up for them."

Osborne said the need to get Nebraska under the NCAA-imposed 88 players on scholarship played a role in Steer being placed on medical schol-

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arship. He said Steer had not recovered his speed after suffering hamstring pulls. Steer also suffered a broken hand.

"Obviously, we have a numbers problem here because we had 95 schol-

arships two years ago and 88 this year," he said. "Any player who is not 100 percent is somewhat subject to being placed on some other status."

Osborne said the coaching staff felt placing Steer on medical scholarship was the fairest decision.

"We felt the fairest thing for Tom — he was probably fifth or sixth on the depth chart at wingback — we felt the fairest thing we could do was give him a chance to finish his education by putting him on a medical scholarship," he said. Osborne said the NCAA-imposed limits would cause more situations like Steer's in the future.

"You are going to see more of this," he said. "You are going to have more and more incidents where people (medically) can't play and and we

can't keep them on scholarship."

The tough part now for Steer now is the decision he has to make.

"I'm healthy and I have a lot of potential, but now it's just a matter of what to do," Steer said. "I always wanted to play for the Big Red and now the hardest part is explaining to people exactly what happened."

"A lot of people think it is because of grades, but my grade point average is a 2.9, so that has nothing to do with it."

Steer said he was looking into playing at some Division II schools, including the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"The way I look at it is you're only young once and only able to play this game for so long, so you might as well take advantage of being able to play."

## Strength coach pleased despite stadium construction

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska football players wrapped up their summer of strength and conditioning training Tuesday night and strength coach Boyd Epley said was pleased with the Cornhuskers' performance.

"It was a consistent effort," Epley said. "It's hard to compare it to years in the past, but I can say the players are real focused on this season."

Problems which complicated the summer workouts were the weather and work being done on Memorial Stadium.

Players had to move from the west stadium strength complex area for three weeks because of stadium inspections. They also had to use the freshmen locker area in the north stadium because of a locker room remodeling project lasting all summer. Painting also kept them off Memorial Stadium's artificial turf.

"We've had an awfully strange summer with all the rain and the construction," Epley said. "It's been just one adjustment after another."

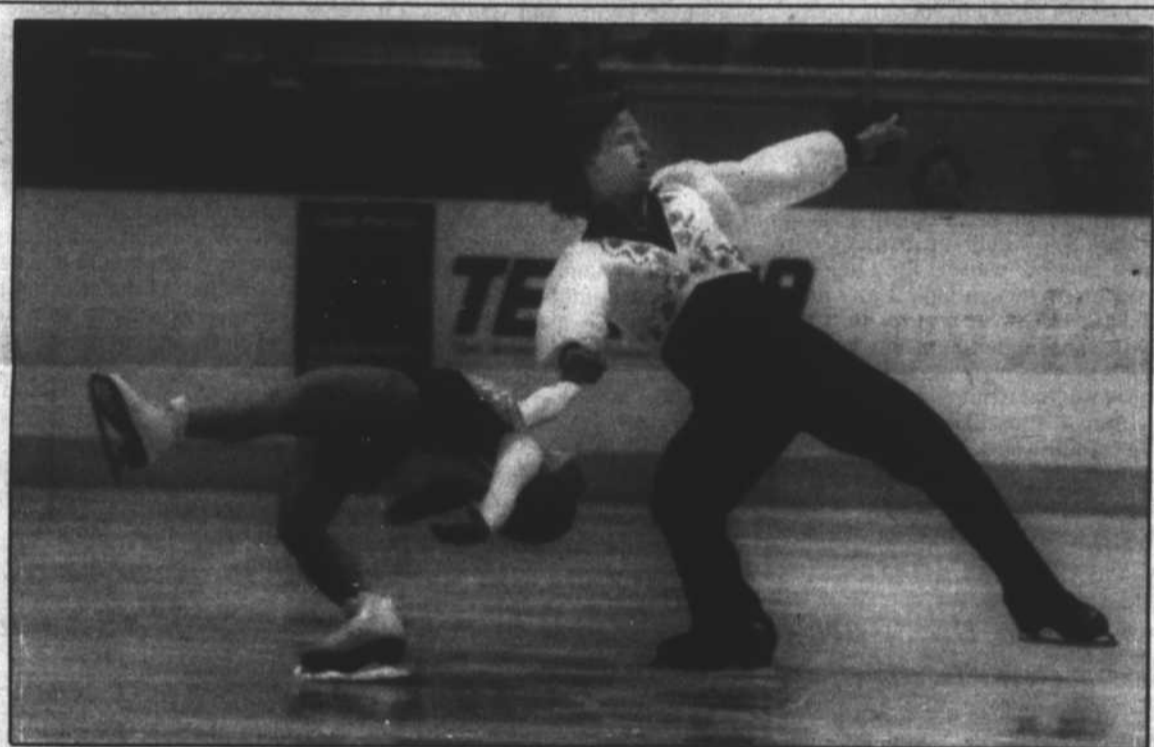
Summer workouts are on an optional basis, Epley said, but Coaches encourage players to workout four days a week.

