

SPORTS

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SPORTS OPINION



Trevor Parks Dinner offer starts dreams of higher office

When I woke up Monday morning, I was expecting a boring first day of classes.

I knew I was assigned to write a story about "Sports Byline USA" host Ron Barr, who was doing his show live from the governor's mansion Monday night.

I wasn't expecting dinner with the governor.

But when the invitation came Monday afternoon, I couldn't pass it up.

When I arrived at the mansion at 7 p.m. for dinner, I figured I'd sit with members of the media, and we'd talk about Nebraska sports during our meal.

Wrong.

Since I was officially working, I was asked to join Gov. Ben Nelson, Barr, former Nebraska Secretary of State Allen Beermann and Lincoln Journal-Star sports writer Ken Hambleton at their table.

I accepted, knowing that I would be in for an interesting evening.

I wasn't disappointed.

During the meal, I basically hoped to avoid spilling or dropping anything and survive without embarrassing myself.

I'm happy to report I survived without incident and enjoyed listening to stories swapped by these veterans of their business.

I wasn't overwhelmed, but it did help my ego some sitting with these well-known people, and I wasn't excluded from the conversation.

There I was, chatting with the governor, when he asked me how involved people on campus were in politics and the voting process.

That shocked me. As a sports reporter, my idea of a political issue is the debate about the Huskers' starting quarterback.

But I tried to answer. I told him a lot of students weren't involved because there wasn't a voice in office to represent them.

Barr backed me up, saying that people ages 25-50 are represented much more than students.

Then Nelson asked me if we should appoint people on campus to become more active.

I said I couldn't answer that question, since I live off campus. A typical sports reporter's answer.

The night went on and topics from Micron to Nelson's plans the night of the Nebraska-Oklahoma State football game were discussed.

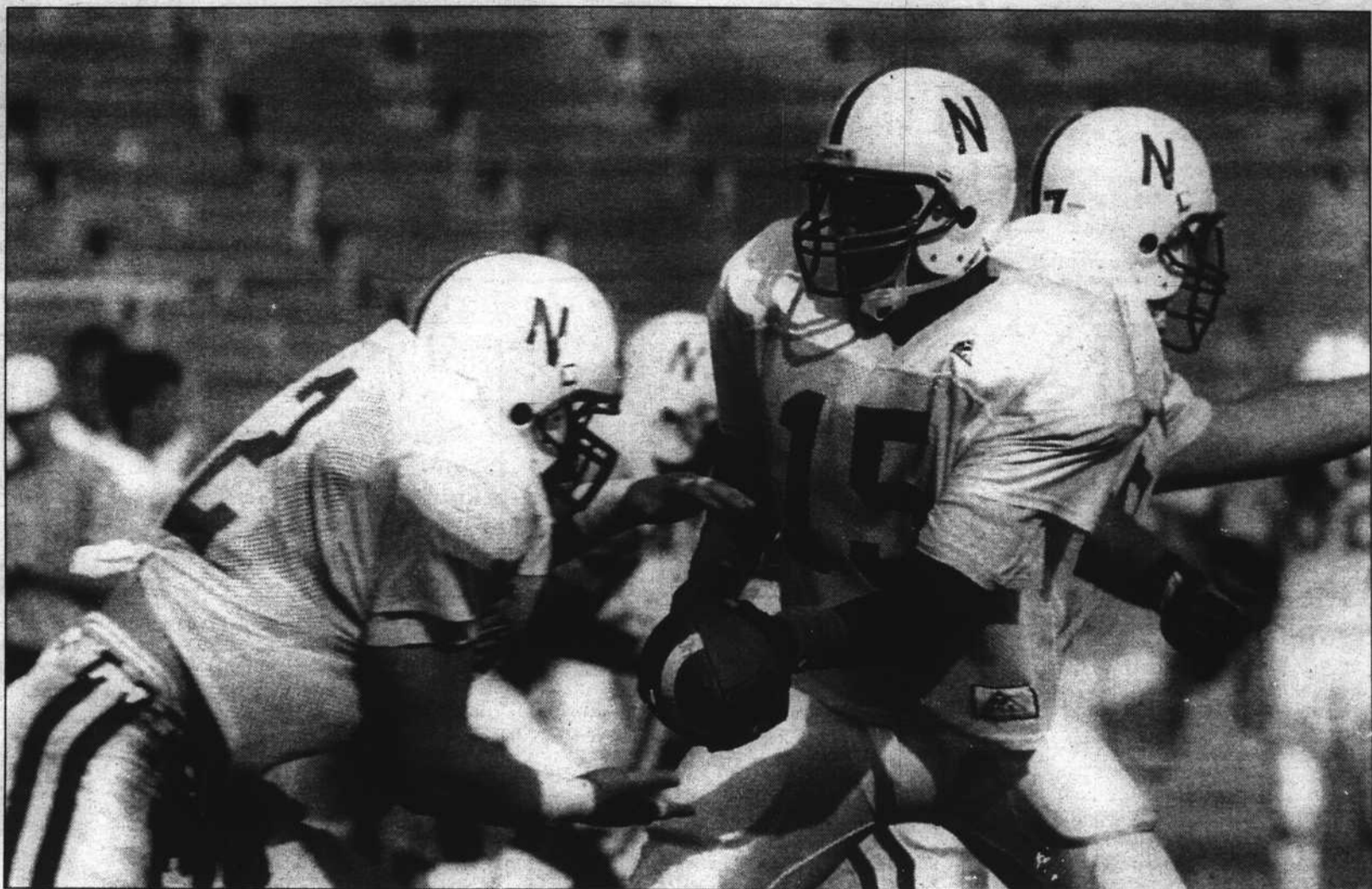
Nelson talked of visiting Barr on a business trip this fall in San Francisco and playing golf up the road at Pebble Beach.

