

Nee, Osborne comment on Strickland

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter
and Stephanie Borgmeyer
Staff Reporter

Nebraska basketball player Erick Strickland's decision on whether to play Cornhusker football apparently is still up in the air.

Husker basketball coach Danny Nee said Thursday that Strickland—who told the Daily Nebraskan Tuesday that he was considering playing football—will remain solely a basketball player this year at Nebraska.

"Right now, Erick Strickland is going to play basketball for Nebraska," said Nee, who met with Strickland Wednesday. "It is not like he is going to go out and practice football tomorrow."

However, Strickland watched part of Thursday's football practice from the field, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said.

But Osborne said he was not able to talk with Strickland during practice.

“We want him in our program because we think he can be a great basketball player.”

—Nee
Nebraska basketball coach

Several attempts to reach Strickland to see if he had made a final decision failed Thursday night. Strickland's father, Matthew Strickland of Bellevue, said his son hadn't given him a final verdict.

Osborne said he tried to call Nee Thursday regarding Strickland but was unable to reach him.

"We would love to have Erick play for us but I would do nothing to interfere with his basketball," Osborne said. Nee said the Nebraska

basketball coaches would do everything possible to help Strickland make the most informed decision.

"We are going to research his options and then evaluate whether plan A, B or C is best for him," Nee said. "I'll be talking with coach Osborne and the football coaches, and I'll be talking with the baseball people and we're going to help him with his decision."

"We are going to do what is best for Erick Strickland—period."

Nee said he suggested to Strickland the difficulties in playing all three sports while going to school.

"I told him that it is pretty hard to play basketball and football at the college level," he said. "And I think it would be impossible to play football, basketball and then play spring football and then go play baseball."

His performance in all sports could suffer, Nee said.

"He is really not giving any one of the sports justice," Nee said. "I am afraid that he may be spreading himself too thin and diluting himself

“He knows he's always welcome on the football field.”

—Osborne
Nebraska football coach

instead of concentrating on one of them and then resting and giving himself a chance to focus."

Osborne agreed, noting that Strickland would not be able to join the basketball team until January—after the football team's bowl game.

"I haven't sat down and talked to him but playing both football and basketball could be rather difficult," Osborne said. "He wouldn't be able to play basketball until the beginning of

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Texas Tech team looking like formidable foe

Game day

Saturday, 1 p.m.
TV: none
Radio: Nebraska Radio Network
KLIN 1400 or KFAB 1100

Nebraska			Texas Tech		
OFFENSE					
QB	15 Brook Berringer	6-4 205	QB	1 Robert Hall	6-1 170
	or 9 Tony Veland	6-2 200	FB	41 Bruce Hill	6-1 225
FB	40 Cory Schlesinger	6-0 220	IB	4 Byron Morris	6-2 240
IB	21 Calvin Jones	5-11 210	FL	11 Derrell Mitchell	5-9 187
SE	2 Damon Benning	5-11 200	SE	18 Lloyd Hill	6-2 187
WB	27 Abdul Muhammad	5-9 160	RT	58 Ronnie Seals	6-4 274
RT	72 Zach Wiegert	6-5 300	LT	57 Stacey Petrich	6-3 280
LT	77 Lance Lundberg	6-4 300	RG	53 Peter Allen	6-2 277
RG	66 Brenden Stal	6-4 300	LG	78 Bingo Mancillas	6-2 284
LG	56 Rob Zaleschka	6-5 300	C	50 Brad Elam	6-3 271
C	82 Ken Mehlin	6-0 275	TE	83 Scott Aylor	6-4 241
TE	95 Gerald Armstrong	6-2 225	PK	16 Jon Davis	5-11 198
PK	13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180			
DEFENSE					
LOLB	84 Donta Jones	6-2 210	LE	13 Damon Wickware	6-3 249
DT	67 Kevin Ramaekers	6-4 290	DT	77 Stephen Gaines	6-3 300
NT	99 Terry Connealy	6-5 275	NT	78 Chris Ori	6-1 260
ROLB	34 Trev Alberts	6-4 240	RE	98 Shawn Jackson	6-3 256
SAM	23 Ernie Beier	5-11 200	SLB	37 Anthony Armour	6-0 200
MIKE	48 Mike Anderson	6-2 230	MLB	35 Zach Thomas	6-0 223
WILL	32 Ed Stewart	6-1 215	WLB	48 Shawn Banks	6-2 218
LCB	14 Barron Miles	5-8 160	R	7 Robert Johnson	5-11 188
RCB	6 John Reece	6-0 200	LCB	25 Shawn Hurd	5-8 171
ROV	3 Toby Wright	6-1 200	RCB	2 Verone McKinley	5-11 185
FS	4 Troy Dumas	6-3 215	FS	19 Dewayne Bryant	6-0 195
P	13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180	P	28 Robert King	6-4 191

DN graphic



Nebraska tight end Trumane Bell tries to break a tackle Saturday against North Texas. Bell and the rest of the Cornhuskers face Texas Tech Saturday at Memorial Stadium at 1 p.m.

