

# Orange Bowl loss to fuel '94 Huskers

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier has something different wedged in the back of his mind entering spring practice this year.

The junior from Bradenton, Fla., said he was trying to fuel the Huskers with the memory of their 18-16 Orange Bowl loss to Florida State.



**Miles** The most difficult part is trying to forget the national championship loss, Frazier said.

"I don't really think about it too much," he said. "But people always bring it up and want to talk about it. Right now, I just want to forget about that and go out and improve every time I get on the field."

Defensive back Barron Miles said he wanted to remember the loss every time he got on the field.

The Huskers need to make sure games like the Jan. 1 national championship don't slip away from them again this year, he said.

"It was like we were right there and they just took it away from us," Miles said. "Now we just want to get back again. We want to get back into it, and we feel like this time, it's not going to be taken away from us. We have to get it done."

Coming close last year has benefited every Husker this spring, Miles said.

"Most of the guys are really focused, and there is a lot of energy out there," Miles said. "We have a lot of young guys out there, and that's good for competition. It's real important those young guys get their chance to step up and play with the upperclassmen. It's their opportunity to show the coaches that they're ready."

Nebraska lost nine starters — five on offense and four on defense — from last season. But even at those positions, Miles said, the Huskers have game-tested backups.

"Our offense that's coming back, as far as the team thinks, is going to be real good," Miles

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NU cornerback

said. "Defensively, they said our secondary wasn't going to be that good (last year) and look what happened. So this year we're not worried about what people say our weaknesses will be."

Frazier said he wanted to work on his No. 1 weakness last season — his passing efficiency.

"I really want to work on my passing," he said. "Last year I was up around 50 or 60 percent, then I hurt my shoulder and it dropped into the 40s. I just need to stay consistent."

As does the whole team, Frazier said. The Huskers' mental focus needs to improve, he said, in order to avoid the lapses that nearly cost them a few wins last year. Nebraska squeaked by UCLA and Kansas by one point and had to come from behind to beat Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

