

Veland, Berringer taking aim at backup quarterback position

By Chris Hain
Staff Reporter

Nebraska quarterbacks Tony Veland and Brook Berringer are waging a battle to be Tommie Frazier's backup.

And they're not making the decision easy on Cornhusker coaches.

Both Veland and Berringer turned in good passing performances Saturday, which didn't clear up the fight any.

While the coaches have Tommie Frazier slated for starting duty in Saturday's season opener against North Texas, Veland said the race for No. 2 quarterback was still tight.

"It's a battle between me and Brook," Veland said.

Veland, a 6-1, 200-pound sophomore from Omaha, said he might be second or third right now, but that he was aiming for No. 1.

"I'd like to be No. 1," Veland said. "I'm just going to try to do my best, and if that's not good enough to be No. 1, that's no problem. I'll just have to work things out."

Despite his improved play on Saturday, Veland, who threw for 69 yards, one touchdown and one interception on 4-for-7 passing,

said he still had areas where he could improve.

"I think I played all right (Saturday)," Veland said. "I'm getting more confident in my passing."

"I still need to reduce my mistakes, though."

His most impressive drive was a four-play, 59-yard march in the second quarter that included passes of 13 and 14 yards and a 34-yard touchdown pass to Clester Johnson.

"My passing was a little more accurate," Veland said. "I had a couple more completions than the last couple of scrimmages."

Berringer, a 6-4, 205-pound sophomore from Goodland, Kan., completed 6 of 10 passes for 144 yards, including a 58-yard pass to David Seizys, and a 54-yard touchdown pass to Brendan Holbein.

Berringer said he was pleased with his performance right now.

"I made a few mistakes. I did a few good things," Berringer said. "I think I played pretty good."

Berringer said the competition at quarterback right now wasn't a problem for him as long as his play remained consistent.

"We have three guys that are good players,

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— Veland
Nebraska quarterback

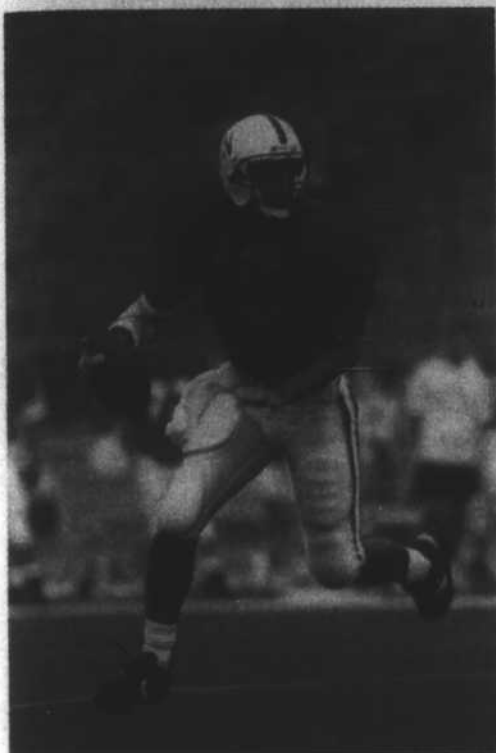
and it's competitive right now," Berringer said. "I just think I need to keep doing what I'm doing and let the coaches decide what they want to do."

Berringer said he hoped to prove himself in Saturday's game against North Texas.

"I just want to get in and get some playing time and get a chance to show everybody what I can do."

Both Berringer and Veland anticipate plenty of playing time in Saturday's game.

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Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer drops back to pass during a recent scrimmage. Berringer, a sophomore from Goodland, Kan., enters the home opener against North Texas on Saturday locked in a battle with Tony Veland for the No. 2 quarterback spot.

Anderson hopes to recreate history

Injuries stymied linebacker after stellar sophomore year

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Linebacker Mike Anderson has been looking into the past just as much as into the future.

Anderson had a disappointing, injury-riddled junior season after a sophomore season in which he put up impressive numbers.

