

SPORTS

Monday, August 21, 1995

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SPORTS OPINION



Derek Samson

No love needed for quarterbacks to lead Huskers

Even though the Nebraska football season is still young, it only took the first media day to shine some light on subjects that quickly became very old.

And extremely irrelevant.

In the May 1 issue of Sports Illustrated — yes, May 1 — a five-page article ran expressing quarterback Tommie Frazier's competitiveness, lack of love for teammate Brook Berringer and overall attitude that he still has to gain respect.

Some quotes in the article from Frazier about Berringer include: "Everyone on the team knows we don't get along. We might have an altercation every now and then. We might say words to each other, like in the locker room. But I've told him just what I've told others: 'It's my job and the only way you'll take it is if I lose it.'"

Immediately, nearly every Nebraska football media outlet leaped all over Frazier's choice of words.

Most media members acted as if they were shocked that Berringer and Frazier might not get along, and within a week, it was reported by many sources that Frazier was misquoted.

If he was — fine. If not — fine.

I don't think Nebraska needs to worry about being put on probation by the NCAA because two players — who are battling for the position to be the leader of the defending national champions — don't high-five every time they pass each other.

So when the media gathered to kick off the 1995 season on Aug. 8, it was no surprise that Frazier, Berringer, Coach Tom Osborne and quarterbacks coach Turner Gill still were answering questions concerning an article that was more than 3 months old.

"I don't need to talk about it," Osborne said. "They can talk about it. I don't have any problem with Tommie's attitude, and I don't have a problem with Brook's attitude right now. There's going to be a lot written and a lot said, but we're going to keep on keeping on. I'm not too worried one way or the other about it."

But that wasn't good enough. We didn't see Frazier and Berringer kiss and make up.

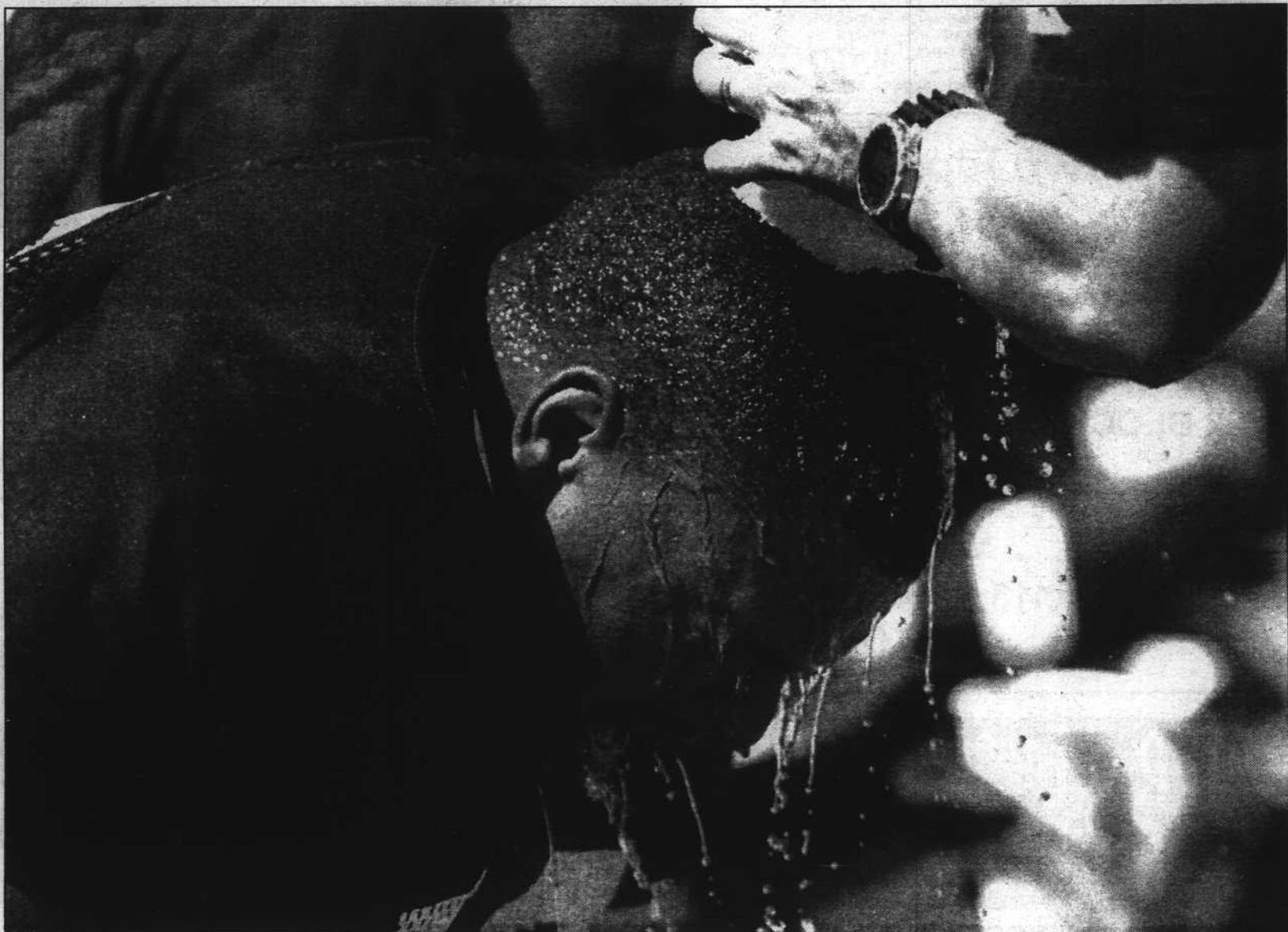
Frazier attempted to put it to rest.