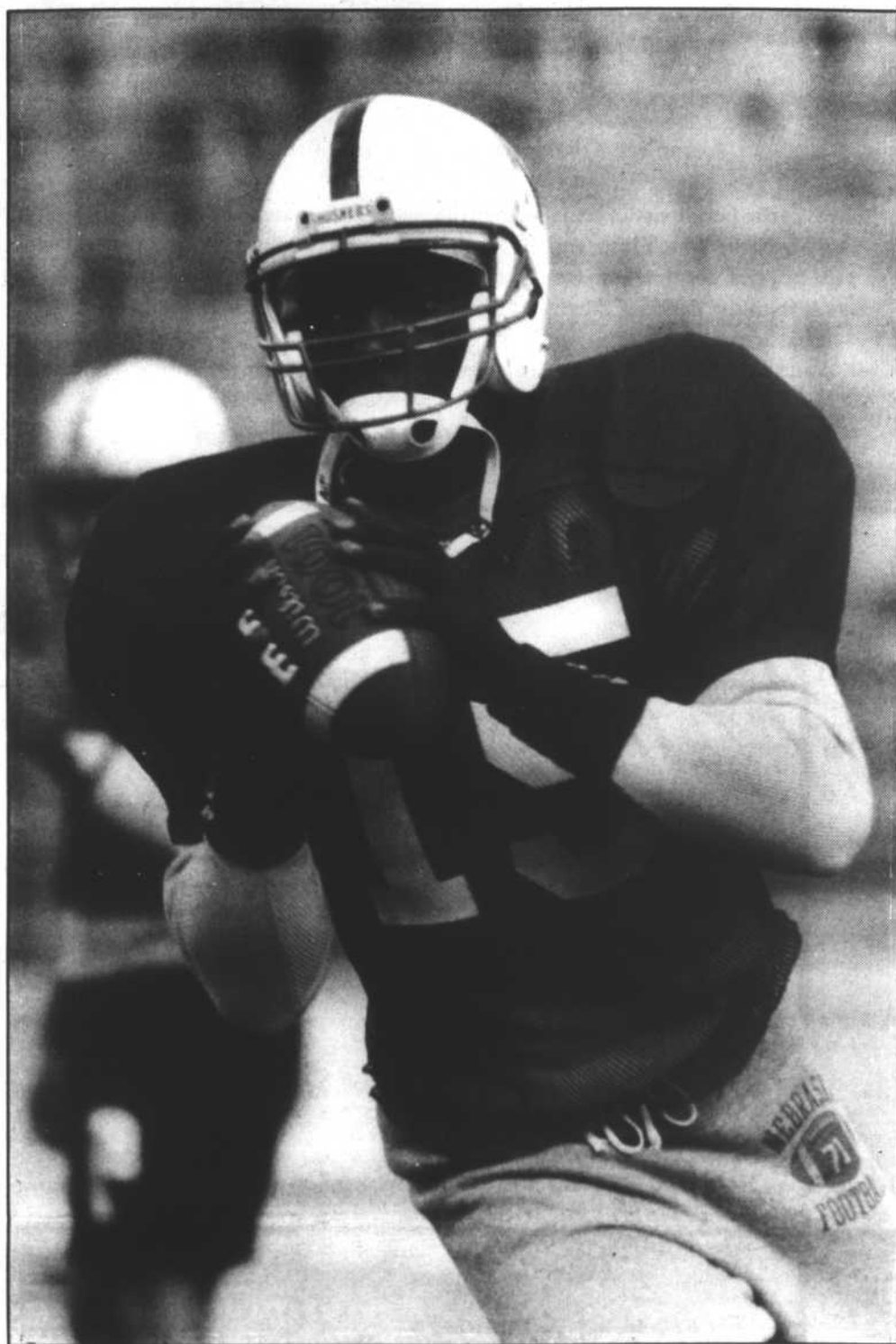
"We have to go out and have no mercy this year," Frazier said. "A few games last year we went out and expected to win big, and the game stayed close. We have to get that attitude now. What you put in in the spring is what you're going to use in the fall."

#### NOTE:

● Frazier sprained his ankle during practice Wednesday. Husker coach Tom Osborne said he didn't think the injury was too serious.

"I hate to see Frazier hurt for any length of time, because we're short on quarterback depth," Osborne said.

The Huskers went through 60 plays of live scrimmage Wednesday — 20 plays each for the top three units. Nebraska will practice in helmets and shoulder pads Friday and scrimmage at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Saturday's scrimmage is closed to the public.



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Tommie Frazier prepares to throw during spring practice Monday. Frazier sprained an ankle during Wednesday's practice.

## OSU sweeps doubleheader

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team's losing streak extended to five games after the Huskers dropped a doubleheader to Big Eight conference-leading Oklahoma State Wednesday in Stillwater, Okla.

The Cornhuskers, 12-14 overall and 0-5 in the Big Eight, lost 7-6 and 21-5 to the Cowboys.

With the score tied 6-6 in the eighth inning of the first game, Nebraska loaded the bases with no outs.

But the Huskers failed to score, as Oklahoma State's Rob Gaiko came in and struck out the side.

The Cowboys, 21-7 and 8-0, then scored the winning run in the bottom of the inning.

Gaiko, 3-0, got the win for the Cowboys. Mike Bellows took the loss for the Huskers.

In the nightcap, Oklahoma State exploded for six runs — five of them unearned — in the second inning and nine in the seventh in a 21-5 rout. Alvie Shepherd (0-3) took the loss for Nebraska.

## Loss motivates wrestler at nationals

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

A first-round loss at the Big Eight wrestling meet made Scott Gonyo realize that his wrestling career was almost over.

Gonyo lost his opening match at the conference meet to Oklahoma's Eric Ivins, whom he had beaten last year at the national championships.

"I had it in my head that I was going to nationals," Gonyo said. "It took that loss to give me a spark that nationals was right there and that this was my last chance."

