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OCTOBER 5, 1994

New clot could end Frazier's season

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

The reappearance of a blood clot in Tommie Frazier's right leg on Tuesday likely will end the football season for him this year.

Frazier, who went to Bryan Memorial Hospital for a routine check on his leg Tuesday, found that a blood clot had reappeared.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said after practice Tuesday that the Cornhuskers probably would be without the services of the junior quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate.

"Frazier's blood clot has reformed in the same area," Osborne said. "I would say after this that his season is very, very questionable right now. It (this clot) is at least as big as the first one and maybe bigger."

"You never say never, and we can't put a target date on when he could return, but he definitely won't be playing anytime soon. There is a reasonably good chance he won't play again this year."

Frazier's initial blood clot was discovered Sept. 25. He was released from Bryan Memorial last Wednesday after being hospitalized for nearly four days.

Tuesday night, Frazier was in intensive care and was not accepting visitors or telephone calls, Nebraska Sports Information said.

Frazier's doctors would decide whether surgery would be needed to tie off a vein in his right calf, Osborne said. A smaller clot in his calf might be causing the larger clot behind his knee to reappear, he said.

"They think that some of that (smaller) clot has been spilling into the larger one, and that's why the clot behind his knee reappeared," Osborne said.

Doctors knew about the smaller clot, Osborne said, but they didn't think it posed any threat. Doctors will know today whether Frazier will need surgery, he said.

Doctors will make certain that once they dissolve the clot, it won't reappear, Osborne said.

"It has to be a brand new clot, so it should dissolve without any complication," he said. "He was on blood thinners, and it reformed without any trouble or reason."

"I was surprised because I didn't think it would reform," he said. "I think everybody is pretty surprised."

"You don't see this happen very often with an athlete of this type without a massive hit. I'm sure he must have got bumped or something. People I talk to say this is pretty rare."

Frazier worked out without contact during practice Monday. He was admitted into an intensive care unit at Bryan Memorial after the pre-scheduled test Tuesday morning.

"I tried to call him a few times (Tuesday), but I was never able to get a hold of him," Osborne said. "Dr. (Deepak) Gangahar said his spirits were good."

Frazier knew several days in advance the clot might reappear, Osborne said.

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Tommie Frazier

A Book Back

Hometown:
Bradenton, Fla.

Started as
quarterback: Oct.
24, 1992 against
Missouri, led
Nebraska to a
34-24 win.



Consecutive starts: 23

Awards: 1994- Heisman Watch Top
Five List
1994- NU Orange Bowl MVP

Autopsy raises more questions than it answers

By DeDra Jansson
Senior Reporter

Preliminary autopsy reports show that a Lincoln man who died Saturday after a struggle with police did not have a pre-existing medical condition, a lawyer for the man's family said Tuesday.

Carlos Monzon said the preliminary results of the autopsy did not support the county attorney's report that Francisco Renteria might have died of a seizure or from a pre-existing medical condition.

Renteria, 30, died Saturday at Lincoln General Hospital. He was stopped at 24th and Holdredge streets by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Officer Charlotte Veskna because she thought he matched the description of a man wanted on charges of violating a protection order.

A struggle between Renteria, Veskna and Lincoln police officers later ensued. After the struggle, Renteria had a seizure and was taken to the hospital. Police later learned Renteria was not the man police wanted.

The autopsy was performed Monday for the county attorney by Dr. Matthias Okoye. Monzon would not comment on specific results of the autopsy.

A second, independent autopsy was performed Tuesday by a pathologist whom Monzon chose. He declined to name the pathologist. The preliminary results from the second autopsy had not been released Tuesday night.

Monzon said he wanted the second autopsy to help preserve evidence in the case.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said he had no problems with Monzon's request for the second autopsy.

"I don't have any objection to the family doing an independent examination," Lacey said.

Monzon said the family would hold a press conference today to talk to the community about the incident and to thank the community for its support.

The events surrounding Renteria's death showed minorities were taken for granted in Lincoln, he said.

"There is a problem," Monzon said, "and that problem is a problem that could have been remedied. It's something that can happen right here. If Friday was Mr. Renteria, tomorrow, who knows who it can be."

Monzon said many people in the Hispanic community were fearful that the same thing would happen to them.

"There is a lot of outrage, there is a lot of fear and there is a lot of hoping for justice," he said.

He also said that many Lincoln residents who were not minorities had expressed their

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A HORSE IS A HORSE IS A HORSE



Shaun Sartin/DN

Racehorses at the Nebraska State Fair Park race grounds hang their heads outside their stalls Tuesday morning. The races are running now through Nov. 6 on Thursdays through Sundays.

ROTC program to close at UNK

By Nick Wiltgen
Staff Reporter

When the ROTC program at UNK closes at the end of this academic year, enrollment in UNL's program could increase, Major Greg Dibella said.

Dibella, an assistant professor of military science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the Lincoln program probably would gain members that otherwise would have gone to Kearney next year.

But he said he didn't expect a significant effect on UNL's program.

"Do we expect the floodgates to be opening?" Dibella said. "No."

The U.S. Army, which oversees ROTC, declared a "deactivation position" at the University of Nebraska at Kearney in August. The army had been monitoring the program's productivity for several years.

John Oseth, executive assistant to the UNK chancellor, said the Army thought the program

produced too few commissioned officers and attracted too few high school seniors. The Army also decided the program had small numbers of students and graduates.

UNK is trying to salvage what it can from the program, Oseth said.

"We've asked the Army to reconsider," he said. "If this program closes, you could drive from Lincoln to Denver and not catch a whiff of an ROTC program."

Oseth said the ROTC departure was one of many cuts brought on by sudden changes in world events, such as the fall of communism in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

The Pentagon has put the entire ROTC program under scrutiny, he said. Dozens of marginal ROTC programs were monitored for several years, including the Kearney unit.

If the program dissolves as planned, Oseth said, the following would happen:

This year's seniors would be commissioned, or complete the program, as normal. Juniors would be allowed to "double up" on courses to

be commissioned this year. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors who do not wish to speed up the process can transfer, most likely to UNL.

UNK might pursue a cross-enrollment approach, he said, in which students could enroll at UNK while taking ROTC classes at another location.

Oseth said he would like to retain that option so UNK could remain involved with the program.

Dibella said the Lincoln program was in no danger of closing because it was the ROTC flagship unit for the state.

"We are fine unless things would change drastically," he said.

Kearney is too far from Omaha to affect the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said Lt. Col. Joan Sisco, professor of military science at Creighton University. Sisco oversees the Omaha ROTC program that includes UNO.

She said she did not expect the Omaha unit to close, because Omaha was large and two universities participated in the program.