# Injuries have kept Jayhawks grounded in

By Jeff Griesch



Since the Jayhawks' season-opening loss to Florida State, Kansas coach Glen Mason has had to worry more about finding 22 healthy starters than na-

tional rankings and bowl bids.

That's tough medicine for Mason to take, especially when the 4-5

## Men's basketball preseason poll has Huskers 4th

Led by 1992-93 Big Eight Player of the Year Bryant Reeves, Oklahoma State was picked to win the Big Eight men's basketball title in the annual preseason media poll.

Nebraska, which placed guard Erik Piatkowski on the conference's preseason first team, was picked to finish fourth behind No. 2 Kansas and No. 3 Missouri.

Reeves was the overwhelming favorite to repeat as Big Eight Player of the Year, receiving 51 out of 59 first-place votes.

Missouri sophomore guard Julian Winfield was picked to win the conference's newcomer-of-the-year honors. Kansas guard Jacque Vaughn was the favorite to win freshman-of-theyear honors.

Nebraska guard Jamar Johnson was an honorable-mention All-Big Eight selection.

Jayhawks had high hopes for build-reer-this season, including 17 playing on their impressive 8-4 season last year.

"We just go from day-to-day around here because of the way things have been going for us," Mason said. "We haven't known who are starters were going to be until game time.'

Mason has watched 20 Jayhawks miss at least one game because of injuries this season, including 11 players who have started. Eleven of the wounded have been lost for the

Kansas has started 41 different - the most in Mason's caplayers

ers who have made their first career

No position has been safe from the rash of injuries. Consider:

Two quarterbacks, three offensive linemen and two wide receivers have made their first career starts this season.

 The Jayhawks have started nine different defensive linemen, including Brent Willeford, who started the season as a tight end.

 The backfield has seen three different starting tailbacks. Freshman June Henley, the second leading rusher in the Big Eight, is the current starter.

Despite the injuries, Mason said, his team has continued to work hard to prepare for opponents.

"This is the best bunch of guys we have had here as far as their work ethic and the attention they give to detail," Mason said. "No one has giv-

Mason said it seemed like no one around him was safe from the injury

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said

he did not think Cornhusker fans

would create a similar frenzy even

sweet because it was the Badgers

first victory over the Big Ten power-

Nebraska, Osborne said, he'd "be

right in the middle of them" trying to

stop it.
"I think people here get excited about a win," he said, "but I don't

think that you're going to see a mob

scene here after you win a game. It

could happen, but you sure hope it

Husker fans last year following the Colorado game, Cauble said, securi-

ty officers stepped up their efforts to

restrict UNL students to their assigned

Cauble said too many students

crowded one area of the Wisconsin

In order to prepare for the rush of

If that type of melee happened at

Safety

house since 1981.

doesn't.

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"The injuries have even hit my family," Mason said. "My son, Pat Mason, tore an anterior cruciate liga-

ment in his knee during a junior varsity game for Lawrence High School and is out for his season.' Mason said the injuries had be-

come so contagious that he was being extra cautious.

"I have been looking three or four times before crossing the street and holding the railings when I walk down the stairs," Mason said. "No one is safe around here.

"Part of the problem at Wisconsin was the overloaded student section," he said. "When there's a restriction of movement is when you get your problem. The ones further back push and then you get people pinned up against the gates.

after a big win. He said Wisconsin's During a rush of the field, keeping win over Michigan was especially fans from piling up is the most important job for the security, Cauble said. But postgame security, he said, is a potential problem.

Cauble said 75 officers worked security during games at Memorial Stadium. However, once the game ends, 45 officers leave to help con-

trol traffic. "That's when it gets a little difficult," Cauble said.

Despite the incident at Wisconsin, Cauble said, he thinks the behavior of fans at all schools will remain the same.

But Cauble said he didn't think a disaster could happen at Nebraska.

"I don't foressee it happening, but it's not impossible," he said. "We would like, obviously, everyone's cooperation in not doing that.

But the fans here, I think, are a stadium, contributing to the disaster. little bit above that.'



