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Frazier ready to tame Tigers

By Derek Samson
 Senior Reporter

After starting for four years, quarterback Tommie Frazier is preparing to see Missouri for the final time when the Tigers come to Lincoln Saturday.



Frazier
 The senior from Bradenton, Fla., said he was just hoping the final meeting would be as memorable as the first.

In his freshman year, Frazier earned his first start for the 4-1 Huskers when they traveled to Columbia, Mo., Oct. 24, 1992.

"The memories from that game is something I'm always going to have," Frazier said. "It was the first game I ever started, so I'll always remember it. Coming back against them this week, hopefully, I can accomplish the same thing I did the first time I played them. I'm just going to go out and have fun."

Coach Tom Osborne also remembers the day well, and he said he wouldn't forget why he was so confident in handing the team over to a true freshman.

"We thought he was ready to play, or we wouldn't have done it," Osborne

said. "There were a lot of people who wanted him to come in here and start the first game. But he wasn't comfortable with the offense enough at that point. But each game he got better and kept improving."

"The thing that was kind of unusual about Tommie was how aggressively he approached running the offense. He took notes, and I know he studied it. A lot of guys come in here and try to get it by osmosis. Tommie is a bright guy, and he has a lot of football intelligence. He's one of the brighter quarterbacks we've ever had here."

Osborne said he immediately noticed another quality in Frazier — competitiveness.

"There are a lot of players with talent as freshmen, but they're not ready to take on the responsibility," Osborne said. "But he wanted the responsibility. I remember about the third or fourth game, he didn't get to play much, and he was going to go home. We talked to him about it, and he decided not to quit."

"I don't think he would have quit if he didn't start, but he is the type of guy that is so competitive that it killed him not to play... sometimes he gets a little too competitive in practice. If things aren't going well, he gets upset. It's better to have that than not to care."

Frazier said Osborne made the 34-

24 victory over Missouri in 1992 easy for him.

"I don't think about it a lot, but people ask me what the first game I've ever started was and how I did," Frazier said. "It was pretty simple. Coach Osborne kept the offense real basic. It was option, basic dives, handoffs — it was nothing fancy."

Osborne said Frazier had continued to improve since his freshman year, and is increasingly dangerous to opponents.

"I think his passing has improved," he said. "His numbers aren't up too much, but he makes some tough throws. His athleticism is always very important because he can get the ball off when other people would be sacked. Sometimes, he'll scramble and make a 15-yard run when other people would be sacked."

"It makes a difference when we're running option football. If you look at our numbers right now, they're better than they were through the first four games last year. We were moving the ball pretty good last year, and then when he went down, and Brook (Berringer) had the injuries, and the option became almost a nonentity."

And Osborne said Frazier's preparation hadn't dropped off either.

"He knows what he's doing," Osborne said.

Wildcats disappointed by losses

By Trevor Parks
 Senior Reporter

The Kansas State volleyball team has hit rock bottom recently.

After a 13-2 start, its best since 1978, the Wildcats have struggled, losing two heartbreaking matches to Iowa State and Oklahoma.

Coach Jim Moore said his team was down after having a chance to be 3-0 in the conference.

"These were the two most disappointing losses of my career," Moore said. "I'm just hoping we can bounce back."

Against Iowa State, the Wildcats held a 2-1 lead in games and led the fourth game 14-11 before the roof caved in. The Cyclones rallied to win the game 16-14 and won the match 3-2.

Last Saturday at Oklahoma, Kan-

sas State was in a similar situation. Trailing 2-1 this time, the Wildcats clawed back and held a 14-6 lead in the fourth game, but again they were unable to get that 15th point and Oklahoma defeated Kansas State 16-14.

"We should be 3-0 if we would have put two balls on the floor," Moore said. "But then again we very easily could be 0-3."

Instead the Wildcats are 1-2 in the conference with a win over Colorado, and now they must face No. 1 Nebraska tonight at Ahern Fieldhouse in Manhattan, Kan. Kansas State has never beaten Nebraska in 50 matches.

Last year at Manhattan, Kansas State took a game from Nebraska for the first time since 1987. The Wildcats beat the Cornhuskers 15-13 in the first game.

Moore said playing the top-ranked Huskers, who are 14-1 and 4-0 in the

Big Eight, anywhere would be difficult.

