

# SPORTS

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## Game holds special significance for Dumas

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Saturday's football game will not only match Nebraska with its neighbor to the west; it also will match Nebraska linebacker Troy Dumas with his neighbor from down the block. Dumas, a senior from Cheyenne, Wyo., will be playing against his home-state school this weekend, when Wyoming travels to Lincoln. He also will be going up against a good friend in Cowboy sophomore safety Lee Vaughn.

"I know about three or four players on their team, but I'm real good friends with Lee," Dumas said. "He used to live down the street from me, and I used to hang out with his older brother (Tyrone) all the time. I've played a lot of basketball with Tyrone and Lee. Lee is a very good athlete.

"I don't know very much about Wyoming football or their offense. All I know is what I

see when I glance to see if Lee was playing last year."

Vaughn, who was a sophomore when Dumas was a senior at Cheyenne East High School, backed up Dumas at safety for the Cheyenne East football team.



Dumas

Lee Vaughn's brother, Tyrone, was in the same grade as Dumas and also started in Cheyenne East's defensive backfield with Dumas as a cornerback.

"Troy and my older brother kind of showed me the ropes and showed me how things were run," Lee Vaughn said. "It

made that high school transition a lot easier. They took me under their wing, and I looked

up to them for that."

Vaughn is fifth on the 2-2 Cowboy team in tackles. He has had 19, and 13 of those were unassisted.

Dumas is third on the Nebraska team in tackles with 15.

Although Dumas and Vaughn don't talk as often now, each of them realizes what is on the line Saturday — bragging rights.

"There was a period of time a while ago when we talked about every week or so," Vaughn said. "Lately, the only contact we have had with each other has been through

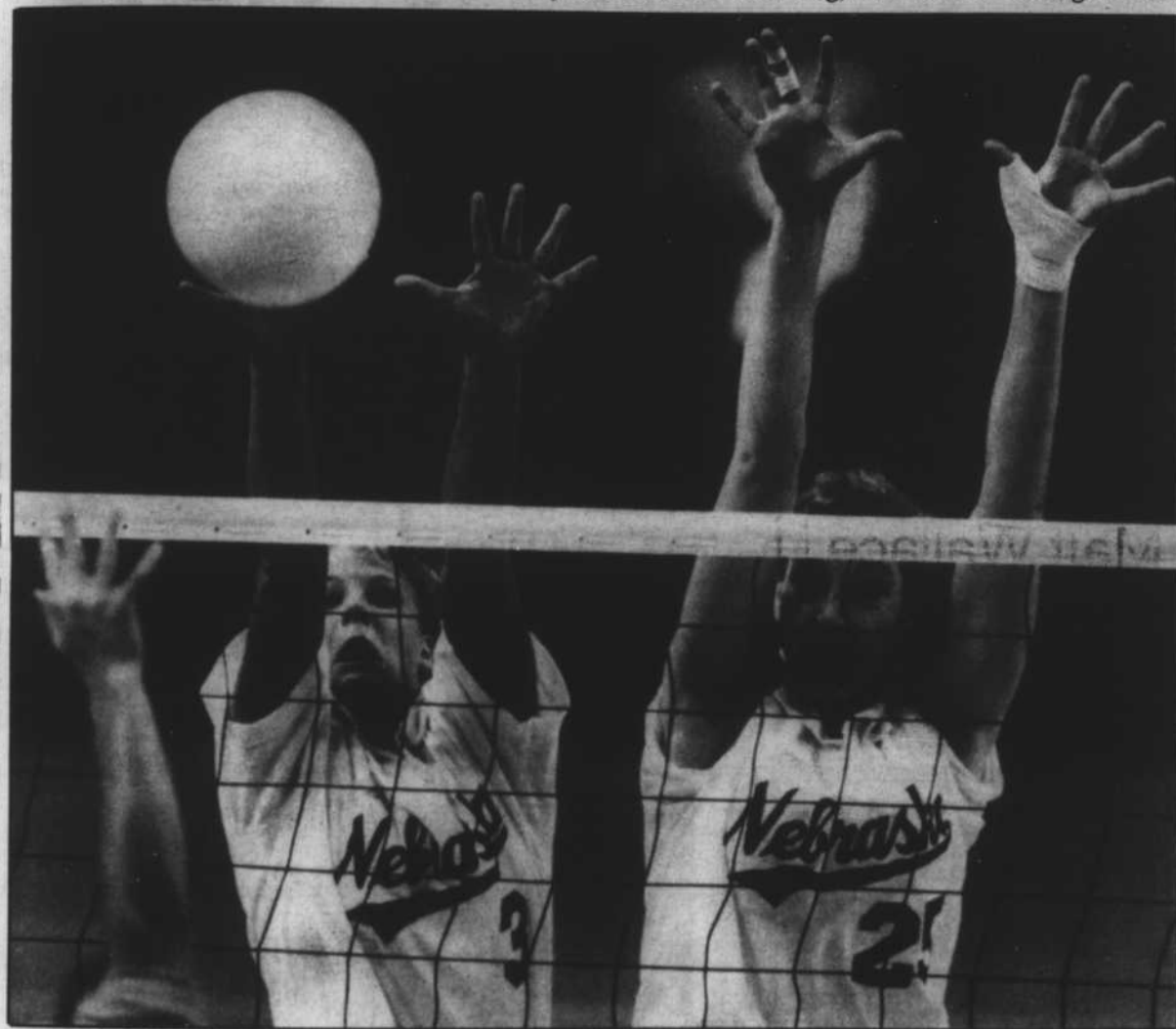
Tyrone (who is playing basketball at Heston College in Kansas).

