

over Wyoming on Saturday. Berringer, who was hospitalized Sunday with a partially collapsed lung, is not passing.

Michelle Paulman/DN



Jay Calderon/DN

's game because of a blood clot in the team today. He is expected to return soon.

Cowboys' victory hope dropped after fumble

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Wyoming was trailing No. 2 Nebraska 35-32 in Memorial Stadium on Saturday and had just forced the Cornhuskers to punt with 5:32 remaining in the game.

But when Je'Ney Jackson fumbled the punt, Wyoming coach Joe Tillier saw his chances for upsetting the Huskers roll away. The ball bounced away from Jackson and into the arms of Nebraska's Damon Benning.

Nebraska scored on the next play, extending its lead to 42-32 and ending Wyoming's chance to make history.

"On the sideline, our guys were thinking we had a chance if we got a stop," Tillier said. "Of course, we did, and then we had the mishandled punt. I think that's what drove the nail home."

"Before that I thought we had an opportunity to be in it and win the football game. It was a good football game for a while anyway."

The absence of Tommie Frazier may have helped Wyoming, Tillier said.

"I think that Nebraska was flat to start the game," Tillier said. "I thought our guys executed well, and it was a combination of those two things. I think the Nebraska team had to deal with a tremendous amount of distractions this week with the Frazier situation, and to our credit, we came and executed well."

Tillier said his team didn't change its defensive philosophy because Frazier was on the sidelines.

"I don't think it really mattered to our guys about the Frazier situation," he said. "Our players never talked about it; they just talked about what they had to do to play a good football game."

Wyoming jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter and didn't

allow Nebraska a first down on its first three possessions.

Tillier said the quick start was the key for the Cowboys in staying with the Huskers.

"It's like I told our kids going in — 'Nobody has a monopoly on playing hard,'" Tillier said. "I think playing well that first series helped us. I think I would be lying if I said our players were cool, calm and collected walking in here."

"I think the success we had in the first series dispelled any thoughts our team had that they couldn't play with these guys."

Wyoming showed it could play with Nebraska's secondary by throwing the ball. Quarterbacks Jeremy Dombek and John Gustin combined to complete 25 of 46 passes for 344 yards.

Tillier said he knew the only way to pass against Nebraska was to throw short passes.

"We put in a couple of things that we thought we could take advantage of, and we do that every week," he said. "We like to put in something that they haven't practiced against."

"You have to throw the ball underneath against them and catch it and run with it. They have a very athletic secondary, and if you throw it deep, they'll get to it. You have to throw in front of them."

Dombek, a redshirt freshman, threw for 264 yards on a 17-of-35 performance before being injured and leaving the game two minutes into the fourth quarter.

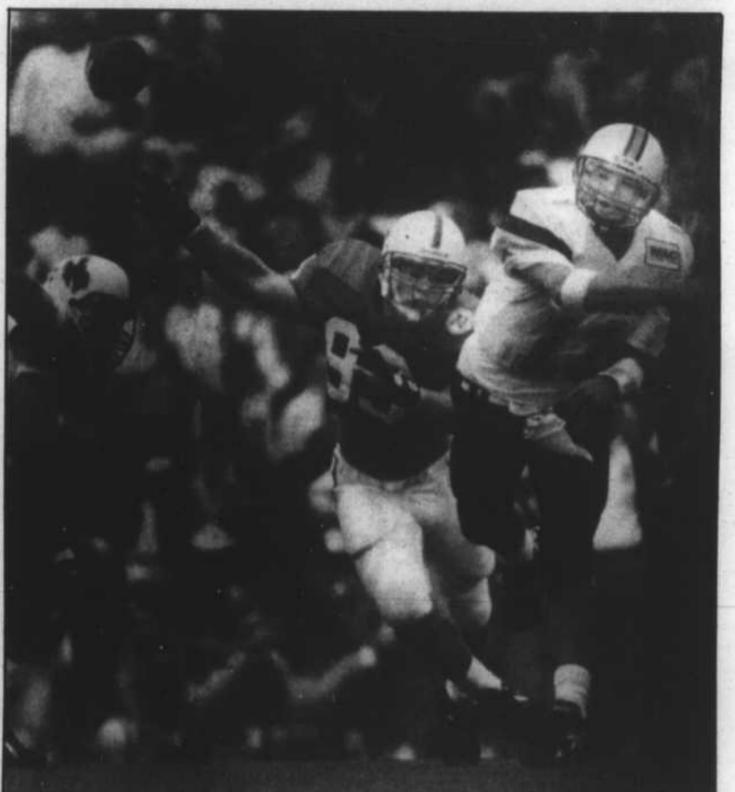
The 6-foot-3, 220-pound Dombek said the Cowboys did the most with what Nebraska gave them.

"We made a lot of mistakes, and the three interceptions hurt us," he said. "But there are not too many soft spots with Nebraska. They play a lot of loose coverage, and we thought we could get it underneath them."

Game Stats		Nebraska 42		Wyoming 32			
Scoring	1st 2nd 3rd 4th						
Nebraska	0 14 21 7						
Wyoming	14 7 3 8						
Wyom- Marcus Harris 39 yd. pass from Jeremy Dombek (Taylor Sorenson kick)							
Wyom- Jeremy Gilstrap 6 yd. pass from Dombek (Sorenson kick)							
Neb- Lawrence Phillips 1 yd. run (Tom Sieler kick)							
Wyom- Terry Hendricks 1 yd. run (Sorenson kick)							
Neb- Brook Berringer 5 yd. run (Sieler kick)							
Neb- Berringer 24 yd. run (Sieler kick)							
Neb- Phillips 40 yd. run (Sieler kick)							
Neb- Berringer 11 yd. run (Sieler kick)							
Wyom- Sorenson 40 yd. Field Goal							
Wyom- Gilstrap 2 yd. pass from John Gustin							
Neb- Phillips 8 yd. run (Sieler kick)							
Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Rushing	Att.	Yds.		
Phillips	27	168	Christopherson	12	0		
Berringer	12	74	Hendricks	4	34		
Schlesinger	3	3	Dombek	3	-7		
Muhammad	3	3	Gustin	2	9		
Passing	Comp-Att.	Int.	Yds.	Passing	Comp-Att.	Int.	Yds.
Berringer	15-22	1	131	Dombek	17-35	3	264
				Gustin	8-11	0	80
Receiving	No.	Yds.	Receiving	No.	Yds.		
Gilman	4	48	Harris	8	149		
Muhammad	4	30	Pratt	8	126		
Phillips	3	22	Gilstrap	3	25		
Johnson	2	14	Tillman	1	9		
Breakdown	Neb.		Wyoming				
First Downs	24		18				
Rushes-yards	56-322		21-36				
Passing	131		344				
Return Yards	53		5				
Comp-Att-Int	15-22-1		25-46-3				
Punts-avg.	8-42.5		7-41.6				
Fumbles-Lost	3-1		2-1				
Penalties-Yards	9-91		6-30				
Time of Possession	34:20		25:40				



DN graphic



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Terry Connealy pursues Wyoming quarterback Jeremy Dombek. Dombek tore apart the Husker secondary, throwing for 264 yards. But he also threw three key interceptions on which the Huskers capitalized.

"You have to throw the ball underneath against them and catch it and run with it. They have a very athletic secondary, and if you throw it deep, they'll get to it. You have to throw in front of them."

JOE TILLER
Wyoming football coach