



Kiley Timperley/DN

Cornhusker quarterback Tommie Frazier tries to elude tacklers during Nebraska's win over Colorado State. Frazier said he has gained his teammates confidence during crunch time.

## Fine-tuned

### Frazier gains confidence in clutch situations

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

At this point last season, Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier was on the bench as backup to starter Mike Grant.

So far this season, Frazier has been a starting quarterback who has rallied his team to three come-from-behind victories.

Last October, Frazier was adjusting to the Nebraska offensive system.

This season, Frazier knows the Nebraska offense.

Last season at this point, Frazier had two touchdown passes and a rushing touchdown. He had passed for 89 yards.

This year, Frazier has four touchdown passes and three rushing touchdowns. He has passed for 539 yards.

And he has made all of those strides while playing on an injured ankle, something he didn't have to deal with last year.

The main difference between last year and this year, Frazier said, is confidence.

"I think the team has more confidence with me back there," Frazier said. "They know that last year I probably would have cracked under the same situations."

"But this year, I come to the sidelines when we're not moving the ball well and they say, 'Don't worry about it.'"

Frazier, a sophomore from Bradenton, Fla., didn't crack under pressure against Oklahoma State last Thursday in the Cornhuskers' 27-13 victory over the Cowboys.

He led the Huskers back from a 6-0 deficit and a 13-6 halftime deficit.

Right before the end of the first half, Frazier ran a hurry-up offense with just over a minute left.

He completed two passes to Trumane Bell and Calvin Jones. With 21 seconds left, Frazier again hit Jones for 7 yards.

Then on fourth-and-five, Frazier hit split end Corey Dixon for 31 yards to set up a 26-yard Byron Bennett field goal before halftime.

Frazier said those types of drives helped him win his teammates' confidence.

"It makes me feel really good that they have that kind of confidence in me," he said. "I'm going to go out there and give it my all for those guys."

In those situations, Frazier said, he simply tries to get something started.

See FRAZIER on 8

## Aggies bow out of planned date with Huskers

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Editor

Last week, Utah State followed a recent trend by showing how tired it was of exchanging a football blowout loss for a fast buck.

The Aggies canceled their scheduled games next season with Nebraska and Arizona and are looking to replace them with opponents that will schedule a home-and-home series with the Aggies, Utah State Athletic Director Chuck Bell said.

And, Bell said, they'll make sure their opponents are on an even plane.

"We felt like we were selling the bodies of our 19- and 20-year-olds for a fast buck," Bell said. "We have a word for that in Utah."

Opposing teams that come to play at Memorial Stadium are paid \$275,000. But in the last three meetings between the Cornhuskers and Aggies, Nebraska has won each game convincingly, outscoring Utah State by a combined 178-53. The Huskers won 59-28 in the teams' most recent meeting in 1991.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne said football cancellations were becoming too commonplace.

"What we're seeing is that coaches

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athletic director, Utah State

and athletic directors see a game or two that they don't want to play and then try to get out of it," Byrne said.

After cancelling their contract with the Huskers, the Aggies arranged to have Pacific replace Utah State on Nebraska's schedule next season. The Tigers will be Nebraska's fourth opponent next year and will play in Lincoln on Sept. 24.

Bell said in order for Utah State to become a power in the Big West Conference, the Aggies needed to have opposing teams come to Logan, Utah. Utah State couldn't afford always to play its tougher opponents on the road, he said.

See SCHEDULE on 8

## Coach: Nebraska to face tough Kansas State team

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

When Nebraska plays host to the Kansas State Wildcats in Memorial Stadium Saturday, fans will witness something that has not happened in 24 years of the series.

They'll watch a game between two ranked, unbeaten teams.

The Wildcats, 5-0 and coming off a 10-9 victory over Kansas, entered the CNN/USA Today Coaches poll at No. 24. Nebraska assistant coach Frank Solich said Monday at the Extra Point luncheon that the fifth- and sixth-ranked Huskers would see a type of Kansas State team they have never seen before — a confident one.