I was thinking, "Gee, maybe I should run for governor someday."

I'm not much for dinner conversation, but I made it through dinner without sticking my foot in my mouth, at least not too many times.

It just goes to show you that when you wake up in the morning, you never know where your feet might take you.

Parks is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.



Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier hands off to fullback Jeff Makovicka during the scrimmage Wednesday. Frazier completed seven of eight passes for 125 yards. Scott Bruhn/DN

Quarterback to be chosen today

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Today is the big day.

The scores are in. The results have been tallied. Only the question remains.

Who is Nebraska's starting quarterback?

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Wednesday after the Cornhuskers' third and final pre-season scrimmage that either Tommie Frazier or Brook Berringer would be chosen today as the starter for next Thursday's game against Oklahoma State.

"We will grade the film and we'll decide," Osborne said.

Practices from last spring and this fall will be factored into the decision, Osborne said.

Earlier this month, Osborne said Frazier tested slightly better than Berringer during spring drills.

This fall, the seniors' statistics have been nearly identical. Frazier and Berringer both have completed 15 passes; Berringer in five fewer attempts. Frazier has thrown for 33 more yards and three more touchdowns. Both have thrown for one interception.

The Husker defense has kept both quarterbacks in check on the ground. Frazier has lost 18 yards on eight carries, and Berringer has gained 16 yards on seven carries.

"I don't know how much things will change," Osborne said, "but we'll take a look at it and see where the numbers lie, and however it comes out, that's the way we will go."

Regardless of the starting quarterback, both Frazier and Berringer will see significant playing time against the Cowboys next week in Stillwater, Okla.

The battle for the top spot apparently has brought out the best in the quarterbacks.

Frazier — who started 23 consecutive games dating back to his freshman year before missing seven games a year ago because of a blood clot in his right leg — completed seven of eight passes Wednesday for 125 yards and one touchdown. Berringer hit six of eight passes for 118 yards and a touchdown.

"I think both quarterbacks had some good plays, and both had some bad ones," Osborne said.

Once before, Frazier and Berringer have dueled for the top quarterback spot. Last December, Osborne chose

Judgment Day



Player	Comp-Att/%	Yards	Ints.	TD's
Tommie Frazier	15-26/58%	244	1	5
Brook Berringer	15-21/71%	211	1	2

Passing Statistics from Nebraska's three preseason scrimmages

Source: Nebraska Sports Information Department

DN staff chart

Frazier to start the Orange Bowl against Miami after Frazier outperformed Berringer in scrimmages leading up to the game.

Frazier started the game, but was replaced midway through the first half by Berringer, who led Nebraska to its first touchdown. Frazier was

reinserted during the fourth quarter with the Huskers trailing 17-7.

The Bradenton, Fla., native directed Nebraska to two touchdowns in the game's final minutes, securing Nebraska's first national title in 23 years.

Offense explodes in final scrimmage

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Depending on who you ask, Wednesday's two-hour and 15-minute Nebraska football scrimmage was either a smashing success or a step in the wrong direction.

The offense, sparked by the sharp play of true freshman Ahman Green, dominated the Cornhusker defense in Nebraska's third and final scrimmage before its season opener against Oklahoma State next Thursday.

Green, a highly touted I-back from Omaha Central High School hampered the last two weeks by tired legs from two-a-days, broke free from the pack Wednesday, running for 105 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries

in Nebraska's third and final pre-season scrimmage.

Listed fourth on the first depth chart of the fall, Green was the leading rusher in a scrimmage dominated by the Huskers' offense. No. 1 I-back Lawrence Phillips gained 95 yards and scored a touchdown on six carries.

The scrimmage, which pitted the top units against the scout teams nearly 75 percent of the time, was conducted with a running scoreboard and clock to simulate game conditions.

"It was about as close as we could make it (to a game)," Coach Tom Osborne said. "The only thing that is tough is to get a scout team to approximate what Oklahoma State would look like. Obviously, you can't

"Every day in practice, we are hitting hard, and we are preparing real well. There's a lot of pressure on our shoulders, and we want to play well."

JEFF MAKOVICKA

Nebraska fullback

do that very well."

The Huskers did not pit the first-team defense against the top offense.

"We went ones against twos and twos against ones," Osborne said. "The thing that we are doing there is we are playing our defense against our offense, so we are not preparing anything. Of course, we don't really

know what Oklahoma State is going to do anyway. So, I don't know if it makes any difference."

The offense pummeled the defense for much of the workout, rushing for 350 yards and passing for 405 yards.

Osborne said the running backs

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