

SPORTS

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QB question not yet answered

By Jeff Griesch

Staff Reporter

The Nebraska football team is 12-0 and ranked No. 1, but the starting quarterback job in the Orange Bowl is still up for grabs, Coach Tom Osborne said Wednesday.

Osborne said Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer might have to compete for the starting position during the next few weeks of practice.

"If Tommie is able to scrimmage, we'll let him compete for the starting job," Osborne said. "We will practice and grade them and then have an evaluation to decide who will start."

Frazier participated fully in the Cornhuskers' hour-and-15-minute

no-contact practice.

But if Frazier can't scrimmage during December, Osborne said Frazier probably would be available only in an emergency situation, similar to Frazier's status for the Oklahoma game.

"A guy can't miss three or four months and then come in and start without scrimmaging," Osborne said. "If he can't scrimmage, I have no reason to believe he would be any more than he was against Oklahoma."

Osborne said he would meet with Frazier's doctors later this month to determine what Frazier's status would be.

In the meantime, Osborne is trying to downplay any thoughts of a quarterback controversy.

"We will practice and grade them and then have an evaluation to decide who will start."

TOM OSBORNE

NU football coach

"To me this really isn't big news," Osborne said. "Having two quarterbacks doesn't really concern me that much. The real news is when you don't have any quarterbacks."

Attitude driving volleyball team

By Trevor Parks

Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team has the attitude that no one can stop it in the NCAA tournament.

Last year that feeling wasn't there, as Nebraska limped into the tournament with a 24-5 record coming off a loss to Colorado in the Big Eight tournament.

Senior outside hitter Kelly Aspegren said this year the team's psyche was improved from last year.

"There is a drastic change," Aspegren said. "Everyone's pushing each other ... we are to a point of getting angry with each other, and that just shows how much our team wants this."

The hunger for success has shown, as Nebraska finished the regular season 29-0 and regained the Big Eight regular-season and Big Eight tournament titles from Colorado.

Junior outside hitter Billie Winsett agreed with Aspegren and said the Cornhuskers had their attitude to thank for their success.

"This team has a definite attitude change," Winsett said. "I think that is what has gotten us so far this sea-

Colonials to be NU's opponent

From Staff Reports

George Washington got by its first hurdle Wednesday night.

Now, after defeating Wisconsin, George Washington has a bigger hurdle against No. 1 Nebraska Saturday night.

The Colonials defeated Wisconsin 15-13, 15-11, 12-15, 12-15, 15-10 to improve their record to 32-3.

"Everything was on the line," GW's Svetlana Vtyurina said. "It was the biggest match we've played all year."

Vtyurina had 48 kills and a .494 hitting percentage to lead the Colonials into the second round of the NCAA tournament.

GW coach Susie Homan said her team must now focus on 29-0 Nebraska.

"We understand they are good," she said. "We just wanted to get through tonight, and we will begin to prepare early tomorrow morning."

But Homan knows that her team is the underdog going into the match.

"(There's) a lot of pressure on them because they are undefeated," she said. "We have nothing to lose."

Homan said her team is better than most people think, and Nebraska could expect a few surprises Saturday night.

son.

"It's an attitude that we are going to do everything we can personally and as a team to win, instead of just hoping to win."

Last year the team hoped to beat Notre Dame in the NCAA tournament. But the Fighting Irish beat Nebraska in three games at South Bend.

Winsett said the Huskers didn't want to look ahead, but down the road, they wouldn't mind a shot

against Notre Dame in the tournament.

"We just need to take one match at a time," Winsett said. "I think that would be a fun matchup if we get that far."

But before that, the Huskers are focused on their second-round match.

"We're not overlooking any team right now, because any team can rise to the occasion," Winsett said.

See VOLLEYBALL on 8

NU fans unite: NCAA volleyball madness to hit town

The fans huddled in the doorway of the South Stadium entrance on Monday morning impatiently waiting. As the clock inside the double glass doors approached 8 a.m., the line was long and wound like a snake outside the ticket office windows and into the chilly, late November air.

Soon the windows opened and so did the wallets. Out came the checkbooks and credit cards. Phone lines were swamped with orders, and fans hoped to avoid being shut out, for they had to act quickly — their team had only six more days to prepare.

That's right.

This is no time to think about the Orange Bowl. Sandy beaches and 80-degree temperatures still are a distant vision 31 days down the road. I'm talking about the NCAA volleyball tournament.

Cindy Bell, Nebraska's ticket manager, said reserved seats for Saturday night's match sold out the first day they were available.

"We sold 1,400 or 1,500 on Monday, and that's what we expected for a first day," Bell said. "The reserved seats were gone real quick, and right now we are about halfway to a sell-out with our general admission tickets."

That may not seem like a great accomplishment to Nebraska fans, who have seen a remarkable 201-straight sellouts in the 76,000-seat building just down the street from the NU Coliseum, but what the volleyball team has done this year has been remarkable in its own right.

They've had some sellouts this year, too.

Four.

And now Nebraska has a 29-0 record and a No. 1 ranking in the nation.

In 1978, Southern Cal finished 38-0. With five more wins, Nebraska would be the second team to ever finish a season as undefeated national champions.

If you haven't seen this team in action, you should this weekend. The Coliseum, like normal, will be jampacked.

Minutes before the doors open — 1 1/2 hours before each match — students pile up outside the gates, waiting to run to the front row to get a close-up view of Allison Weston's running right-handed slam into the Coliseum floor amid a group of helpful defenders.