"When these guys come in to play us they'll ride on the bus, but they'll be flying," Solich said. "One thing that I've found out about athletics is if you truly believe you have a chance to win, then you can win."

"These guys are coming in here feeling that they're going to win the football game. They have a lot of

incentive."  
Solich praised the job Kansas State coach Bill Snyder has done with the Wildcat program — a program regarded as the worst in Division I football when Snyder took over five years ago.

"If you would have talked to a lot of coaches (when Snyder took over), they'd have told you it was a no-win situation, a dead-end street."

Solich said the Huskers have continued to struggle on offense, but have come together as a defensive unit.

"The defense really played pretty well (against OSU), especially in the second half," Solich said. "They did make some key stops early on when Oklahoma State had great field position. We held them to two field goals, so instead of being down 14-0, we were down 6-0."

Solich said Trev Alberts continued his excellent play and anchored the defense along with Terry Connealy, Kevin Ramaekers, Ed Stewart and

See SOLICH on 8

## Huskers due for big game; Wildcats on receiving end

Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones had to know what was ahead of him when his team sprinted off the field, jumping and celebrating its 13-6 halftime lead over Nebraska.

On the opposite sideline, there was no fear or look of surprise flashing on the faces of the Cornhuskers. Nebraska knew — just like Oklahoma State — what was ahead in the second half.

The Huskers came out in the second half and did just what they do best — they wore the opponent down. Jones saw his lead disintegrate into the 20th-straight Cowboy loss to Nebraska, as 21 unanswered second-half points gave Nebraska a 27-13 victory.

With the exception of Colorado and Oklahoma, the rest of the Big Eight floormats should not bank on pulling off an upset on the 1993 Huskers.

That includes this Saturday's matchup with undefeated Kansas State in Memorial Stadium.

The Wildcats are off to their best start since probably the Revolutionary War, but they better be prepared to be humbled.

After the Nebraska loss to Iowa State last year, Kansas State does not have a chance.

Kansas State is doing the Big Eight a favor by going undefeated, but its victories include wins over New Mexico State, Western Kentucky, Minnesota, UNLV and rival Kansas.

The Kansas football program, which is the biggest disappointment in the Big Eight since the conference's performance in last year's NCAA basketball tournament, went from Aloha Bowl Champions to the



Derek Samson

laughing stock of the conference.

In the exciting contest between Kansas and Kansas State last Saturday, the Wildcats hung on to a 10-9 win to raise their record to 5-0. Now, the city of Manhattan is buzzing with excitement and anticipation for the battle with Nebraska.

Even if Kansas State jumps out early, Nebraska fans need not worry. This year, the Huskers don't panic.

In the 50-27 win over Texas Tech, Nebraska fell behind in the third quar-

ter, but ran off 23 straight points to turn the game into a rout.

During the following game at UCLA, the Bruins played Nebraska tight throughout and held a 10-0 lead. But the experience of Nebraska never gave way to the upset-minded Bruins, and the Huskers escaped with a 14-13 win.

Finally, there was Oklahoma State. The 21 straight second-half points proved it will be even more difficult than usual to rattle the Huskers.

A final point to look at is that Nebraska hasn't really played a great game yet. It hasn't put together that all-around, butt-kicking win that is sure to come.

It is hoped that it will come against Colorado or Oklahoma, but most likely it will occur sooner than that.

Kansas State has played Nebraska somewhat tough in the past couple years, including a 38-31 scare in Lincoln two years ago. But the Wildcats haven't beaten Nebraska since 1968.

Kansas State should have a lot to look forward to with the revival of its program, an undefeated record and game films of opponents playing Nebraska close.

Well, sorry Wildcats, but the Huskers are due for a big game, and it is obvious Nebraska will not let any Iowa States get to them this year.

A healthy Calvin Jones will run wild, and Nebraska will hand Kansas State its first loss in a 42-13 Husker win.

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