

Senior Benning pushes Green for starting position at I-back

By **MIKE KLUCK**
Senior Reporter

Throughout the early stages of fall camp, Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne was constantly pestered with questions about the candidates for the starting quarterback job.



Benning

But once junior Scott Frost emerged from the pack, a new topic began to develop. Who will start for the Huskers at I-back?

As Nebraska completed its two-day workouts with a major scrimmage Saturday, the competition between sophomore Ahman Green and senior Damon Benning took center stage.

Green, from Omaha Central High School, was the leading rusher with 61 yards on seven rushing attempts, and Benning, from Omaha Northwest, had 50 yards on five attempts, scoring one of three offensive touchdowns.

"It's open, but you don't discount what happened last year and what happened in spring ball. That all factors in," Nebraska Running Backs Coach Frank Solich said. "You don't make major changes

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DAMON BENNING
NU I-back

from the first two scrimmages. But as it continues, changes could be made if it dictates."

Last year, Green set the NU freshman rushing record, running for 1,086 yards and scoring 13 touchdowns. He became the first Nebraska freshman to rush for more than 1,000 yards; he was a first-team all-conference selection by the league's coaches and the Big Eight offensive newcomer-of-the-year.

Although Benning was sidelined with a pulled hamstring and a sprained ankle last season, he still rushed for 407 yards, averaging 6.5 yards per attempt. In the spring, Benning was slowed with a pulled calf muscle.

"This is the best Damon has played since he has been in the system," Solich said.

"I think now he's doing things at the top of his game in terms of everything — his passing game, running game, he's doing a fine job

blocking. So he's really turned into a complete player."

Throughout his career at Nebraska, Benning has served as a backup. In 1993, Benning backed up Calvin Jones, starting two games when Jones was injured. In 1994, Benning backed up Lawrence Phillips, and last season, Benning relieved Phillips and Green.

Last season after Phillips was suspended, Benning started against Pacific and Washington State before spraining an ankle and giving way to the true freshman Green.

"I just made up my mind that I wasn't going to be one of those guys who wasn't going to go out without a fight," Benning said. "No back that comes through here will settle for second, and I'm not going to start that."

"If I can go out there and earn the job, I'm going to earn the job. I'm going to do my best to make a statement here in camp."

Winsett, Weston named as finalists

FORMER NU volleyball sensations honored beside top female athletes.

By **TREVOR PARKS**
Senior Reporter

Eight months after winning college volleyball's biggest prize, two key members of Nebraska's national championship team are still receiving accolades.

Allison Weston and Billie Winsett, two of the most decorated players in NU volleyball history, are candidates for awards honoring the top women athletes in the United States and the world.

Weston, who now is an undergraduate assistant for the Cornhuskers, is one of seven finalists in the team sports category for the Women's Sports Foundation Sports-woman-of-the-Year award.

The other six finalists for the award participated in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Shelia Cornell, softball; Becky Dyroen-Lancer, synchronized swimming; Mia Hamm, soccer; Chrystandra Hires, team handball; Shannon Miller, gymnastics and Aranxta Sanchez-Vicario, doubles tennis.

Weston said she was shocked to see her name among that group.

"It comes a lot from the success that we've had as a volleyball team," Weston said. "Obviously, I couldn't

have gotten there by myself, but it is a great honor to be mentioned with those people."

The past three winners of the award — Rebecca Lobo, basketball; Lisa Fernandez, softball and Sheryl Swoopes, basketball — all won gold medals in the Olympics this summer.

Weston, who graduated from Papillion-LaVista High School, won three player-of-the-year awards for her performance at Nebraska. She was selected the AVCA co-player of the year, Volleyball Magazine's player of the year, and she was the first-ever winner of the Morgan Trophy Award given to the nation's top volleyball player.

"Never in a million years did I expect to win all these awards," she said.

Meanwhile, Winsett is one of 10 finalists for the 1996 NCAA Woman-of-the-Year Award. The award recognizes women in intercollegiate athletics for athletic achievements, academics and community leadership.

The other finalists include: Mary Alice Brady of Boston College; Amy DeVasher of Alabama; Kristi Kloster of Kansas; Marya Morusiewicz of Barry; Nikki Nicholson of Georgia; Jenni Rademacher of North Dakota State; Annette Salmeen of UCLA; Samantha Salvia of Old Dominion and Katie Smith of Ohio State.