Many times, there aren't enough

seats in the house to accommodate all of the volleyball nuts. Dejected fans have been seen roaming the grassy area outside the Coliseum after being turned away at the doors. Some fans stand and watch from the racquetball courts at the opposite end of the gym.

For the season, the Cornhuskers rank third in the nation for attendance, averaging a Nebraska record 3,379 fans per game. Among schools that charge admission to matches, Nebraska is No. 1, almost 1,000 fans per game ahead of second-ranked Stanford.

It's been quite a season of Big Red spikes, sets and digs. Saturday night, the level of play takes on a new meaning. No more easy games. No more unimportant matches.

Everything is do or die.

Forget about the Ameritas Classic; the hottest ticket in town this weekend should be December Mad-

ness. So maybe it's not exactly like March Madness. Maybe the volleyball tournament can't be seen on national television around the United States.

Maybe every office in the country isn't filled to the roof with tournament bracket sheets and complex pools. But in Lincoln, December Madness has a leg up on March Madness, because it's a pretty safe bet that this team actually will win in the first round.

What a concept.

These Huskers will win because they know nothing else. That's just the way it is. They don't lose, especially at home in the friendly and overwhelming confines of the Coliseum — a place dubbed by NU's All-Big Eight setter and team captain Christy Johnson as "the most intimidating place to play in the country."

"It feels like the crowd is right on top of you," she said. "I've never played anywhere like it."

Assuming the Huskers take care of George Washington on Saturday night, they probably will be paired up against conference rival Colorado, which Nebraska has whipped in nine out of 10 games this season.

Coliseum or not, the Buffs want

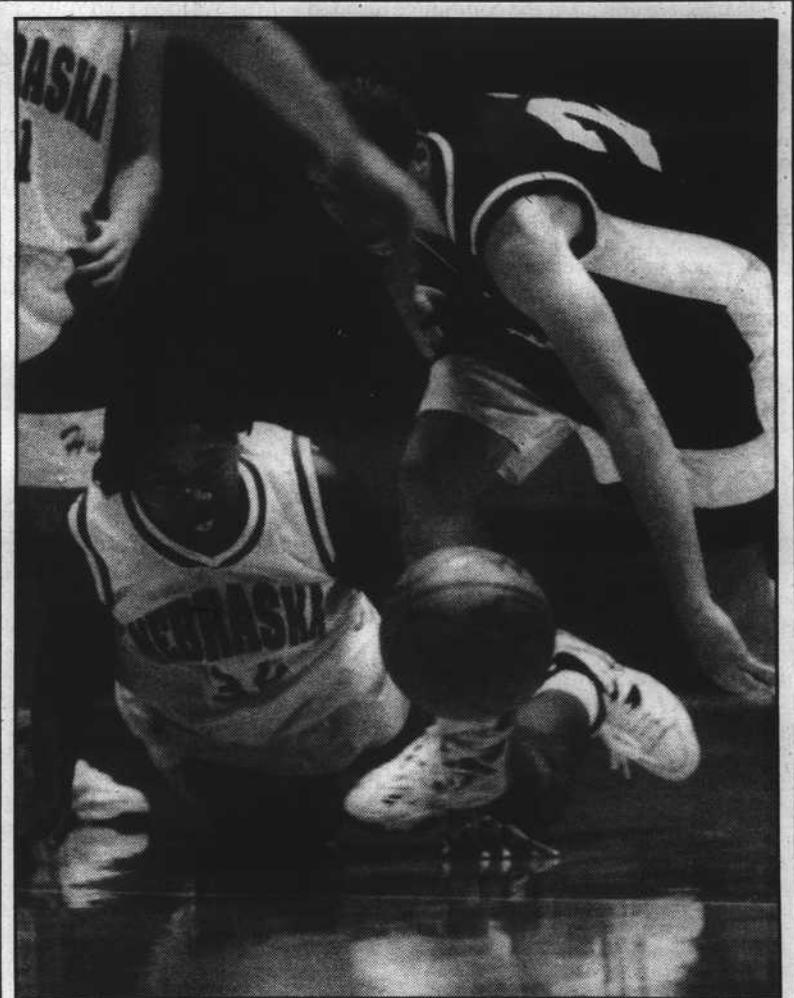
another piece of Weston — affectionately referred to as "The Big Dog" by coach Terry Pettit — and company. Despite being pummeled with a record-setting 37 kills by Weston in the championship match of the Big Eight tournament, CU is looking forward to seeing the Huskers one last time.

"Sure, I'd want to take another crack at them," Buffalo Karrie Downey said after the Big Eight tournament. "In the tournament, it's anybody's game."

But even Downey would admit that it's hard to win a match when your team has to go up against a crowd that's like facing a seventh player.

So, give the Buffs another crack. When they arrive in Lincoln, the Husker backers will teach them a thing or two about December Madness, bringing down the Coliseum roof.

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Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Roquayyah Brown, left, tries to get a hold on the ball before Kent's Amy Sherry Wednesday night at Devaney Sports Center during the Huskers' 91-66 win.

Quick start propels Huskers to victory

By Derek Samson

Senior Reporter

It didn't take the Nebraska women's basketball team long to establish dominance in its 91-66 win over Kent State Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

In the first five minutes of the game, Nebraska owned a 13-4 lead, and after the Huskers increased the lead to 25-14 with 9:09 remaining in the first half, Kent was never able to pull within single digits.

See DEFORGE on 8