

SPORTS

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SPORTS OPINION



Tim Pearson

Senior Frazier looks forward to pro career

Tommie Frazier didn't bother to watch San Diego defeat Oakland during Monday night football.

Instead he was too busy writing papers for class.

But come May when he will graduate, Frazier can forget about writing papers.

Instead he can continue adding to his storybook career while playing professional football.

And he can add another chapter if he follows the example of a fellow alumnus from the Big Eight quarterback club.

Former Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart has become a dangerous weapon for the Pittsburgh Steelers — but not as a quarterback. Instead Stewart, who threw for a school-record 6,481 yards at Colorado, has lined up at wide receiver and running back.

Stewart, a second-round draft pick, has rushed for a touchdown, passed for a touchdown and caught a touchdown pass. If Stewart can do that, then Frazier can too.

"It's hard to say what these teams are looking for these days," Frazier said. "Maybe they want to go with a traditional drop-back passer; maybe they'll go for a guy who can break a big run or get out of the pocket."

But what about playing running back, wide receiver or even cornerback?

"If that's what they ask me to do," Frazier said, "I guess I'll have to do it."

And if the National Football League doesn't want Frazier, he's open to a shot in the Canadian Football League. Three former Husker quarterbacks, Turner Gill, Steve Taylor and Keithen McCant, have tested the waters in the CFL after being selected in the NFL draft.

In 1984, Gill was drafted by the New York Jets in the third round of the supplemental draft. Taylor was drafted by Indianapolis in the 12th round in 1989, and McCant was drafted in the 12th round by Cleveland in 1992.

Option quarterbacks haven't been looked upon highly by NFL teams, so the odds may be against Frazier.

"If the opportunity comes, I'm going to take it happily," Frazier said. "I'm not going to shrug it off."

Frazier came back from blood clots last season to lead Nebraska. If NFL scouts have any doubts about Frazier, he has something to say about that.

"Take a play from each of the games," he said, "and there's your highlight film."

There's still room remaining on that highlight film for Frazier's possible professional career.

"I don't know if I can bust it up like Barry Sanders," he said.

But it sure would be nice to find out.

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

Frazier: I am the best college player

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

After playing in 11 games and avoiding talk about possibly winning the Heisman Trophy, Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier broke his silence on the issue Tuesday.

And what Frazier said may earn him the Heisman Trophy on Dec. 9 at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City.

"After looking at everything I think I have an excellent chance of winning it," Frazier said. "I went out this year, and I did everything I could. I feel that I am the best college player out there who does the most for his team."

This season, Frazier has led his team to an 11-0 record and a No. 1 ranking. The senior from Palmetto, Fla., has rushed for 14 touchdowns and 604 yards. He also has passed for 17 touchdowns and 1,362 yards with four interceptions.

But Frazier said his performance this year shouldn't be looked at as being important; rather voters should look at his career effort. In Frazier's

career he has been involved in a school-record 79 touchdowns and has rushed for 1,955 yards while throwing for 3,521.

"You can always have one guy who peaks one year," he said, "but if you look at a guy who was successful over a four-year period, that should really come out to be the best college player."

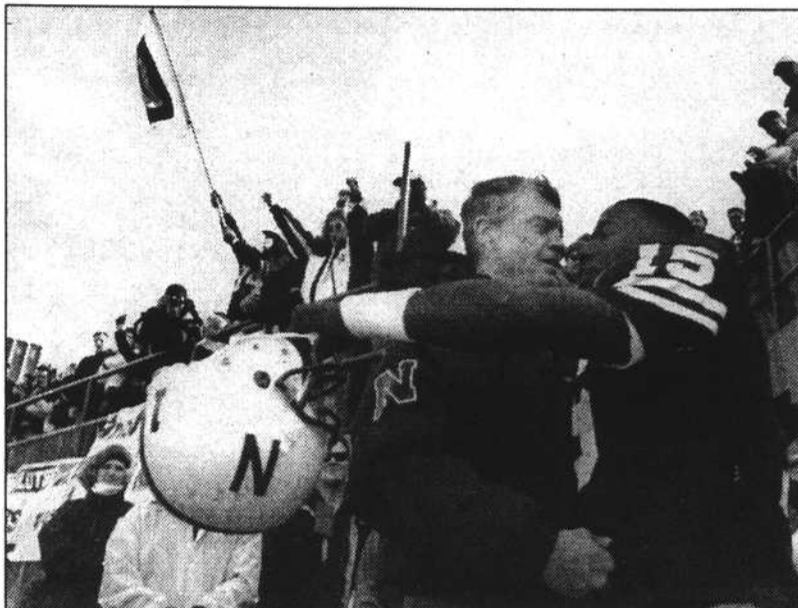
Frazier's 32-3 record as a starter should stand out, he said. His only losses were to Florida State (twice) and Iowa State. That record could have been even better if Frazier hadn't missed eight games last season because of blood clots.

