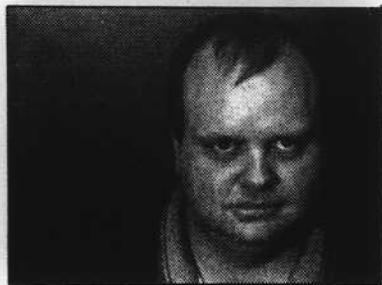


# SPORTS WEEKEND

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## SPORTS OPINION



### Mike Kluck

## Sad twist of fate strikes Husker family

Brook Berringer was looking forward to this weekend to get a little direction in his life.

Berringer hadn't had to do much since the Cornhuskers defeated Florida 62-24 in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2 to win their second consecutive national championship.

An NFL combine and a few workouts with professional football teams were the only things Berringer had worried about the last four months.

He had a chance to enjoy himself since graduating in December with a degree in business management.

Turkey hunting, spending time with his mother in Goodland, Kan., and playing basketball with other former football players had kept him occupied.

He was having fun, his mother, Jan, said just last week.

Last Friday, Berringer and the Nebraska seniors played against the Goodland area all-stars in a charity game, and it wasn't surprising Berringer was the leading scorer and received the most applause from the adoring crowd.

"It's been really fun to have him at home," Jan Berringer said last Friday. "I really think Brook is enjoying it and it's nice to have him around here again."

This weekend, that was all supposed to end.

Tonight, he was scheduled to make a surprise appearance on stage with Sawyer Brown at the celebration to commemorate his former team's triumph.

Berringer's life after college was going to begin. He was going to learn where he would be living next fall.

Although Berringer wasn't scheduled to be drafted in the early rounds, most draft experts predicted he would go somewhere between rounds four and nine.

Berringer was listed as one of the six best quarterbacks available, which isn't bad for a person who enjoyed backup duties last season.

But most pleasing to his mom was that both the Denver Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs had expressed interest in having Berringer play for them next season.

"I just want him to play some place where I can get to his games," said Jan, a fourth-grade teacher. "Kansas City would be nice because his grandparents live there and they could see him play."

But Thursday, the hope, direction and future of Berringer's life came to a sudden end in an alfalfa field near Raymond.

