

SPORTS

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Page 7

SPORTS OPINION



Trevor Parks Farley makes major impact on NU defense

When Terrell Farley arrived in Lincoln this season, no one really knew how much of an impact he would make.

And after Farley's first practice as a Cornhusker, you couldn't foresee the future of the Columbus, Ga., native.

But after eight games, it's perfectly evident that Farley has eased right into the Husker defense, which has benefited tremendously from his performance.

Farley, a transfer from Independence (Kan.) Community College, leads the team in tackles with 42. He leads the team in interceptions with three, two of which he returned for touchdowns. The 6-foot-1 junior is second in pass breakups with four. He is third on the team in tackles for losses with seven stops for 42 yards. He even has two blocked punts.

Those stats show that Farley may be the best linebacker in Nebraska school history. He can rush the passer, he can stop the run, he can break up passes and he can block punts. People may get him confused, calling him a cornerback or safety or whatever, but he is the complete package.

Sure Trev Alberts and Ed Stewart were named All-Americans the past two seasons for Nebraska, but Farley is better. The sad thing is that this season no accolades that Stewart or Alberts received will be thrown Farley's way. The only awards he might win are Big Eight defensive newcomer of the year and a spot on the All-Big Eight team.

Those two picks are no-brainers. This Saturday, Farley and the Nebraska defense will have to stop Iowa State's Troy Davis, something nobody has done all season.

But Farley's not too worried. "He can talk all he wants," Farley said. "He's a good athlete, but one man can't beat 11 people. If they have 11 people that run like he runs, then they've got a chance to come in and beat us."

Farley's comments are definitely some big words coming from someone who nobody knew much about at the start of fall practice.

"When they come to this stadium, for one they are going to get intimidated by the crowd," Farley said. "Then they are going to get intimidated by us. We've got something to prove."

Sounds a little like another linebacker named Broderick Thomas. But Thomas had trouble backing up his "Whose House, Our House" chant.

Translation: No one comes into Memorial Stadium and pushes Nebraska around. Farley has qualities of Thomas, Alberts and Stewart. What a combination.

Farley said no comparisons should be made among himself and the others.

"I just want to make a name for myself," Farley said.

So far, Farley has done just that.

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

Phillips ready to return

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Just because Lawrence Phillips missed six games and spent 44 days away from the Nebraska football team, don't expect the junior I-back to trip and fall when his number is called Saturday.



Solich

Cornhusker running backs coach Frank Solich said Tuesday that the former Heisman Trophy candidate was beginning to resemble the punishing runner who ripped through Oklahoma State and Michigan State earlier this season.

"If you're a great running back,

you don't lose your ability because you have not been out there," Solich said.

Phillips, who was reinstated to the team on Oct. 24, ran for 359 yards and seven touchdowns on 34 attempts in two games this season before being suspended on Sept. 10 for assaulting an ex-girlfriend.

Solich said Phillips would be the No. 2 I-back Saturday against Iowa State, behind true freshman Ahman Green. Green, who has started the past three games and is top-ranked Nebraska's leading rusher with 821 yards and 10 touchdowns on 107 attempts this season.

"There's no set number of snaps that we are going to issue him," Solich said. "Generally speaking, the second-team guy has gone in in the first half and spelled the guy that started."

Solich said Phillips—whose 1,722

yards last season are the second-most ever by a Husker I-back and the best season ever recorded by a Nebraska sophomore, could see action as soon as the game's second series, or as late as the fourth series.

"You can certainly see his ability on the field," Solich said. "It's certainly there, and as he gets into even better playing shape, we're hoping that he's able to play like he did those first two ball games. I feel, he was, at the end of those two games, the best running back we've had."

Solich isn't the only person impressed by Phillips' return to the practice field.

"He was practicing with the first team yesterday," said Clester Johnson, the Huskers' leading receiver. "And I was just talking to a couple of other

See PHILLIPS on 8

Osborne offended by query

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne abruptly ended his weekly press conference Tuesday after being asked a question he deemed inappropriate from a CBS news reporter.

"Coach, I understand that this may not be the most popular subject to bring up in Lincoln, but let me try anyway," CBS' Bernard Goldberg asked 10 minutes into Osborne's meeting with the media, scheduled for 30 minutes. "If one of your players had roughed up a member of your family, and had dragged her down a flight of stairs, would you have reinstated that player on the team?"

Osborne interrupted Goldberg, and refused to answer the reporter's question at that time.