"I'm not worried about what Nebraska might do to us; I'm worried about our team being able to return to its normal level," he said.

That has been a level of success since Moore's arrival two years ago. Since Moore has coached at Kansas State, the Wildcats have won 27 matches compared to just 24 matches won in the three previous seasons.

Another reason for that success is that the Wildcats are led by second-team All-Big Eight and Omaha Burke graduate Toie Young. Young, a junior, leads the team with 3.7 kills a game and has 181 kills this season. Overall, Young is already fifth on Kansas State's all-time kill list with 877.

The Wildcats also lead the Big Eight in blocks per game with 3.04.

Davis

Continued from Page 7

season — ended the first quarter with 12 carries for 66 yards, leaving him only 22 yards shy of the approaching milestone.

But from that point on, Davis was shut down. He said the Sooner defense was focusing its attention on him, allowing Cyclone quarterback Todd Doxzon to record a 200-yard passing day. Davis carried only once in the second quarter, and five times in the third quarter, leaving him six yards shy of 1,000 when the final quarter began.

A "TD-o-meter," charting Davis' progress, was hanging from the upper balcony. Midway through the third

quarter, it passed the 1,000-yard mark, only to be turned back to 997 yards because of a miscalculation by the Iowa State students.

"The Oklahoma defense came out there ready to play," said Davis, who ran for 2,234 yards and was named the USA Today Florida player of the year as a senior at Miami Southridge High School in 1993. "They were hitting and hitting until the end. I just kept on trying to turn this game around. I wasn't keeping up with the yards."

McCarney, however, was. "There are thousands and thousands of backs who have played college football for over a hundred years," McCarney said. "To be a part of history, I thought that was the least we could do. He earned it. He deserved it. I'm glad he got it."

With just over one minute to play, the Cyclones, trailing by 13 points and

buried deep in their own territory, were faced with a fourth-down-and-nine play. Davis got the call, much to the delight of the Iowa State fans. He carried up the middle for two yards, giving him 1,001 for the year, and he left the field to a standing ovation.

"It's a good feeling," Davis said. "But it's not a good feeling when you lose with it."

McCarney said Davis' accomplishment and Iowa State's gutsy performance against the Sooners were a step toward respectability. But Davis, who twice this season has topped 290 yards in one game, cannot carry Iowa State by himself, McCarney said.

"When you are trying to change attitudes around," he said, "you don't look for the little things and the individual things. You always try to keep the big picture in mind. The big picture is winning football games."

Osborne

Continued from Page 7

terback if Berringer is not available for the Missouri game.

"We'd rather not play Frankie because he's gone five games without playing, and we want to redshirt him," Osborne said.

The offensive line would have been hurt, Osborne said, by playing last Saturday. Guards Steve Ott and Aaron Taylor suffered sprained ankles in practice last week, and left tackle Chris Dishman had pneumonia.

All three should be ready for Saturday, Osborne said.

"We're not terribly deep in the offensive line, so if you miss two or three of those guys, it makes a big difference to you," he said.

Ellis is still recovering from a broken bone in his foot and is about a week away from returning, Osborne

said. Second-string defensive lineman Scott Saltsman has been injured and may see limited action against Missouri.

Two players who really benefited from the time off were defensive tackle Larry Townsend and I-back Clinton Childs.

Townsend, who has been out since the Michigan State game, will probably play some this week, Osborne said. Childs is still recovering from a knee injury, but will play against Missouri as the third I-back. Both Townsend and Childs returned to practice Tuesday.

The top two I-backs will be Ahman Green and Damon Benning, who along with Childs are listed as tri-No. 1 I-backs on the depth chart.

Osborne said Green had been playing well, but Osborne won't decide who will start until later this week.

"The thing that is critical is how much they play in a game, and it doesn't

make much difference who starts," Osborne said. "The guy who plays the majority of the time is really the guy you rely on."

Benning has the most experience, but Green has shown more confidence in his running the last three games, Osborne said.

"At first I think he was a little tentative because he wasn't sure what he was doing," Osborne said. "But the last two or three weeks we've seen a lot more confident, a lot more aggressive player."

NOTE:

● Split end Brendan Holbein injured his lower back in practice on Tuesday. Defensive tackle Christian Peter returned to practice. Coach Tom Osborne said he hoped quarterback Brook Berringer and MIKE linebacker Phil Ellis would be back in practice by the end of the week.