That last chance paid big dividends for the senior 118-pounder from Fort Myers, Fla., as he earned All-American honors by placing sixth at the NCAA meet March 19.

Gonyo said the loss may have been a blessing in disguise.

"I'm glad I lost there rather than losing to that kid at nationals in the first round," he said. "That really was

kind of a turning point.

"It made me realize that if I wrestled like that, I'd be sitting in the stands watching."

At the beginning of the season, Gonyo said, he was aiming for a finish in the top four.

Although he didn't quite accomplish that goal, Gonyo said he was still pleased with the final result.

"I was satisfied with how I did, but I wish I could've done a lot better," he said. "I was content with the way I finished, considering all the things

See GONYO on 8

## NU tennis star to be recognized on 'Hug Bernthal Day'

It's hard to define greatness.

Perhaps the only thing more difficult would be trying to define what is growing on the bottom of my feet.

Anyway, when it comes to greatness, two words and an initial come to my mind — J. Bradley Bernthal.

Bernthal is a senior on the men's tennis team, but more importantly, he's a paragon of perseverance and a real swell guy.

For those three people who actually go to men's tennis events, Bernthal is the big, hairy Caucasian wearing tight shorts. For those of you who don't know him, you soon will — and in the most intimate way.

Bernthal was the 1988 Nebraska state junior champion in tennis and a Domino's pizza delivery boy. But his tennis success didn't earn him much

notoriety in the state and caused him to seek out other schools.

Bernthal spent his freshman year at Trinity University, and after a year off, another two years at Kansas.

When asked why he left KU, Bernthal responded that he had philosophical differences with the coach and that he simply got sick and tired of that damn "Rock-Chalk-Jayhawks" chant.

But don't accuse this educational free agent of not being loyal.

Bernthal is the golden retriever of college athletes. Not that he nuzzles people's crotches or anything; rather, he has a puppylike allegiance to his team.

Anyway, after a little exchange of dinero — if you know what I mean — Bernthal was persuaded to come to NU to finish his collegiate career.

No matter where Bernthal has been, he has applied the same fire and ferocity to his play.

At Trinity, Bernthal was referred to as "Cheetah Boy" for his court



Beau  
Finley

speed and quickness.

At Kansas, he was simply regarded as "the extremely white, fast guy that hit the yellow thing real hard." The Jayhawk squad never has been noted for its eloquence.

However, when asked, Bernthal says he prefers to be referred to as "Fluffy." You see, he's never forgot who he really is — a man in touch with his feminine side.

As the NU tennis squad moves into the Big Eight season, Bernthal owns the best record on the team at 10-3.

When a player is so talented athletically, spiritually, intellectually and hygienically, I believe he deserves a little special attention.

That's why I would like to propose to the student body that Friday be denoted as "Hug Bernthal Day."

I say go out, find Bernthal — his head is freshly shaven — throw your arms around him, and tell him how much of an inspiration he is.

Tell him you're glad to be a Cornhusker because we have guys like him representing us.

I encourage showing the love we all share for this man. However, be careful not to kiss him, because he'll slap a lawsuit on you faster than you can say "Free James Brown."

On a serious note, kids, with Bernthal's disposable school past, Friday's show of appreciation may be the only way to keep him on this campus the entire season.

**Women's golf update:** There was no Husker hacker press release this week. Apparently, women's coach Robin Krapfl couldn't be reached for comment because she was too busy coaching: "OK, Heidi, now just stand

next to that little white ball and smack it really hard."

So I guess I'll have to make up something.

The Dinah Shore — the first of the four major women's professional golf tournaments — was played last weekend and Huskah sensation Michelle Patterson won it. That's right, she won the whole friggin' thing.

Patterson is the youngest winner of the event ever. She is 10.

Patterson seemed quite excited about her historic win.

"Man, this kicks so much booty," Patterson apparently said. "I can't believe how bad I smoked that Lopez chick. I made her look like a chump."

"Hell, screw Bernthal. It should be 'Hug Me Day,' dammit."

Finley is a first-year law student and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.