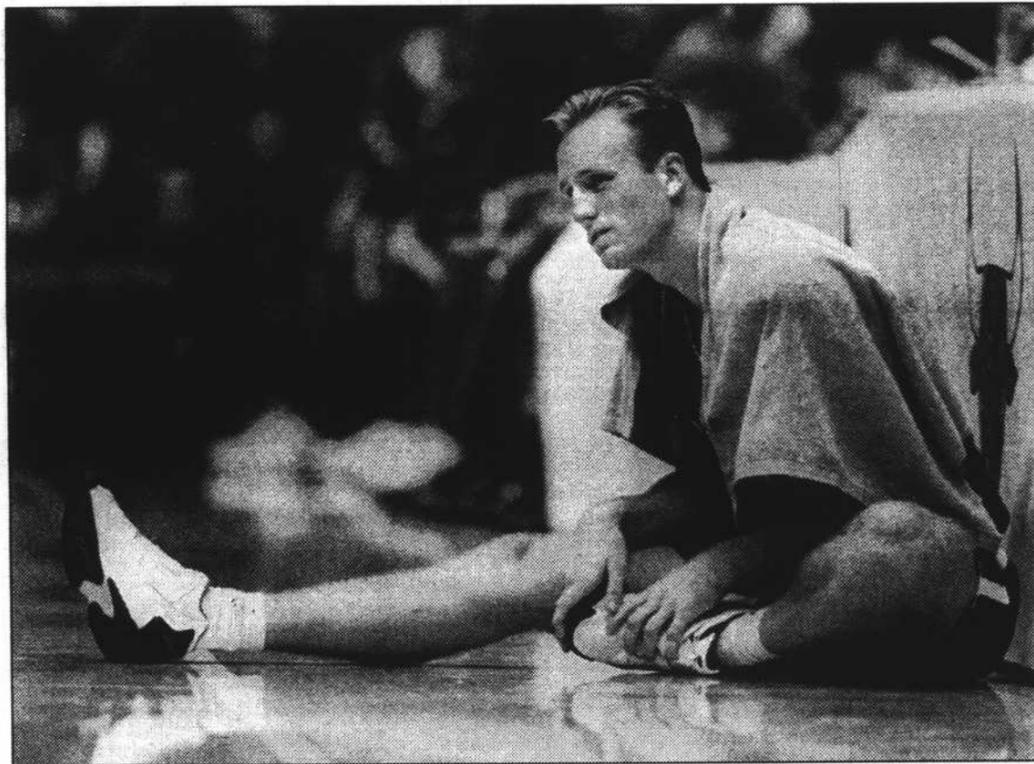
"I'm not going to talk about that," Osborne said. "And I kind of resent that question to be very honest with you. I don't think this is the right time or place for it. If you want to talk about it out in the hall, I'll be happy to do it."

Osborne left two minutes later and told Goldberg three times in the hallway outside the South Stadium press conference room that yes, he would reinstate that player.

Last week, Osborne reinstated Lawrence Phillips to the team after the star I-back assaulted his former girlfriend,

See OSBORNE on 8

Home court



Travis Heying/DN

Former Nebraska player Eric Piatkowski scored 16 points against the Chicago Bulls Friday night in his return to Lincoln.

Piatkowski shines against Bulls

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Eric Piatkowski received his wish Friday night.

Piatkowski wanted one more chance to play in front of the fans who supported him throughout his college career, and against the Bulls he took full advantage of his 33 minutes of playing time.

"There are not many times you can come back and play in an emotional game like this in front of your college fans," Piatkowski said. "The people in Nebraska have always treated me very, very well, and that's nice."

Although Piatkowski did not receive as much applause as fan favorite Michael Jordan did when the starters were announced, he was a close second.

Piatkowski said he was fired up from the fans' reaction during the announcements, and because of that, he wore out sooner. But not before he scored 16 points, including a drive around Jordan for a layup.

... play 33 minutes,

"This is just my second year, and hopefully I'll be in this league for many years to come."

ERIC PIATKOWSKI

Clippers' forward

but did not play the final four minutes of the game, much to the fans' displeasure.

"If they had cheered for us the whole ballgame, I might have put him back in," Clippers coach Bill Fitch said after the game. "He played good, confident minutes."

Although the fans made Fitch's decision to not put Piatkowski back in the game, he said the decision to start Piatkowski was made when the game was scheduled.

Fitch said an injury to Piatkowski's left Achilles tendon had slowed him down during the preseason. But he is now starting to return to normal. During the preseason, Piatkowski had been averaging 6.5 points a game and played 9.3 minutes a game.

During Piatkowski's rookie season, he averaged 14.9 minutes a game and led the Clippers in three-point field goal percentage shooting .374 from long distance.

"If he plays like he did tonight, he will sure help us a lot," Fitch said. "I thought he played very well tonight at both ends of the court."

Piatkowski said his performance in the Sports Center was good, but it could have been better. He said he had improved defensively from his first year, but still needed to improve on his consistency.

"I just wanted to play well," Piatkowski said. "I think there are things I want to work on. This is just my second year, and hopefully I'll be in this league for many years to come."

Huskers eager to reach tough part of season

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Don't expect the Nebraska volleyball team to overlook Kansas State as the Cornhuskers embark on a stretch of five matches in 12 days.

In that span, No. 1 Nebraska plays the Wildcats, No. 7 Texas, No. 14 Notre Dame, Oklahoma and No. 3 Florida.

But it all begins when the Huskers, 19-1 and 8-0 in the Big Eight, put their 18-match winning streak and 54-game streak on the line against Kansas State, 16-7 and 3-5 in the conference, tonight at 7:30 at the NU Coliseum.

Coach Terry Pettit said his team was looking forward to playing so many matches in a quick period.

"Those five matches are interesting because we only have a day in between each one," Pettit said. "It kind of simulates an NCAA environment where you have to win a couple of matches in a row, and you don't have a great deal of time to prepare for them."

To get a chance to play everyone in this time span, Nebraska had to do some schedule shuffling.

The Oklahoma match on Nov. 10 was moved up to Friday from Saturday before the season, so the Huskers could play Florida in Lincoln on Sun-

See WILDCATS on 8