"I just haven't played great like I did when I was a sophomore," Anderson said. "I'm trying to get back to where I was as a sophomore."

In his sophomore year, the 6-foot-2, 230-pound senior from Grand Island registered 80 tackles. That number dropped to 56 when Anderson, as a junior, suffered a series of nagging knee injuries.

"I never really thought about injuries until last year, and then it was one after another," Anderson said. "Both my knees hurt me probably the worst and really made it tough. It was especially tough mentally."

The thing Anderson said he remembered most about his sophomore season was the thrill of start-

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ing for the Huskers.

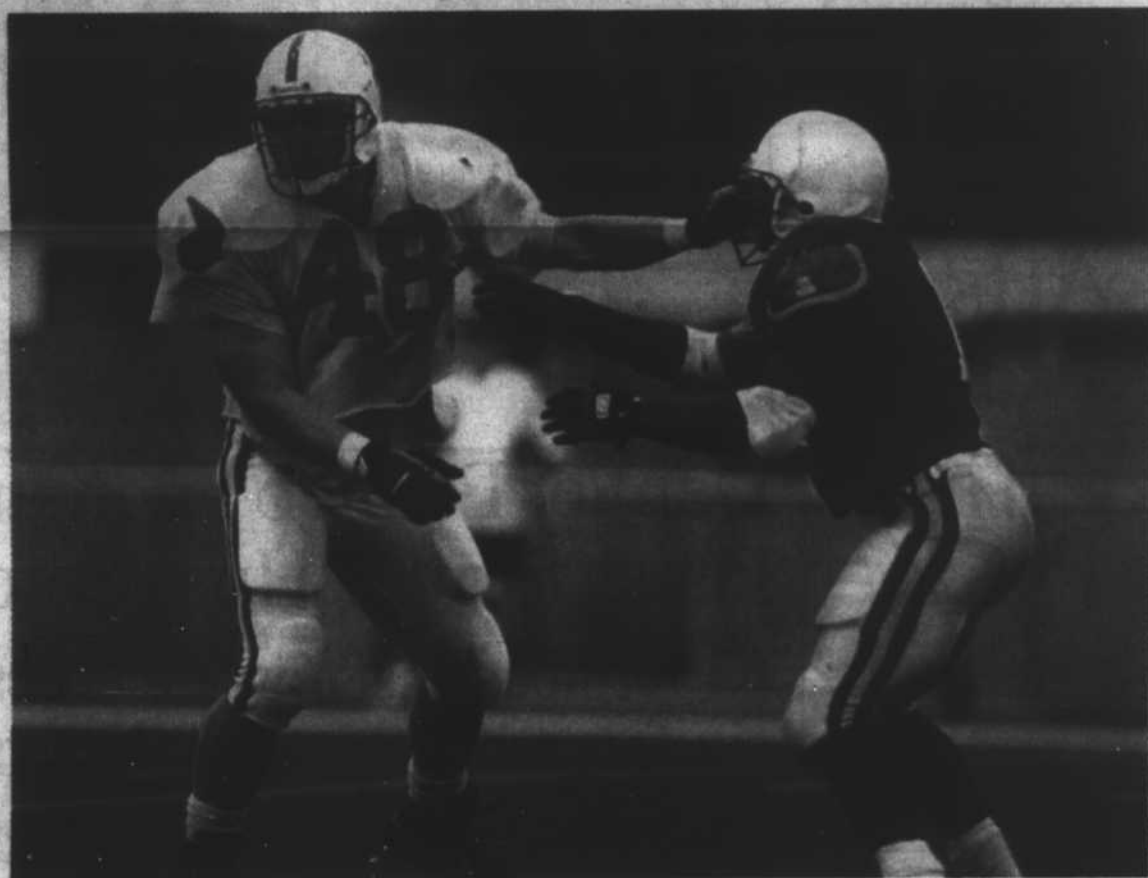
"Just the rush of being out there starting is incredible," he said.