If Heisman voters were still wavering on whom to pick, Frazier said his record should persuade them.

"I just want them to look at things I've done on the field," Frazier said. "Just look at the things I've done this year and look at the things I've done the past two to three years. If that isn't enough to convince them, then nothing will."

In comparing himself to quarter-

See HEISMAN on 8



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier gives Coach Tom Osborne a hug as he is introduced before the Oklahoma game.

Beck unhappy despite win over Sam Houston

By Gregg Madsen
Staff Reporter

Despite improving to 3-0 on the season with an 88-65 victory over Sam Houston State Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck was less than pleased.

"I thought this was a game where we really didn't dictate much of the action," Beck said. "I felt we played their game most of the game and was real disappointed in our first half. We were not focused tonight."

The Huskers struggled in the opening minutes until junior forward Tina McClain hit her eighth point of her 18-point performance and gave Nebraska a 12-10 lead.

That lead was stretched to eight points when sophomore forward Anna DeForge hit two shots in a span of 22 seconds and made the score 20-12 and forced Sam Houston State coach Vic Schaefer to call his first timeout.

"Nebraska played a great ball game," Schaefer said. "They did some things to us early in the first half to frustrate our freshman point guard."

The Lady Kats trimmed the lead to seven points with 1:34 left in the first half. But four quick points from DeForge and three free throws from senior center Pyra Aarden gave the

Huskers to a 13-point, 44-31 lead at halftime.

The closest the Lady Kats came to the Huskers was 11 points in the first minute of the second half.

The Huskers ran the lead to 20 points on several occasions, led by McClain's tough inside play and DeForge's hot shooting.

DeForge, who leads the Huskers in scoring after three games averaging 21 points a game, led the Huskers with 20 points, followed by McClain, who tied her career high at 18 and added a team-high 10 rebounds. Aarden had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Although the Huskers had three players scoring in double figures and won their third game in a row by more than 14 points, the team remained on the court after the game and ran 10 wind sprints.

"We had a goal to not give up more than 55 points," Beck said of the conditioning. "And so we made a decision to run for every point given up after 55."

"I think you have to set a standard for yourself, and I felt my team lacked motivation at having to play defense, so I just instilled a little motivation that will be positive reinforcement for future performance."



Jay Calderon/DN

Nebraska center Pyra Aarden goes for the block against Sam Houston State's Amy Shelron Tuesday night.

Husker depth, maturity shape drive to Final Four

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

For Billie Winsett the time has finally come to put last season's disappointment behind her.

As a junior, Winsett watched as Penn State came into the NU Coliseum and handed the Cornhuskers their lone loss of the season in the NCAA Midwest Regional final.

Now, four days before the Nebraska volleyball team's first NCAA match since then, Winsett, now a senior, said this year's team would be better prepared.

"We want it more this year," Winsett said. "Maybe last year we were playing not to lose instead of to

win. We're out there this year to win it all."

The Huskers, the No. 1 seed in the Central region, get their first test Saturday night against the winner of Wednesday night's Indiana-George Mason match.

For the Huskers to go to the Final Four at Amherst, Mass., they must win a region with three Final Four teams from last year.

Senior Allison Weston said Nebraska should make the Final Four this season because it had been concentrating on more than just hitting. Weston, who was voted the Big Eight Tournament most valuable player for the second straight year Saturday, said this year's defense may be the best since she arrived at Nebraska.

"We're so much more balanced this year in every skill," Weston said. "I know we work hard in practice and especially this year on defense. We really want our defense to be good,

and that is what is going to win it for us."

Depth may be another key in the Huskers' run toward a national title.

Nebraska has been using 10 players in every match, compared to only using seven in every match last season.

Stacie Maser, Jen McFadden, Kate Crnich and Lisa Reitsma all have played vital roles. Last season, McFadden tore a knee ligament in the Huskers' match at Illinois. Maser missed the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Crnich played in 24 matches, but only 48 games, and Reitsma played in 18 matches and 30 games.

Last season, Nebraska relied mainly on Weston, Winsett, Maria Hedbeck, Kelly Aspegren, Peggy Meyer, Christy Johnson and Stephanie Clerc.

Weston said she noticed a distinct difference on the court because Coach

Terry Pettit had been using so many players.

"It seems like more people are contributing to the success this year," Weston said. "In the years past we had maybe five or six people we could depend on, but this year we're so deep, and when we look to the bench there are so many people that can add a lot to it."

Two more key players are freshmen Jaime Krondak and Fiona Nepo. Krondak has replaced Crnich at times and has one of the best serves on the team.

"All year long we knew we were going to need them at this point to play a big part in a match," Winsett said. "As soon as you start thinking of a player as a freshman, you forgive their mistakes, and then you don't force them to be at a level that they should be."

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