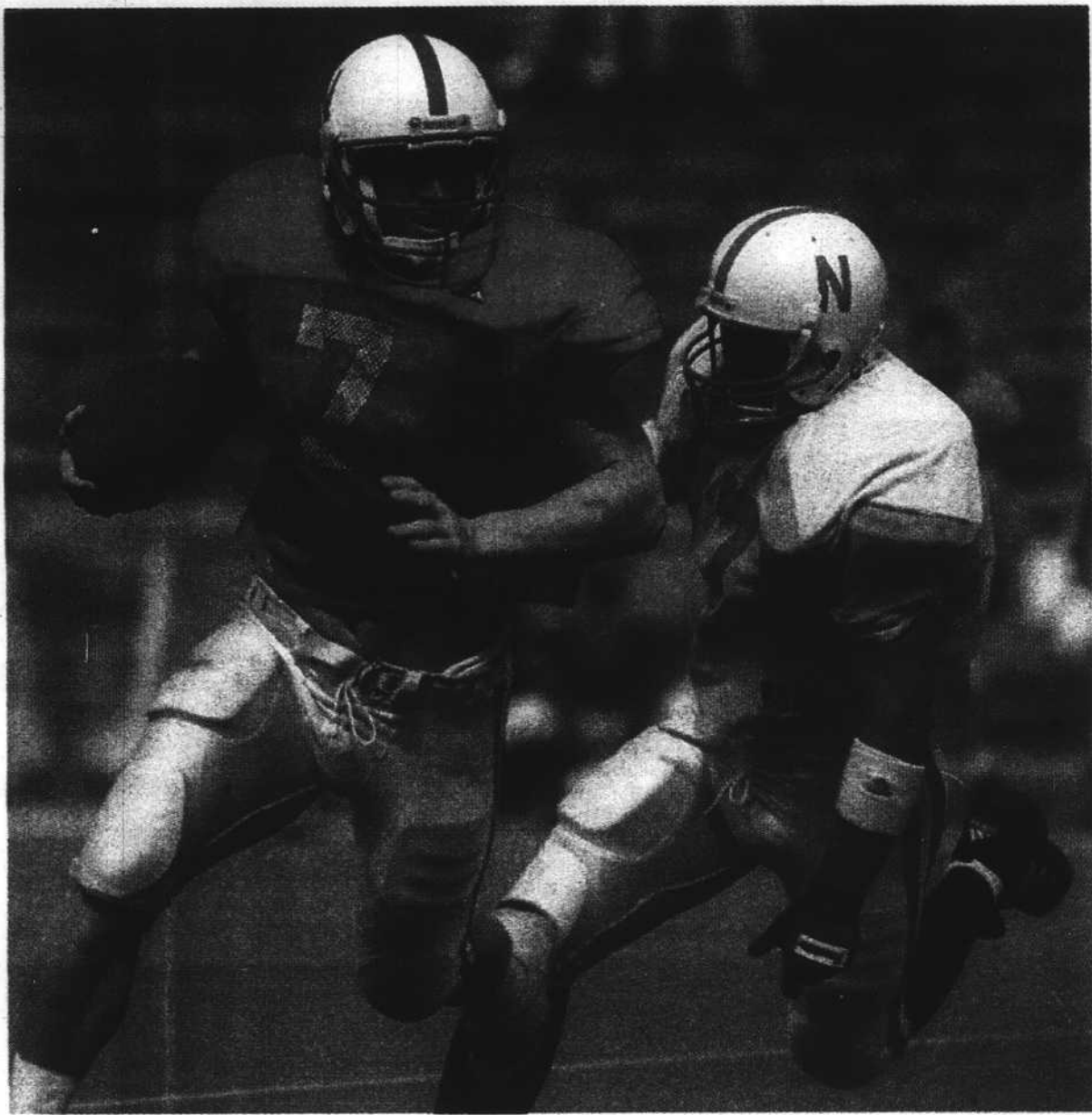
In what was supposed to be the most exciting week in his 22 years, his life came to a surprising and stunning end.

And for a woman who lost her husband 15 years ago, now she must ask why she is burying a son, whose dream was just about to come true.

Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

## Spring game showcases talent

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter



Matt Miller/DN

Scott Frost, Nebraska's No. 1 quarterback, is chased by reserve linebacker Ben Buettenback during last week's scrimmage. Frost will start Saturday for the red team in the spring game.

## Huskers home for 11 games

By David Wilson  
Staff Reporter

As the outfield grass at Buck Beltzer Field turns from brown to green, the Nebraska baseball team returns to Lincoln for an 11-game homestand, looking to snap a two-game losing skid.

The Cornhuskers, 17-21-1 overall and 6-11 in the Big Eight, will play host to Kansas, 18-20 and 8-12, beginning today at 9 p.m.

The Jayhawks defeated Nebraska in Lawrence, Kan., Tuesday and Wednesday—winning both games by one run. The Huskers, who have won seven of their last 10, are looking to improve on a 10-4 record at home.

"We took a little step backward those last couple of games," Sanders said. "We were on a nice little run, and things were going pretty well. And these two games with Kansas kind of nicked our ego a little bit."

Nebraska committed seven costly errors in Lawrence, which helped Kansas win both games despite being out-hit by the Huskers.

The Nebraska offense, which averages 8.4 runs per game, has remained consistent all season, in part because of the bats of eight freshmen who have combined for more than 40 percent of the Huskers' at-bats this year.

Freshman shortstop Josh Dalton, who went 4 for 9 with two doubles against Kansas, cracked the starting

See KU on 10

## NFL draft to end long wait for many

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

Midnight will hit late Sunday afternoon for many former Nebraska football players.

