

Injuries have kept Jayhawks grounded in '93

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter



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

Since the Jayhawks' season-opening loss to Florida State, Kansas coach Glen Mason has had to worry more about finding 22 healthy starters than national rankings and bowl bids.

Men's basketball preseason poll has Huskers 4th

From Staff Reports

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-the-year honors.

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

Jayhawks had high hopes for building 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 season.

Kansas has started 41 different players — the most in Mason's ca-

reer — this season, including 17 players who have made their first career starts.

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 given up."

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

plague.

"The injuries have even hit my family," Mason said. "My son, Pat Mason, tore an anterior cruciate ligament in his knee during a junior varsity game for Lawrence High School and is out for his season."

Mason said the injuries had become 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."

Safety

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Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he did not think Cornhusker fans would create a similar frenzy even after a big win. He said Wisconsin's win over Michigan was especially sweet because it was the Badgers' first victory over the Big Ten powerhouse since 1981.

If that type of melee happened at 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 doesn't."

In order to prepare for the rush of Husker fans last year following the Colorado game, Cauble said, security officers stepped up their efforts to restrict UNL students to their assigned seats.

Cauble said too many students crowded one area of the Wisconsin stadium, contributing to the disaster.

"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."

During a rush of the field, keeping 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 control 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 foresee 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 little bit above that."



men's preseason basketball poll

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	total 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

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)



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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 hands."

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."

Cooper

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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 team. We held them to 14 points

Season stats

Nebraska's team leaders after eight games.

OFFENSE

RUSHING

	Games/ Starting	ATT	Net yards	Yards/ Game	TD
Calvin Jones	6/6	105	558	93.0	9
Tommie Frazier	8/8	89	507	63.4	5
Lawrence Phillips	7/0	80	457	65.3	5
Damon Benning	7/2	44	257	36.7	3

PASS RECEIVING

	Games/ Starting	No.	Yards	Longest	TDs
Abdul Muhammad	8/5	20	335	41	2
Corey Dixon	8/7	16	304	60	2
Trumane Bell	8/4	10	151	33	1
Reggie Baul	8/1	7	116	42	0

PASSING

	Games/ Starting	Comp.- Att.	Comp.- Pct.	Int	Yds.	TDs
Tommie Frazier	8/8	64-128	.500	3	1003	8

TACKLES

	Games/ Starting	Unassisted	Assists	Total
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

	Games	No.	Avg. Ret. yards	TD
Toby Wright	8	2	33.5	2
Kareem Moss	8	1	42	0

DEFENSE

DN graphic

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 always leaves Husker fans with red on their face. Why does he and the rest

of outstate Nebraska continually mutter those words?

"Because Notre Dame will beat Florida State," he says. "And Nebraska 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 things.

And stranger things have happened.

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