### men's preseason basketball poll

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	points	
Oklahoma State	46	9	2	1	455	
Kansas	7	35	12	4	401	
Missouri	2	13	22	10	332	
Nebraska	2	2	14	19	282	
Oklahoma	1	-	5	17	240	
Iowa State	1	-	2	4	196	
Kansas State	-	1	3	5	180	
Colorado	1	-	-	-	76	
				100		

Player-of-the-Year

C Bryant Reeves, Oklahoma State

#### Preseason 1st team All-Big Eight (votes)

C Bryant Reeves, Oklahoma State (58)

G Steve Woodberry, Kansas (50) G Eric Piatkowski, Nebraska (48) G Donnie Boyce, Colorado (34)

F Jeff Webster, Oklahoma (24)



total

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## **Orange Bowl**

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said, but they also hope Alabama doesn't catch the Huskers in the coalition bowl rankings. The Crimson Tide gained 38 points on Nebraska in this week's poll and is only 56 points behind the Huskers.

We want a national championship game, and we want to see Nebraska in there," Epling said. "The system we have now is a workable system. The coaches vote and the sportswriters vote, so it's out of my

## Jayhawk

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Powell spending most of his time blocking for tailback June Henley. Powell, however, scored the only touchdown in the Jayhawks 13-6 win over Oklahoma State last week, which boosted Kansas to 2-2 in conference play.

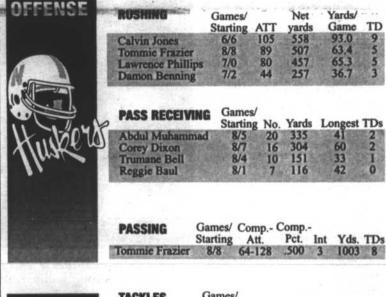
'We think we can move the ball on anybody," Powell said. "Last year we moved the ball on everybody but Nebraska. We hope that isn't the case again this year."

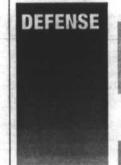
However, Powell said, he still sees the one constant on Nebraska's defense between last year and this year outside linebacker Trev Alberts.

"Their defense is extremely tough," he said. "Trev Alberts has all of our respect here in Kansas and he deserves it. To us, it is a personal goal going against one of the best in the country."

# **Season stats**

Nebraska's team leaders after eight games.





TACKLES	Games/ Starting	Unassisted	Assists	Tota
Trev Alberts	8/8	38	35	73
Toby Wright	8/8	34	24	- 58
Ed Stewart	8/8	20	33	53
Ernie Beler	8/7	15	25	40
John Reece	8/8	20	18	38
Mike Anderson	8/7	15	23	38
INTERCEPTIONS	S Gan	nes No.	Avg. Ret. yard	s T
Toby Wright	R	2	33.5	9600000

DN graphic

#### Cooper Continued from Page 7

Ask Corn Stock and he'll tell you why Tommie Frazier means more to Nebraska than any other Husker. "Our offense hinges on Tommie,"

he says. "No one brings more confidence to the team than Tommie. When he came back in against Colorado, we knew the game was over."

Ask Corn Stock and he'll tell you why the Frazier-led Cornhuskers deserve to be among the top four teams in the nation.

'Alabama, who's ranked ahead of us, has played one Top 25 team and tied 'em. Yet when we beat Colorado, we lose points in both polls.

"Kansas State is a Top 20 team and UCLA should be at least a Top 7 ways leaves Husker fans with red on team. We held them to 14 points their face. Why does he and the rest

while Arizona, with the No. 1 defense in the land, couldn't stop 'em."

Sound just a bit like Osborne? That's not because almost every Western Nebraskan seems to live a football's throw from the coach's hometown of Hastings.

"It's because that's all we hear about," Corn Stock says. "And we listen to him. Tom Osborne is a good, honest Christian man. And win or lose, we respect him."

But what if the Huskers don't win the national championship, like, for instance, during every season since Osborne took over?

"Oh, we'll win it," Corn Stock says. "This is our year."

Ah, the deadly statement that al-

of outstate Nebraska continually mutter those words?

"Because Notre Dame will beat Florida State," he says. "And Ne-braska can beat a team like Notre Dame. And besides, someone has to believe it."

Corn Stock's one of 'em.

"I've always been a 'This will be the year' person," Corn Stock says.
"And this WILL be the year."

He has certainly said stranger

And stranger things have hap-

Cooper is a senior news-editorial and political science major and is the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.