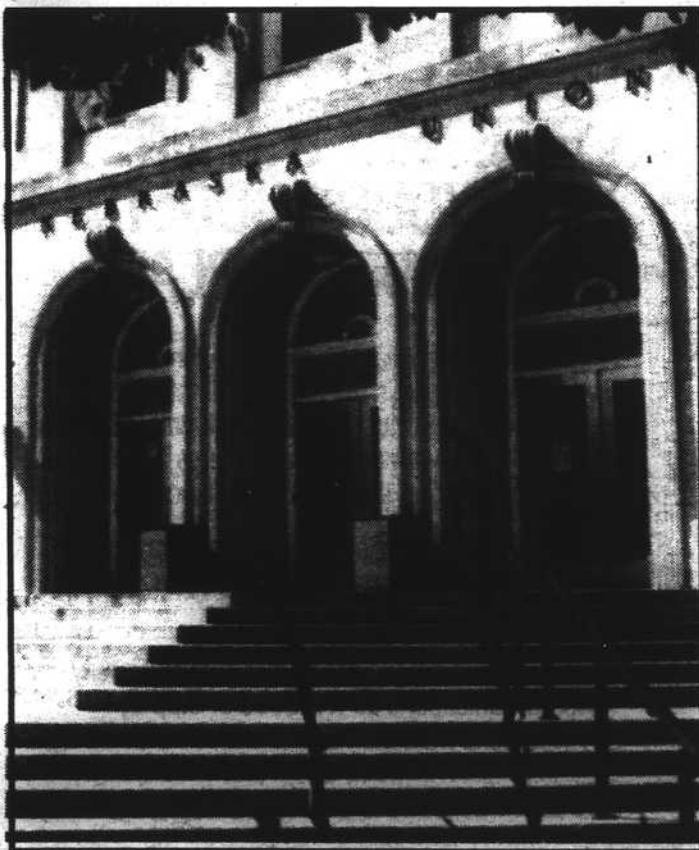
The winner will be selected Oct. 6 in Kansas City, Mo.

Winsett, a native of Boonville, Ind., was a three-year starter at outside hitter and was recently recognized in Successful Farmer Magazine 1995 as volleyball player of the year.

Nebraska Unions Your Campus Activities Centers

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WELCOME BACK STUDENTS



City Union

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

East Union

Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Culture Center

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-9:00pm
Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday evenings & weekends by reservation only

Young NU middle blockers assume important positions

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"I never would have expected to play so well," Tauke said. "I knew I would be an option with how many injuries we've had, so I've been practicing hard, and it has paid off."

Tauke's play has impressed her blocking mates.

"Tonia was there when the team needed her," Korver said. "She almost acted like she was fearless out there. She went out there and didn't care what everybody else thought. She just did her job."

Maser and Avery, the other two middle blockers, have not recorded a kill or a solo block after the first two matches. Maser, a 6-foot sophomore, has been slowed by a nagging knee injury and Avery, a 6-foot-1 redshirt freshman, did not play against Hawaii Saturday night after her debut Friday.

To help improve the middle blockers' consistency, Avery, Korver and Tauke were the only three players asked to practice Monday, the first day of classes.

It was practice time well spent, Korver said. "We need a lot of work because we are all inexperienced except for Stacie," Korver said. "Me, Tonia and Lisa are all inexperienced, and I think we will come along as time passes."

Nebraska might have been in bigger trouble if Korver had not transferred this fall.

But while she was home in her hometown of Adams in December, Korver began to think about returning to her home state. She finally made her decision to transfer to NU in April.

"I remember the whole day," she said. "I remember telling my coach. I remember telling my team. I remember the moment I knew I just told myself that there is no turning back."

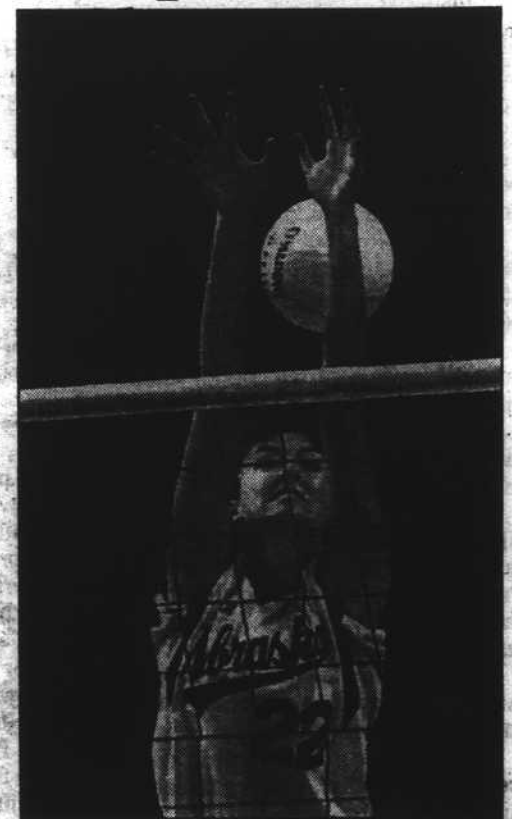
That was only the beginning.

The coach whom Korver liked so much, GW's Susie Homan, failed to grant Korver a release from her scholarship, even after approval from Colonial Athletic Director Jack Kvacncz.

NCAA rules mandated that Korver — if she was not released from her scholarship — would have had to sit out this season, although she would have been allowed to practice.

The problem continued until May 30, when Homan told Korver she still would not be released.

Korver and her family became involved with the NCAA, and in June, a day before she was



Matthew Warr/DN

TONIA TAUKE, a true freshman from Council Bluffs, stepped in to play a large role in Nebraska's season-opening tournament.

to fly to Washington for a hearing, Kvacncz informed Nebraska that Korver was officially released from her scholarship.

"She went there," Pettit said. "She was the newcomer of the year in their conference. She liked the school. She liked the team."

"She got great grades and she left only for one reason, and that was because she couldn't bear not playing Nebraska volleyball. How can you not like that?"

Korver, who was going to have to walk on at NU before picking up McFadden's scholarship, said she knew she made the right decision after playing Friday and Saturday.

"I knew I was in the right place before this weekend," Korver said. "When I looked around and saw the fans, I knew for sure this is what I want. It was awesome to say that I am from Nebraska."