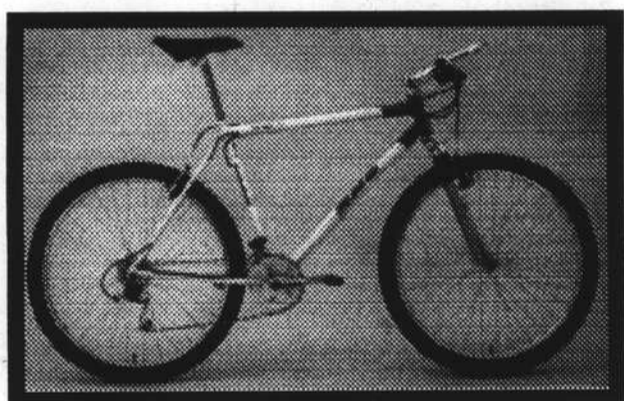


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*'Brook talked a lot about what Nebraska has  
 done for him. I believe he gave more back to us.'*

**GOV. BEN NELSON**

## Berringer remembered

*Osborne, teammates  
 mourn sudden loss  
 of friend, champion*

From Daily Nebraskan reports

The world lost a role model Thursday when Brook Berringer died in plane crash, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said.

"If you had somebody you wanted your son to be like," Osborne said, "Brook would be a great place to start."

Players and coaches reacted to the news that the former Cornhusker quarterback had died as if there had been a death in the family.

Aaron Graham, 1995 team co-captain, said in a statement released by the Nebraska Sports Information Department that he had lost a brother.

"I lived with him for two years," Graham said. "We spent an awful lot of time hunting and fishing together and doing the things we shared interests in."

"This is a tragic death that happened today."

The plane Berringer was flying went down in a field near Raymond Thursday afternoon. Tobey Lake of Aurora, Colo., the brother of Berringer's girlfriend, also died in the crash.

Reactions to Berringer's death had a common theme—a great young man was lost.

Lloyd Holbrook, a friend of the Berringer family, said from Goodland, Kan., that he had known Berringer since he was in junior high school. Berringer would come to use the library at Grant Junior High School, where Holbrook is a librarian.

Everyone in Goodland knew Berringer, Holbrook said, and people thought highly of him.

"He was a fine young man," Holbrook said. "He was just stellar."

Part of what made Berringer so special, Holbrook said, was his concern for others.

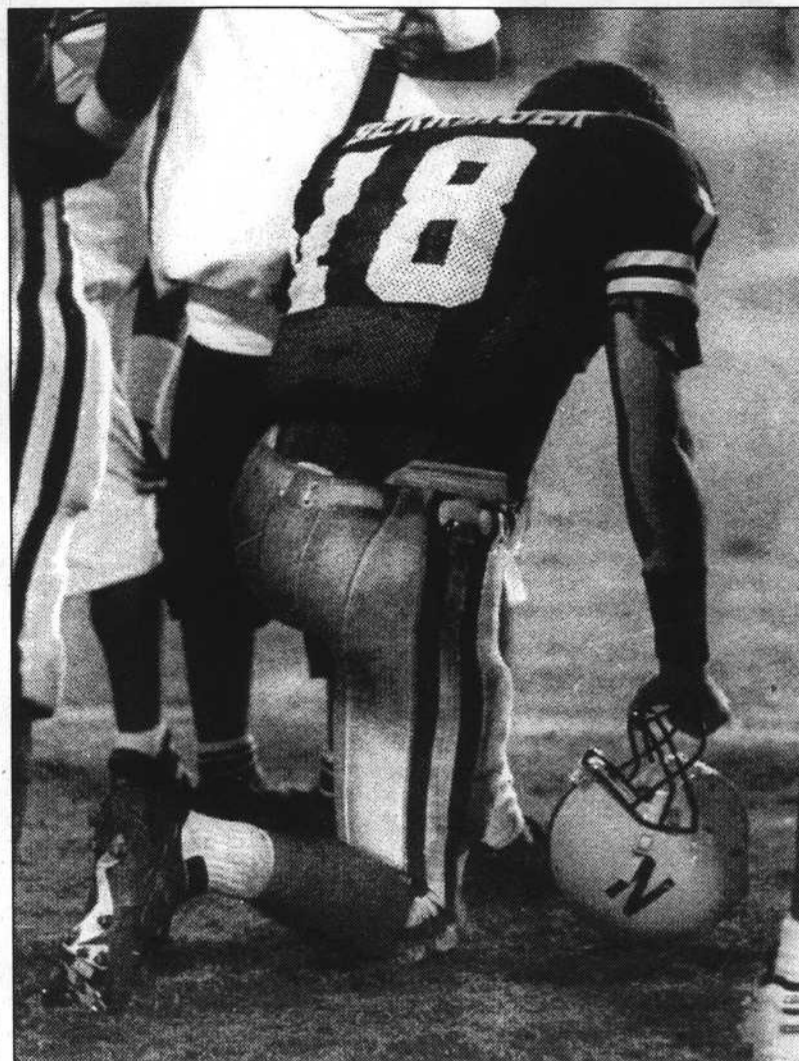
"Brook put a lot of other people ahead of himself," he said. "He was a person who really accomplished a lot for himself."

