



Sandy Summers/DN

Cornerback upbeat despite bowl loss

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

Tyrone Williams looked like he was attending the wrong set of post-game interviews after Nebraska's 18-16 loss to Florida State.

While his teammates faced interviews with long faces, quiet voices and tears in their eyes, Williams, a 6-foot, 180-pound sophomore cornerback from Palmetto, Fla., wore a smile that revealed his gold front tooth as he spoke proudly of Nebraska's performance.

Despite the smile, Williams said, he was anything but happy about losing to the Seminoles.

"Emotionally it hurts; it hurts a lot, but you deal with it," Williams said. "In my life I have been through a lot of things, and I have been in situations like this before. I have learned to deal with it."

Williams said he was also a bit upbeat because he knew opposing teams would have to deal with an experienced Nebraska backfield next year. The Cornhuskers lost just three of their top eight defensive backs to graduation.

"We'll be back next year — we have a great nucleus," Williams said. "You have to be confident because we were so close — and the goal is definitely reachable."

Likewise, Williams said, Nebraska's defensive backs were close to making big plays against the constant aerial assault on the Nebraska secondary by Hesiman Trophy-winner Charlie Ward and Florida State's wide receivers.

Ward attempted 43 passes, which put pressure on Williams and the other Husker defensive backs.

Early in the second quarter, Williams was beaten by Kevin Knox for a 31-yard gain to mid-field.

Williams tackled Knox near the Nebraska sideline, but instead of hang-

Big Impact

In his first year, Tyrone Williams finished 10th on the team in tackles, first in fumble recoveries and also recorded an interception.

A look at his numbers compared:

TACKLES	UT	AT	TT
Trev Alberts	47	49	96
Toby Wright	43	36	79
Ed Stewart	39	40	79
Mike Anderson	27	39	66
John Reece	29	29	58
Barron Miles	27	23	50
Kevin Ramaekers	17	31	48
Ernie Beler	18	28	46
Terry Connealy	19	26	45
Tyrone Williams	14	15	29

INTERCEPTION RETURNS	No.	Yds.
Toby Wright	3	92
Kareem Moss	1	42
Eric Stokes	1	34
Williams	1	15

FUMBLE RECOVERIES	No.
Williams	3
Donta Jones	2
3 others with one	

DN graphic

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— Williams
NU defensive back

All-American wrestler Frank Velazquez, a transfer from North Idaho Junior College, hopes to end his career the way he began it — with a strong performance at Nationals.

Aiming high

Injuries create uphill battle for wrestler

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska wrestler Frank Velazquez is aiming for the top. But injuries have hurt Velazquez, a returning Cornhusker All-American, in his quest to repeat as All-American in his senior season.

Because he came off a seventh-place finish at the national tournament last year, a lot was expected out of Velazquez this year.

A lower-left leg injury in the Huskers' dual against Clarion Nov. 28 kept Velazquez out of the Las Vegas Invitational, a meet which showcased seven of the top 10 teams in the nation.

"It's kind of been an uphill climb this season," he said. "My injuries were a problem early on in the year."

In last weekend's Great Plains Open, Velazquez had to default his final match at 134 pounds after injuring his leg in the previous match.

"In a way, I'm not anywhere near satisfied with my wrestling," he said. "I just have to keep everything in perspective."

Despite the injuries, Velazquez, 12-2 for the season, is regarded highly by his Husker teammates. He is one of the

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— Velazquez
NU wrestler and All-American

team's two captains, along with sophomore 167-pounder Chad Nelson.

Velazquez said he tended to lead more by example than by words.

"I just try to be myself," he said. "I'm not one to say much stuff."

"I'd rather get stuff done." Velazquez hopes to match the Huskers' best-ever third-place finish at the NCAA Championships last year. Nebraska is ranked 11th in this week's Top 20.

"Right now we're not looked at as too promising," he said. "I think we expect to do as well as last year. I hope we expect it out of ourselves."

Youth and inexperience are the two minuses against the Huskers, Velazquez said.

"At times it's tough," he said. "It's kind of hard for them sometimes to have confidence in themselves."

"If guys have confidence in

themselves, we'll do great. The young guys need a little experience."

They also need to overcome their bad experiences, Velazquez said.

"Sometimes it's harder to get across to some of the guys that you have to be real positive," he said. "It's hard for them to pick themselves up after a loss, so we have to pick them up and give them confidence."

Velazquez was in their position last year. The experience he gained last year, his first at Nebraska after two years at North Idaho Junior College, gave him his first taste of success at the Division I level.

Not only was Velazquez an All-American, he also was one of three Husker Big Eight champions.

"It helped a lot," he said. "I gained some confidence in myself. But I had confidence that I could do as well as I did at nationals."

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

With the college football season ending less than two weeks ago and the basketball season moving into full swing, the last thing most Nebraskans are thinking about is baseball.

But preseason college polls and All-America teams are already being published, and the Nebraska baseball team will begin the season well-represented.

Collegiate Baseball ranked the Cornhuskers — who have already started spring conditioning and officially begin spring practice on Jan. 17 — 35th in its preseason Fabulous 40 poll.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said the recognition indicated the amount of talent the Huskers would put on the field this season.

"We are pleased to have an outstanding nucleus back from last year's team," Sanders said. "We thought (Nebraska's ranking) would be a little higher, but we'll take it."

Nebraska's leading returner will be left-handed pitcher Troy Brohawn. The 6-foot-1-inch, 190-pound junior from Woolford, Md., was named to Collegiate Baseball's 1994 Mizuno Pre-Season All-American team after finishing with a 13-0 record and All-America honors last season.

Brohawn, who posted a 3.16 ERA with 123 strikeouts last season, said that although he was an All-American last year, he wasn't counting on being a preseason selection.

"I wasn't planning on it," he said. "I don't like to expect anything because it might not happen. I had a good senior season of high school and everyone told me I would get drafted so I expected to get drafted. I didn't get drafted, and since then, I haven't really counted on anything."

Brohawn said the recognition gave

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— Brohawn
NU pitcher

him incentive to improve as a player.

"Other teams and other players see that I am an All-American and they come after me harder," Brohawn said. "It has made me work a lot harder because now I have to try to show that I deserved it."

Sophomore outfielder Darin Erstad collected All-American honors of his own by being named a first-team preseason All-American by Baseball America.

Erstad hit .339 as a freshman with 10 home runs, 54 RBIs and 14 stolen bases.

Although Erstad is only a sophomore, Sanders said he was not surprised that Erstad was honored because he put up solid numbers as a freshman. He also improved his stock by participating in the 1993 USA Baseball Fall Trials.

"He's a name that is out there and he has done a great job in every sport he has ever played in," Sanders said. "He is definitely a marquee player."

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