Texas Tech I-back up for game

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Just because Nebraska I-back Calvin Jones will not play against Texas Tech on Saturday does not mean fans won't get to see a 1,000-yard rusher in action.

Red Raider I-back Byron "Bam" Morris had 74 more rushing attempts than Jones, and he outgained the Husker's Heisman candidate in 1992 by 32 yards, with a total of 1,279 yards on 242 carries.

"If I need to rush for over 1,000 yards for us to be successful, I'm going to do my best to do it," Morris said. "Whatever my role is for this team, I'm going to play it."

"All I want to do is win ball games."

Morris said putting up big numbers might be more difficult against the Nebraska defense.

"Nebraska is such a strong team; it's going to be hard to find holes in their defense," he said. "We're just going to come in there and try to play the best game we can."

"Personally, it will be tough for me running against a defense like that, but I'm approaching it just like any other game. We all have to

play our own roles and not think we can pull off an upset single-handed."

Also returning to the Red Raider offense are quarterback Robert Hall and receiver Lloyd Hill.

Hall completed 111 of 219 passes for 1,645 yards last season, with 76 receptions and 1,261 yards going to Hill.

"The offense is coming together pretty well," Morris said. "What doesn't get the credit, but is the reason why we have a good offense is our offensive line. They look real good so far."

Last week the offensive line helped Texas Tech rout Pacific 55-7.

"We played a good game, but that's behind us now," Morris said. "We have to be prepared for Nebraska. That's going to be so much of a different atmosphere."

"It's going to be a new experience for all of us. Playing in front of 76,000 fans is something I think we're all looking forward to."

Morris said injuries to Jones, quarterback Tommie Frazier and linebacker Donta Jones had not made Texas Tech any more

“If I need to rush for over 1,000 yards for us to be successful, I'm going to do my best to do it.”

—Morris
Texas Tech I-back

optimistic.

"Nebraska always has somebody in a back-up position that is just as good as a first-team guy," he said. "It's not going to matter who is in there for them. With their depth, they'll have the same things going as they normally would."

Texas Tech, which tied for second in the Southwestern Conference with a 4-3 record last season, will travel to Georgia after taking on the Cornhuskers.

Morris said the tough non-conference schedule should benefit his team in the long run.

Osborne expecting tough battle with Red Raiders

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

After an easy first week, Nebraska doesn't have to wait long for its first test of the season, according to Coach Tom Osborne.

The Cornhuskers, after defeating North Texas 76-14 in its opener last Saturday, will face an explosive Texas Tech offense Saturday in Memorial Stadium, Osborne said.

"Offensively, they are an outstanding team," he said. "They'll be one of the top two or three offensive teams we'll play this year."

Texas Tech, which finished tied for second in the Southwestern Conference last season, returns nine offensive starters, including quarterback Robert Hall.

Hall completed 111 of 219 passes for 1,645 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. Last week, while leading the team to a 55-7 victory over Pacific, Hall accounted for 327 of the team's 530 yards. He had 305 yards through the air.

"Hall can escape the rush a lot," Osborne said. "He is a good quarterback with a lot of mobility."

Also returning for the Red Raiders

Frazier still slowed

From Staff Reports

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Thursday that quarterback Tommie Frazier isn't quite in full swing going into Saturday's game against Texas Tech.

"He's still not 100 percent yet," Osborne said after Thursday night's practice. "He's improving but he's not quite where we want to see him."

Osborne said Frazier probably won't start Saturday's 1 p.m. game against Texas Tech. And, he said, he hasn't decided if sophomore Brook Berringer or sophomore Tony Veland will replace him.

"The game plans are set and it doesn't really matter who runs them," Osborne said. "All three quarterbacks know what they're doing."

ers is I-back Byron "Bam" Morris and split end Lloyd Hill.

Morris rushed for 1,279 yards

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