

Frazier back in the game after ankle injury

Another quarterback goes down

From Staff Reports

Nebraska's depth at quarterback got even thinner Wednesday when Matt Turman went down with a knee injury during practice.

Comhusker coach Tom Osborne said he wasn't sure how serious the injury was.

"I think his ligaments are OK," he said. "Obviously, he has a pretty sore knee. He might be questionable for the rest of the spring."

Osborne said a defender ran into the back of Turman's leg as he was throwing the ball.

Nebraska's top three quarterbacks all have missed practice time

because of injuries.

Osborne said he hoped the lack of depth at quarterback wouldn't be a problem at the start of the season.

But if any of the quarterbacks suffer long-term injuries, Osborne said, Tony Veland may get another look at quarterback.

Veland moved over to free safety after last season.

"With any serious injury that could be long-term, Tony knows he'd have to come back to quarterback," Osborne said. "But we'd like to give him a shot at free safety."

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

One week ago, when Tommie Frazier dropped back to pass, a defensive lineman was blocked into him, rolling over Frazier's ankle.

For that moment, Frazier said he felt a severe case of déjà vu, especially after his injury-filled season a year ago.

But, Frazier said, being prone to injuries just comes with being aggressive at quarterback.

"Some people just seem to get injured more just by the style of their

play," Frazier said. "I don't think it's bad luck or anything; injuries just happen."

Frazier sat out Friday's practice and Saturday's scrimmage but returned to practice Monday.

The junior quarterback from Bradenton, Fla., said he regretted the time he missed.

"It was good to get back into practice," Frazier said. "I don't look at sitting out as a learning experience."

"I have to be out there participating. That's where you learn. That's where the work gets done, and that's where you improve. You can watch as much film or practice as you want, but it gets done on the field."

But if there is an ideal time to get injured, Frazier said, that time is now.

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—Frazier
Nebraska quarterback

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"I don't think it is as important right now because we have the two-and-a-half or three-month layoff for it to heal," Frazier said. "If this would have happened the week before our first game or something, it would be

See FRAZIER on 8

Sophomore softball player continues to challenge herself

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

When Tobin Echo-Hawk's 15-game hitting streak ended after Saturday's second game against Kansas, she searched for her next challenge.

But finding a new goal shouldn't be difficult for Echo-Hawk.

After a freshman season when Echo-Hawk recorded team highs with 42 hits and a .328 batting average, Echo-Hawk knew the next challenge was to improve this season.

The sophomore from Louisville, Co., has answered that call by posting a .407 batting average, third in the Big Eight. She also has four home runs in 1994, compared to just one last season.

Echo-Hawk said she wanted to avoid the sophomore jinx this season.

"I didn't want to remain where I was," she said. "I wanted to improve, but I felt the pressure after having some great things happen as a freshman. I really didn't want to drop off this year, and I worked very hard to make sure that didn't happen."

But there was another challenge awaiting Echo-Hawk this season.

After shortstop Ali Viola tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee, Echo-Hawk moved to shortstop from the third-base position she had played her entire life.

"They decided to put me there, and I was up to the challenge," she said.

"It was not that I didn't have confidence in one of my teammates to fill in that position, but I just did pretty well at third, so I wanted to see how I'd do at shortstop."

Echo-Hawk said her role hadn't just changed on the field.

"I feel like I have to be a leader this



In-the-park homer

Nebraska's Tobin Echo-Hawk, right, slides safely past the Northern Iowa catcher to finish off an in-the-park home run Tuesday.

Gerik Parmele/DN

year," she said. "I definitely feel more comfortable this year. Last year I came in and didn't know what to expect. I'm only a sophomore and I'm not much of a vocal leader, but I do try to lead by example."

Echo-Hawk broke Nebraska's softball record of 14 straight games with

a hit in the first game Saturday but could not extend the streak past 15 games.

"I didn't even know I had a streak until after about 12 games," she said. "When I was up to bat in (Saturday's) first game, I was really nervous. I knew it would probably end after that,

but I kind of wish I would have never known about it."

She didn't let it get her down. On Tuesday, Echo-Hawk came back to hit an inside-the-park home run against Northern Iowa.

Echo-Hawk said her final challenge this year was trying to turn

around the Huskers' 12-20 season.

"We're definitely not giving up on this season," Echo-Hawk said. "We're not going to quit."

"Hopefully we can pull it together at the end of the year, and I think we will. That's what I like about this team; they're not quitters."

Byrne shouldn't have made call to raise ticket prices

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have made Renee Swartz's job hell for the past week.

Swartz is Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne's graduate assistant. Make that his bodyguard.

Ever since the 50 percent price increase — from \$8 to \$12 a game — for student season football tickets was publicized, Byrne's office has been flooded with calls.

"We got bombarded," Swartz said. "It may not seem like a lot, but we took at least 20 phone calls, mostly on Thursday and Friday."

"It was definitely interesting."

It was hell. With Byrne at the Final Four last week and away "on business" this week, Swartz couldn't occasionally transfer students to the executioner himself.

Most likely, Byrne wouldn't have wanted to hear the callers' comments anyway.

"They weren't pleasant calls at all,"

Swartz said. "Some students were real mad."

Swartz did anything she could to protect herself from the shelling. She tried to take a name and number. She practically guaranteed Byrne would return the critics' calls.

But the majority of the ticked-off ticket holders didn't want to leave their names.

"Most of them wanted to relay a message," she said. "They were basically just saying that it's not fair."

Has that message been heard by the ticket price-raiser?

"Oh yeah, he has an idea," Swartz said. "We let him know."

It remains to be seen whether Byrne will reconsider his decision when the lottery rolls around next year.

But Byrne should consider a few things before he burns students again. Among them:

● The ticket price increase doesn't make sense comparatively.



Todd Cooper

At Texas this fall, students will pay a measly \$57 for an all-sports pass, which gets them into the five home football games and all of the Longhorns' home basketball games.

At Oklahoma, students will pay \$40 for five home football games, or eight bucks a shot.

At Colorado, students paid a measly \$22 for six home football games last year.

That's \$3.67 per game.

UNL students are paying three times as much as Colorado students. And Nebraska's home schedule certainly isn't three times better than

Colorado's.

● The increase doesn't make cents economically.

If Nebraska sells as many student season tickets this year as last — and that's a big if — increasing student tickets by \$4 a pop will net the athletic department \$144,000 more this year.

That's beans compared to the athletic department's \$18 million budget.

True, the athletic department receives no state money or student fees. It's self-supporting. But it's not anywhere near needing life support, either.

Byrne should know that there are better ways to raise money than through students' pockets.

The athletic department is bound to make far more than \$144,000 a year in additional revenue if it follows through on its plan to bring concerts to Memorial Stadium.

And once the athletic department

begins to devour its share of profits from the \$100 million football contract, its budget will be more plump than ever before. That money doesn't even include the revenue that will come from a lucrative basketball contract.

All the price increase amounts to is another thorn in the side of the students, who are still hurting from Byrne's decision to move their seats from the 50-yard line to the southeast corner of Memorial Stadium.

Now, even those cheap seats aren't cheap.

"I understand the students' position," Swartz said, "but I also understand where the athletic department is coming from. Because they're not state-supported, they have to raise funds. It's a real hard call to make."

More accurately, it's a call Byrne shouldn't have made.

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