

Stay tuned for premiere of continuing Huskers' saga

Like 76,000 maniacal fans in Memorial Stadium, so is "The World that Revolves Around Nebraska Football." This is McDN Sports Guy, and these are the "Days of our Huskers."

If you remember last season, Mike Minter, the quarterback of Nebraska's secondary blew his knee against Texas Tech on Sept. 8. Minter's injury kicked off a tumultuous season for the Huskers.

A day later, part of Nebraska's talented supporting cast, split end Brendan Holbein, was shot at a party.

The bullet only grazed Holbein, and he was cleared to play. The tough and scrappy Holbein didn't let a little thing like a bullet slow him down. He caught his first career touchdown pass against UCLA just eight days later.

Leading man Tommie Frazier came down with a clot, and golden boy Brook Berringer came to the rescue.

But Berringer's collapsed lung left devout fans gasping for air, until Nebraska's version of Joey Lawrence —

Matt Turman — ran to the rescue and sparked the offense and saved the day in a 32-3 win over Oklahoma State.

The golden boy returned to lead Nebraska to a perfect season, but Frazier's patience wore thin (and so did his blood). He returned for the Orange Bowl.

When we left you in last season's cliffhanger, Frazier and Berringer were embroiled in a throwing-armed conflict that was hotter than a winter day in Miami.

Frazier's performance in the closing minutes of the Orange Bowl gave him the upper hand, and an impressive spring gave him a clear edge.

His work ethic, leadership and quiet confidence won our hearts over the summer, making us forget the bashing and bickering with Berringer that screamed through the pages of Sports Illustrated.

The case is closing on the quarterback quibble, but as a new season dawns for the Huskers, monstrous dis-



Jeff Griesch

tractions again rear their ugly heads.

Tommie's right handoff man, Lawrence Phillips, is sporting a brand new car. Questions were asked, and his legal guardians legally paid for it.

Phillips left his car at home and caught a ride to lunch with a sports agent. The agent picked up the tab, and the NCAA wanted answers. Nebraska has finished its report to

the NCAA and is waiting for a decision.

Wingback Riley Washington was jailed for suspicion of attempted murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony in connection with the shooting of Jermaine Cole at a Lincoln Kwik Shop.

Former Husker wingback Abdul Muhammad was at the scene with Washington. Muhammad has reportedly had run-ins with Cole previously and is hopelessly tied into the complicated story.

The initial evidence against Washington appeared strong. But news that Cole had been arrested 54 times, including four arrests and three convictions for making false statements to police clouded the picture.

Washington's guilt or innocence remains in question. He has been unable to post bail and remains in jail as the Huskers prepare for their opening night shootout with the Oklahoma State

Cowboys. Nebraska will miss Washington, but Muhammad remains on the team with Huskers as an assistant coach.

It appears the 1995 season could provide as many distractions for the players as the plot-twisting, spine-tingling 1994 season.

But Holbein, who has been part of the distractions, thinks the conflicts could be an essential part to the drama of Nebraska's season.

"Dealing with all the distractions shows the real character of this ballclub," Holbein said. "We went through so much last year, and it kind of bonded us together. It looks like we might have to go through a lot again this season, but it will only make us stronger."

"But nothing could beat what we went through last season." Stay tuned.

Griesch is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

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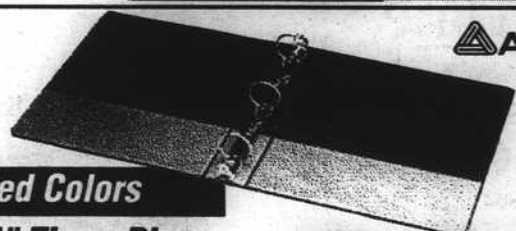
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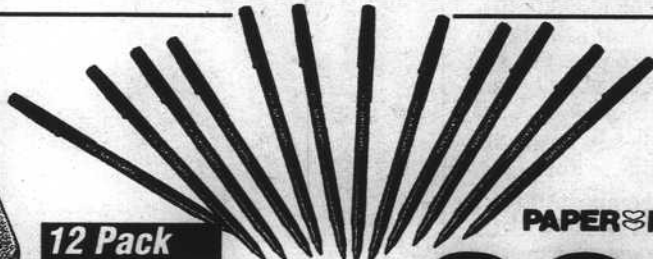
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