Anderson said his play wasn't where he wanted it to be heading into the first game.

"I feel I can do a lot better," he said. "I haven't done anything great out here. I just have to keep working harder and hopefully things will come around."

Anderson was announced Aug. 24 as a candidate for the 1993 Butkus Award, an award presented annually to the nation's out-

See ANDERSON on 8



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska linebacker Mike Anderson grabs a defender's facemask during a recent scrimmage.

Jayhawk decision to play Seminoles remains mystery

Gale Sayers knows all.

Sayers, an NFL Hall of Fame running back and a Kansas alumnus, said Kansas' decision to play Florida State in the Kickoff Classic was a mistake.

His views proved correct as coach Glen Mason's Jayhawks were soundly defeated by the top-ranked Seminoles, 42-0, Saturday in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Seminoles are the No. 1 team in the nation and they're everybody's favorite to win it all this year. It clearly was a bad decision by Mason and company to start the season off by playing FSU.

All along Mason had said the game with the Seminoles would provide his team with an "opportunity."

The question is what kind of opportunity Mason was talking about.

An opportunity to show the nation that KU belongs in the same class as Florida State? Couldn't have been. Not many teams belong in the same class as the Seminoles.

Maybe Mason hoped to capitalize on Seminole Coach Bobby Bowden's bad luck in his inability to win the national championship.

That's not it. Otherwise, Mason would have beaten Nebraska by now.

Maybe the Jayhawks just want to get as much game experience as they can get before their grueling opener against Western Carolina, a Division I-AA team.

Then again maybe not.

Recruiting, that must have been it. Mason used the trip to the Meadowlands as a recruiting trip, trying to find the next Mike Rozier running around in New Jersey.

It did give the Jayhawks an opportunity to give Seminole quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Charlie Ward an early jump in the Heisman race.

Ward wasn't spectacular, but then again, he only played a little over half of the game.



Tim Pearson

Everybody knew Florida State would walk all over the Jayhawks, except for Glen Mason and his team.

Bowden was confident of a win over Kansas. He even said he would never have played a Top 10 team in the classic. But when Kansas was mentioned as the opponent, Bowden jumped at the chance to play a team not even ranked in the Top 25.

Even Seminole players were confident of a win. They questioned why they were playing Kansas, the third-place Big Eight team last year, when the Seminoles had already beaten the Big Eight's top team, Nebraska, in the Orange Bowl in January.

The Jayhawks were coming off an

8-4 record and an Aloha Bowl victory over Brigham Young. They ended the season ranked 22nd in the nation, so the Kickoff Classic organizers thought a Florida State-Kansas match-up could be an interesting game.

It wasn't.

Kansas Coach Glen Mason was being hailed as a savior in Lawrence for turning the Kansas program into the winner fans hadn't seen for an awfully long time.

But Florida State was the wrong opponent for a team that's trying to build a winner. Mason should have stuck with Western Carolina, not Florida State, in the opener.

The Jayhawk team lost All-Big Eight quarterback Chip Hilleary, second-team conference tailback Maurice Douglas, and four-year letterman Monte Cozzens at fullback.

With a new quarterback, Fredrick Thomas, they couldn't have expected to do much on offense against a de-

fense like Florida State's.

Maybe Mason will tell his players to forget about the FSU disaster and treat Western Carolina as its first opponent.

Maybe the Jayhawks will rebound like they did last year after a 49-7 loss to Nebraska.

Will the loss to the Seminoles send the Jayhawks floundering into mediocrity once again — like Sayers said — or will they recover?

We'll have to wait and see. Last season showed that Glen Mason had his Kansas team on the right road.

This year, the drive to success may not be so comfortable. Expect some turbulence in the early part of the season.

And fasten your seat belts. It could be a long, bumpy ride in Lawrence.

Pearson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior sports reporter.