"Since it's voluntary, it is a different number all the time," he said. "One night we might have 85 and then the next only have 45 in there."

Kevin Ramackers, Calvin Jones and Zach Wiegert were among players Epley said showed excellent leadership during the summer.

In the weight room, Epley said Mike Anderson and Gerald Armstrong were standouts, but offensive guard Brenden Stai highlighted the summer lifting program.

"Brenden Stai has done an outstanding job," he said. "He is closing in on breaking the school bench press record of 500 pounds (set by Lawrence Pete)."



Going for Gold

Former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Todd Reynolds figure skates his way to a gold medal with his partner Karen Courtland during the U.S. Olympic Festival in San Antonio. The games, which included several UNL athletes, concluded on Sunday.

Kiley Timperley/DN

## NU quarterback brings new optimism to Big Red fever

OK, so maybe it is the time of year when Big Red fever begins to rise and expectations are at their peaks.

Maybe it is the same attitude of optimism that the state of Nebraska gets every August that is turned into frustration every January.

Maybe Nebraska will continue to be cheated by pollsters and Nebraska fans will keep griping about running the ball too much, despite having a Heisman Trophy candidate at running back.

But this year should be different.

This year should be different because Nebraska will return toward the top of the college rankings, and finish ranked as high as fourth or fifth nationally.

What makes this season any different from last year or any other year?

One giant reason is Nebraska is heading into the season with a talented, experienced quarterback. Not since Steve Taylor have Cornhusker fans known and felt good about their quarterback before the season began.

Tommie Frazier proved to the nation he could handle the pressure of big games when he led Nebraska to consecutive routs over rated Big Eight opponents Colorado and Kansas.

Another reason is the schedule, which could be improved by adding a high school Class C team.

In past years, Nebraska usually had one or two very strong non-conference opponents, like Washington. This year, the only name that jumps out is UCLA, and the Bruins are far from a national power anymore.

The Big Eight is improving with



Derek Samson

the rise of Kansas, but other than the Colorado game in Boulder, the Huskers should breeze through the schedule. The best Big Eight contest in Lincoln will be with Iowa State, as Husker fans may see Nebraska hit triple digits in an effort at revenge.

But then its on to the Orange Bowl to play a Florida team in the snake pit they call a field.

Although the Huskers did lose their sixth-straight bowl game 27-14 to Florida State last year, it was not even

close to the embarrassment they endured in four out of the five previous bowl games, with losses like 45-21 and 41-17.

The game could have easily had been much closer. Nebraska was only a couple bad bounces away from making Florida State, who many argue were the best team in the nation, really start to sweat.

Nebraska has the personnel this year to end that losing streak and surprise a lot of people. It has one of the two best running backs in the country in Calvin Jones and probably the best linebacker core in the nation. Not to mention another mammoth offensive line.

If the Huskers can get through the season without any major letdowns and go into the bowl game with an

unblemished record, prepare yourself to see a classic championship game. Nebraska can match-up much better this year than in the past.

Nobody would deserve it more than coach Tom Osborne. As the Big Red faithful criticize him throughout the off-season for losing to Florida State and only winning nine games, he quietly prepares to produce another top-20 team.

However, this one should be the best since his 1983 Huskers. Maybe it is just a severe case of Big Red fever, but it is time for Nebraska to climb back up to the ranks from where it has slipped as one of the top powerhouses in college football.

Samson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Summer Daily Nebraskan sports reporter.