By then, they will have realized if their dreams of being drafted into the National Football League have come true or turned to disappointment.

The NFL draft begins its player selection at 11 a.m. Saturday and will continue for 12 rounds until late Sunday afternoon.

Former quarterback Tommie Frazier, center Aaron Graham, fullback Jeff Makovicka, wingback Clester Johnson, cornerback Tyrone Williams, free safety Tony Veland, defensive tackle Christian Peter, linebackers Phil Ellis and Doug Colman and I-back Clinton Childs will all be waiting anxiously for the phone to ring this weekend.

However, former Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips probably won't have to wait long to learn where he will be playing on Sundays.

Many draft experts have projected Phillips to go early in the first round, possibly even as the No. 1 pick to the New York Jets.

ESPN Draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. said he didn't expect Phillips to be the top pick. Kiper predicted Phillips to eighth to the Carolina Panthers.

Although Phillips has been

### NFL Draft

Below are the teams with the first 10 picks in Saturday's NFL draft. Last year's records are in parentheses.

1. Jets (3-13)
2. Jaguars (4-12)
3. Cardinals (4-12)
4. Ravens (5-11)
5. Giants (5-11)
6. Rams (7-9)
7. Patriots (6-10)
8. Panthers (7-9)
9. Oilers (7-9)
10. Bengals (7-9)

courted by many NFL teams, including the Jets, Kiper said he didn't feel New York was the best place for Phillips.

"What NFL clubs have to weigh with Phillips is risk versus benefit," Kiper said. "Then the question is at what point in the draft is someone going to be willing to bring him into the fold."

See DRAFT on 11

Although Saturday afternoon's annual Red-White Spring Game signifies the end of spring football drills, the game also marks one more step in Nebraska's quest for a third consecutive national championship.

"It's just another brick in the building," defensive tackle Jason Peter said. "Football never really ends. If it's not winter conditioning, then it's spring ball. From spring ball we go right into summer conditioning and then right into fall camp."

"We don't look at it like football's over for a while."

But the 47th annual spring game, which kicks off at 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium, will give fans a chance to see what the 1996 edition of the Cornhuskers looks like after 15 spring practices.

The No. 1 defense and No. 2 offense will be on the white team, while the No. 1 offense and No. 2 defense will be on the red squad. Some players may switch teams during the game, Coach Tom Osborne said.

Osborne, who will again watch the game from the press box, said no matter what happened Saturday, there might be some roster changes after summer conditioning and 29 preseason practices in the fall.

"I don't want any player leaving spring ball thinking that his position on the depth chart is safe," Osborne said. "We don't operate that way, and there is still an opportunity to change that."

Peter, a 6-foot-4, 285-pound junior to-be, said this spring game would be

See SPRING GAME on 10

## Nebraska to compete in Oklahoma

By Antone Oseka  
Staff Reporter

After a doubleheader sweep on Wednesday, the Nebraska softball team is gearing up for what Coach Rhonda Revelle is calling the biggest weekend of the season.

The Cornhuskers, 31-13 overall and 5-2 in the Big 12 travel to Norman, Okla., this weekend for a three-game series against Oklahoma after sweeping Northern Iowa in a doubleheader Wednesday.

Nebraska then travels 60 miles north to Stillwater, Okla., for a doubleheader against first-place Oklahoma State on Monday afternoon.

The Huskers take on the Sooners, 35-17 and 9-4, in a doubleheader Saturday at Reaves Park. The games start at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The three-game set finishes up with a single game at noon Sunday. Oklahoma is in second place in the Big 12 race.

The Huskers, third in the conference, can move into the top spot by winning four of the five games against the Sooners and the Cowgirls.

Revelle said she was concentrating on Oklahoma first before thinking about playing league-leading Oklahoma State.

The Sooners are led on the mound by the leading strikeout pitcher in the Big 12, Jill Most. Most leads the conference with 74 strikeouts in 62.2 in-

See SOFTBALL on 11