



Former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers, left, shares a joke with Ron Barr, host of "Sports Byline USA," a national radio call-in show that aired live from the Nebraska Union Tuesday night.

Jeff Haller/DN

National sports radio call-in show brings its act to the UNL campus

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska athletics were in the national spotlight Tuesday evening when Ron Barr, host of "Sports Byline USA," broadcasted live from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

More than 100 people gathered in the Nebraska Union's Ballroom from 9 p.m. to midnight to watch the host of the syndicated sports radio talk show — which airs on more than 250 stations nationwide — interview several Nebraska sports figures.

Coach Tom Osborne was Barr's first guest and answered questions about several topics including a college football playoff, dealing with last year's Orange Bowl loss, the Big Eight expanding to 12 teams and how his athletes balance academics and athletics.

"The main thing we have going is a great work ethic among our players," Osborne said. "Most of the players that come here, come here for the

Big East officials might know their basketball but they sure don't know their football.

—Barr,
radio talk show host

right reasons. They don't come here for the social part. There are no mountains or beaches. They come here for football and an education."

Former Nebraska runningback and Heisman Trophy-winner Johnny Rodgers spoke after Osborne, primarily about how sports can benefit kids.

"For me, it was not only a way out of the ghetto, but it was a way out of trouble," Rodgers said. "Sports give you a good attitude. They give you the attitude to never give up. It doesn't matter how many times you fall down. It's how many times you get back up that matters."

Basketball players Erick Strickland and Jaron Boone, football players Trev Alberts and Tommie Frazier and Gov-

ernor Ben Nelson also received air time on the broadcast.

Alberts answered calls from across the nation, while Nelson co-hosted the last hour of the show.

Calls ranged from Las Vegas to Mobile, Ala., and the topics varied from Alberts' expectations of Sunday's NFL draft to the officiating in the 18-16 Orange Bowl loss to Florida State.

Barr received the biggest response from the audience with his criticism of the Orange Bowl referees.

"Big East officials might know their basketball but they sure don't know their football," he said, moments after telling Frazier and Alberts he thought Nebraska deserved to win the Orange Bowl.

Softball team splits games with Shockers

From Staff Reports

After splitting a doubleheader with Wichita State Monday, the Nebraska softball team will take on Drake in a doubleheader at 3 and 5 p.m. at the NU Softball Complex today.

Nebraska, 16-26, took the first

game of Monday's doubleheader against the Shockers.

Melanie Raimondi, 12-15, pitched a shutout as the Huskers won 3-0. Tobin Echo-Hawk was 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles.

Gloria Von Rentzell added two hits for the Huskers in the first

game.

Amy Offenbacher also went 1-for-3 with an RBI in the first game.

In the second game, Offenbacher hit a triple but was stranded on third as the Huskers lost 2-0.

Nebraska had five hits and three errors.

Dumas

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this Husker defense is, Dumas said. "We'll see what happens in these next couple of scrimmages," Dumas said. "But I think we showed something last Saturday."

Last season, Dumas showed the Husker coaches that he was versatile enough to switch positions in midseason.

He started four games at free safety early in the year before switching to

linebacker before the Oklahoma game. Against the Sooners, Dumas started at Sam linebacker and played a key role in holding the Sooners to only a touchdown.

Dumas said he liked the change in positions.

"I am happy with the move," Dumas said. "But it is hard. I have played safety for as long as I have been playing football. Playing linebacker just adds another dimension to my game."

The new position has caused some adjusting, he said.

McKay

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ma State," McKay said. "Ever since then, I have been playing a lot better. My strike zone is better. My strikeouts are down, and my walks are up. And I am feeling good at the plate."

Since the first weekend of April, McKay hasn't stopped hitting, and the Huskers have won 12 of 13 games. Nebraska coach John Sanders said

McKay's re-emergence was a big reason why the Huskers had turned their season around.

"Now that Matt is hitting the ball well again, he has really solidified our lineup," Sanders said. "He gives us a legitimate cleanup hitter who adds power to the middle of our lineup."

Through Sunday, McKay had boosted his batting average to .289 with five home runs and 25 RBIs. Sanders said the main reason for

"It's a lot different than free safety," he said. "There's a lot of banging up front with the linemen. It's always kind of scary for a second. At defensive back, I never had that."

Now that Dumas has gained experience at linebacker, he said, he is ready to tackle another obstacle.

"I need to work on being a team leader," he said. "I've been here a while, but I'm not much of a vocal person. So I have to lead by example."

"I think I can be a team leader. I hope my teammates will look up to me, but the main thing for me is learning this position and winning."

McKay's turnaround was his tireless work ethic after getting benched.

"What Matt did is what most guys won't do after being taken out of the lineup, and that is he came out and worked," Sanders said. "He worked on his swing. He spent a lot of extra time before and after practice in the batting cage."

"His quality practices showed that he has a lot of maturity and leadership. And his extra work has not only helped him but our whole team."

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