*"Lee (Vaughn) knows what's up. All I can say is we're the better team. He knows he's going to lose."*

**TROY DUMAS**  
NU linebacker

"But there was a time when we were together at a track meet at the high school that we had both come back for. We talked quite a bit about this game and shared our differences." Dumas said he wasn't concerned about the bragging rights landing west of the border.

See DUMAS on 11



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska's Kelly Aspegren and Jon McFadden try to block a spike during the Cornhuskers' win over Bowling Green State on Sept. 9.

## McFadden's career young but recognized

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska volleyball player Jen McFadden was sore after last weekend's Arby's Classic.

But McFadden wasn't sore from playing.

Instead, she was sore from back spasms that put her on the bench during the Pittsburgh and New Mexico matches. Back spasms also prevented McFadden from traveling with the team to Missouri on Wednesday for the Cornhuskers' match against the Tigers.

"It's gotten better over the last week," McFadden said. "I've had this problem for the last few years. It's just a problem that comes and goes."

Except for her back problems, the 6-foot-2 sophomore has gotten off to a fast start this season.

Despite missing three matches this season, McFadden is second on the team in blocks, with six solo blocks and 29 block assists.

And after only one full season and nine matches this year, McFadden is ninth on the Huskers all-time list for solo blocks with 39.

McFadden is third on the team in hitting percentage at .395, fourth in kills with 82 and fourth in total attempts with 162.

Last week the Dubuque, Iowa, native was named the Big Eight vol-

leyball player of the week.

McFadden, a middle blocker, hit .533 for the weekend and had 28 kills, four errors, 18 blocks and 43 total attempts in the second-ranked Huskers' win in the Tiger Classic at Baton Rouge, La.

"I was real excited about winning the award, especially since we haven't done anything in the Big Eight yet," McFadden said. "Actually it was kind of shocking."

The Big Eight Newcomer of the Year last season, McFadden amassed a school-record 154 blocks, which ranked third in the nation with a 1.86 block-per-game average. She helped lead the Huskers to a 25-6 record and a second-place finish in the Big Eight.

The Huskers are in a good position going into the Big Eight season, McFadden said, but they haven't turned their attention toward their Big Eight foes.

"We haven't really discussed that yet," McFadden said. "We're taking it match by match."

McFadden said Nebraska wanted to regain the Big Eight title it had held for 16 straight years before being dethroned last year by Colorado.