"I just can't say enough about him. He was just a super young man."

Gov. Ben Nelson released a statement Thursday evening saying Berringer had "touched our lives with his skill on the field."

"The death of any young person is a tragedy, but the loss of one of our best and brightest is a sad moment for all of us who knew and admired him," Nelson said.

Nelson extended his condolences to Berringer's family, friends, coaches



Travis Heying/DN

**Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer kneels on the sideline during the 1994 Orange Bowl. Berringer led the Cornhuskers through the second half of a perfect season that resulted in a national championship.**

and teammates, saying he had made an impact on the state.

"The last time I saw Brook, we talked about going hunting together," Nelson said. "Brook talked a lot about what Nebraska has done for him. I believe he gave more back to us."

Osborne was also feeling for the family. He had spoken to Berringer's mother before talking to reporters at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Thursday night.

With tonight's national championship celebration canceled, Osborne said he wanted the ticket money to go to a fund for a Berringer memorial.

"Brook was a good guy," the coach said. "He's one of those people who stood for all the right things."

As of Thursday afternoon, more than 35,000 tickets had been sold at \$3 each.

"Brook was a very well-liked player; he had no enemies," Osborne said. "He was very well-respected by every-

body, not just for his ability, but because of the way he handled things."

Tony Veland, another 1995 co-captain, said in a statement that Berringer was a "great teammate, a great friend and a great person."

"Brook won the biggest championship of his life when he committed himself to the Lord. Although we mourn, we rejoice for him."

Osborne, looking tired and emotional, spoke after a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a meeting where Berringer was scheduled to speak. Osborne said Berringer would have wanted the program to go on.

"He loved life. He did what he wanted to do," Osborne said. "He had a lot of enthusiasm and he enjoyed every day."

"I'm sure he had no regrets."

Compiled by Matthew Waite and Trevor Parks from reports by Mike Kluck and Julie Sobczyk.

## Berringer

Continued from Page 1

letes banquet at Bob Devaney Sports Center Thursday night.

Berringer was scheduled to speak at the banquet. Instead, Osborne spoke about him, saying Berringer was the type of person people would want their son to be like.

"Brook's the kind of guy that would want this program to go on tonight. He loved life. He did what he wanted to do," Osborne said.

"He had a lot of enthusiasm, and he enjoyed every day. I'm sure he had no regrets."

Earlier Thursday, Berringer and Harry Barr, owner of the plane, had talked about the upcoming draft and Berringer's chances.

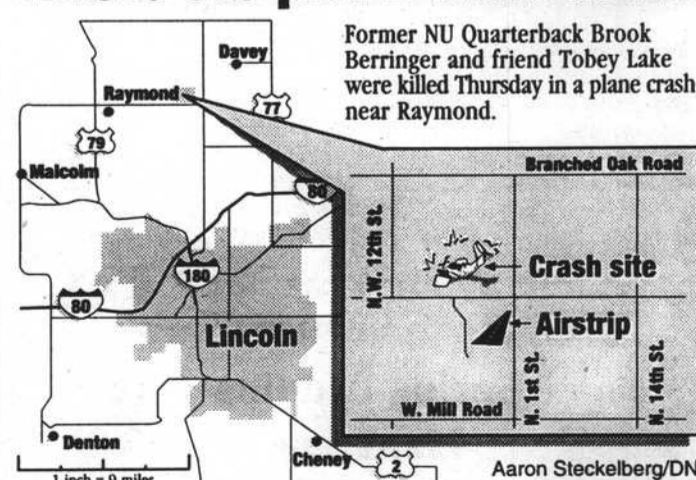
Berringer told Barr he was hoping to be drafted by a team in the Midwest, such as the Kansas City Chiefs or the Denver Broncos.

But Berringer had flying on his mind, Barr said, and asked if he could take the plane out.

An aspiring commercial pilot, Berringer held a pilot's license and was one of few people authorized to fly the plane.

Barr, a pilot for Duncan Avia-

## Where the plane went down



Former NU Quarterback Brook Berringer and friend Tobey Lake were killed Thursday in a plane crash near Raymond.

tion of Lincoln, said Berringer had flown the plane several times.

Barr said the plane was well-maintained, and he had no idea what could have caused the crash. He often flew in air shows, doing tricks and stunts, and never had any trouble.

"I use it to land on top of cars and other things so we have to keep it in good shape," he said.

The plane was kept in a hangar at the airstrip, co-owned by Barr

and Jack Christensen of Raymond.

Jeffers, a pilot for 31 years and one of three witnesses, said a plane like the one Berringer was flying was often used for training but was also good for pleasure flights.

"It's good to go out on a nice day and fly and look at the countryside and look at the lakes," Jeffers said.

Barr said that was exactly what Berringer was going to do.

"He just went out for fun."