"Each team is going to have two quarterbacks trying to be the starter," Frazier said. "I think people are making too much of it. They are making too much of a hassle of it. We don't have to like each other, but we just have to get along. But there is no tension there or anything."

Exactly.

When Osborne recruited Frazier in Bradenton, Fla., I doubt that he told him, "Tommie, I plan on you taking over this team when you are a freshman and two years later winning the national championship. But along the way, you will get hurt and have to battle a kid from a small town in Kansas. He will take over

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Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska linebacker Jay Foreman is doused with water by a trainer during Thursday's scrimmage at Memorial Stadium. The temperature climbed well over 100 degrees on the stadium turf during the Huskers' second major scrimmage of fall practice.

Nebraska tackles August heat

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Ninety-degree temperatures, high humidity and two-a-day football practices are not usually a good combination.

Fall football camp, which began Aug. 9, has brought its share of weather-related suffering. But after two weeks of steamy workouts, Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said his team should be well conditioned for the upcoming season.

"They are going to have the confidence that they can go out and play in anything," Osborne said.

"It has been hot; 110 degrees (on the Memorial Stadium turf) isn't that bad if its 20 to 30 percent humidity, but when you are getting up around 80 percent, you run into a tough deal."

On Aug. 13, the Huskers' first major scrimmage of the fall, a thermometer on the turf read 132 degrees.

Two-a-day practices concluded Saturday. Today, the remainder of the Husker walk-ons and a few scholarship players will join the 105 players who have been in camp for most of the month.

"It's kind of hot, but you have to work your way through it. It's part of football, and you have to deal with it."

■
Tyrone Williams
Nebraska cornerback

"I think they are in fairly good condition," Osborne said. "I have been pleased with the way they have been holding up."

The Huskers have remained relatively injury-free throughout the spring. Sophomore quarterback Monte Christo tore an anterior cruciate ligament on the first day of workouts. Christo will miss the season.

Depth at the quarterback position will become a concern if anyone else goes down, Osborne said. Veterans Tommie Frazier, Brook Berringer and Matt Turman return, but true freshman Frankie London is listed fourth on the depth chart.

As long as the top three signal callers remain healthy, London will

probably redshirt this season.

"For this stage of practice," Osborne said, "with the amount of contact we have had, there are remarkably few that are missing. They all know that they are competing for a spot, and need to be out there if they can."

Senior wingback Clester Johnson said the heat this August would help the team once the season began.

"I'm kind of glad it was hot this summer," said Johnson, the Huskers' second-leading receiver during the two August scrimmages.

"I don't think many teams have been going through what we have been going through, and we are already used to the cold weather."

Senior cornerback Tyrone Williams agreed.

"It's kind of hot," said Williams, a preseason All-Big Eight selection, "but you have to work your way through it. It's part of football, and you have to deal with it."

A starting quarterback will probably be named late this week, Osborne said, after Nebraska's third and final scrimmage before its season-opening game at Oklahoma State Aug. 31. Osborne said Frazier, who graded slightly higher than Berringer in the spring, remained the frontrunner.

In two scrimmages, Frazier has completed 8 of 18 passes for 119 yards, four touchdowns and one interception. Berringer has hit 9 of 13 passes for 93 yards, no touchdowns and one interception.

Senior fullback Jeff Makovicka has led all rushers with 127 yards on five carries. Phillips has carried seven times for 76 yards.

Wingback Jon Vedral, the leading receiver this fall, has caught five passes for 76 yards. Johnson, listed one spot ahead of Vedral on the depth chart, has caught three passes for 75 yards and two touchdowns.

True freshman may start for Huskers

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

The transition from high school to college extends well beyond the volleyball court and the classroom.

Jaimie Krondak is beginning to understand exactly what that means. The true freshman from Lincoln East was interrupted during an interview Saturday night at the NU Coliseum by an overzealous member of the Cornhusker Match Club.

The representative of Nebraska's booster group was anxious to warn Krondak — along with fellow freshmen Lisa Avery and Denise Koziol —

of the unusual treatment sometimes directed toward first-year players.



Krondak

crowd at the Coliseum.

And when Nebraska takes the court against Penn State Friday in its first

match of the year, Krondak may find herself in another unexpected situation: as a member of the of the Cornhuskers' starting lineup.

Saturday night, Nebraska scrimmaged for two hours. Krondak, a 6-foot outside hitter, totaled five kills and recorded a team-high 14 digs.

Coach Terry Pettit said he wouldn't draft a lineup until later this week, but he said Krondak was certainly in the picture.

"(Allison) Weston started as a freshman," Pettit said. "Christy (Johnson) played a lot as a freshman. We've always had at least one freshman that played a lot. We really don't

care what year they are in; they just have to do the job."

During her four years at Lincoln East, in which she played in every match, Krondak earned several All-American awards, including a spot on the USA-Today/Mizuno first-team as a senior.

Ranked No. 1 in the nation for part of the season, East lost only one match a year ago and 14 matches since Krondak's sophomore year.

"We went to a lot of national tournaments," Krondak said. "But it's still nothing like this. The biggest differ-

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