"We don't really go into it as revenge," McFadden said. "It was something that was ours, and we let it go. It's not going to happen again."

## Tommie Frazier's injury shows that he isn't invincible

Tommie Frazier has the most famous blood clot in America.

When Frazier was released from Bryan Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, the press was there. Photographers. Reporters. Doctors.

Even Sports Illustrated was there. But most importantly, Tommie Frazier was there.

And Frazier may have educated the whole state on the medical terminology associated with blood clots.

Never before have I seen the words "blood clot" splashed around so many newspapers and TV stations. Those two words never meant much to me until now.

Now I know what blood thinners do. I know what a blood clot can do. And I know what a blood clot can do to Tommie Frazier.

Sure, everyone thought he could play through any kind of pain, but this pain may be too unbearable for even Frazier.

You saw his gutsy performance against Colorado last year. You saw him fight through injury after injury. But one fact remains.

He's not invincible. He's not Superman, although many seem to think he is. And he's not God.

He's your normal 20-year-old, just like you and me.

Well, not just like you and me. Just the same age.

Here's a man whose name is known across the entire country. Everyone loves Tommie Frazier.

And I'm sure everyone sent flowers or a get-well-soon card to Frazier. Now Frazier's out of the hospital and in good health.

His football season is on pause right now. The tape may be stopped for the season, or it might just be on hold — at least for one week.

And the task of replacing Frazier falls on Brook Berringer's shoulders. Berringer, who has backed up Frazier for the past three seasons, is taking the attitude of "speaking softly and carrying a big stick."

The words of Theodore Roosevelt live now, almost a century later.

They live in the mind of Brook Berringer.

Roosevelt replaced the assassinated President William McKinley in 1901 and said: "It is a dreadful thing to come into the presidency this way, but it would be a far worse thing to be morbid about it."



Tim Pearson

Sound familiar? Kind of? Maybe? Berringer said the same thing — somewhat — after Frazier entered the hospital with a blood clot in his right calf.

"But I hate to have the job this way ... I've been waiting for this for a long time. I'm excited for it, and I'm anxious for Saturday to get here."

And Berringer truly is one who speaks softly. He's not one to brag about his accomplishments.

But does he carry a big stick? Or in other words, can he lead the Huskers past Wyoming?

Can he lead the Huskers through the entire season if Frazier does miss the rest of the year?

Turn back the clock to last spring when Frazier went down with a sprained ankle.

Berringer came on to get some extra practice in a scrimmage. Then, Berringer said it was good for him to

get some throws in; it was good for the Huskers to build some depth behind Frazier.

It could have been an omen heading into this season. Maybe Berringer knew that Frazier would go down with the world's most famous blood clot. Frazier's ankle injury in spring practice gave the quarterbacks more practice time.

Now may be the time when that practice pays off.

All of this publicity surrounding Frazier's injury doesn't seem to have affected Berringer in the least.

At practice on Monday when reporters hounded Tom Osborne about Frazier's condition, Berringer simply walked toward the locker room, avoiding the media rush.

"Speak softly and carry a big stick."

Berringer has big shoes to fill. Frazier has gotten national recognition. Nebraska has gotten national recognition.

And now it's Berringer's turn. Nebraska fans have to be hoping that Berringer can receive as much praise as Frazier. Or at least half as much.

Every coach has thought highly of Frazier.

UCLA coach Terry Donahue: "My comments before the game were that I thought Tommie Frazier was in an elite class of athletes in the country. After playing against him on Astroturf, I feel even stronger about it than I did before the game."

Pacific coach Chuck Shelton: "I think Tommie Frazier, for what they are trying to accomplish, is the best college quarterback in the nation. Having to face him again next year may be why I retire. I am all for him coming out (for the NFL draft)."

Berringer may be under pressure, but expect him to come out and carry a big stick.

And in the meantime, Berringer is the man to lead the Huskers to the coveted national title.

Miracles do happen, and Berringer may be the man who plays miracle worker for the Huskers.

But remember he's not Superman. He's not God. He's just a 21-year-old. Just like you and me.

Pearson is a junior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.