

Sports Opinion



Gregg Madsen

Farley taught hard lesson on draft day

Nobody seems to know where Terrell Farley was during this weekend's National Football League draft.

Not many NFL teams seemed to care about his location either. Wherever he was, it's likely he was waiting anxiously, hoping the phone would ring.

Farley held loosely to the hope that a team might look past the two DWI convictions he sustained during the 1996 football season. But the former Cornhusker standout was not drafted in one of the seven rounds.

No phone calls. No cameras. No interviews.

Maybe he was alone, quiet, thinking.

Thinking about the consequences of his actions.

Recalling the blurred images of that cold night back on Nov. 20, when he drove under the influence of alcohol and was arrested for the second time in three months.

Thinking about the \$500 in damage to his 1981 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight, the parked car he crashed into and the chase he led Lincoln Police on.

The memories had to have crossed his mind as the hours passed and the telephone remained silent.

As player after player was selected in place of Farley — most with far less talent — the minutes must have slowed to hours as the memories became more vivid.

The first round, the second round. The first offense, the second offense.

Farley hasn't served any time in jail. But sometimes the mind can be its own prison, holding Farley to a life sentence of regret and thoughts of what might have been.

He is a terror on the field. His unique combination of speed, strength and pure athleticism show through on every down he plays.

Those were the images on the minds of NFL scouts as they watched Farley and other former Huskers last month in two private evaluations at Cook Pavilion. Farley's physique, quickness and power was impressive.

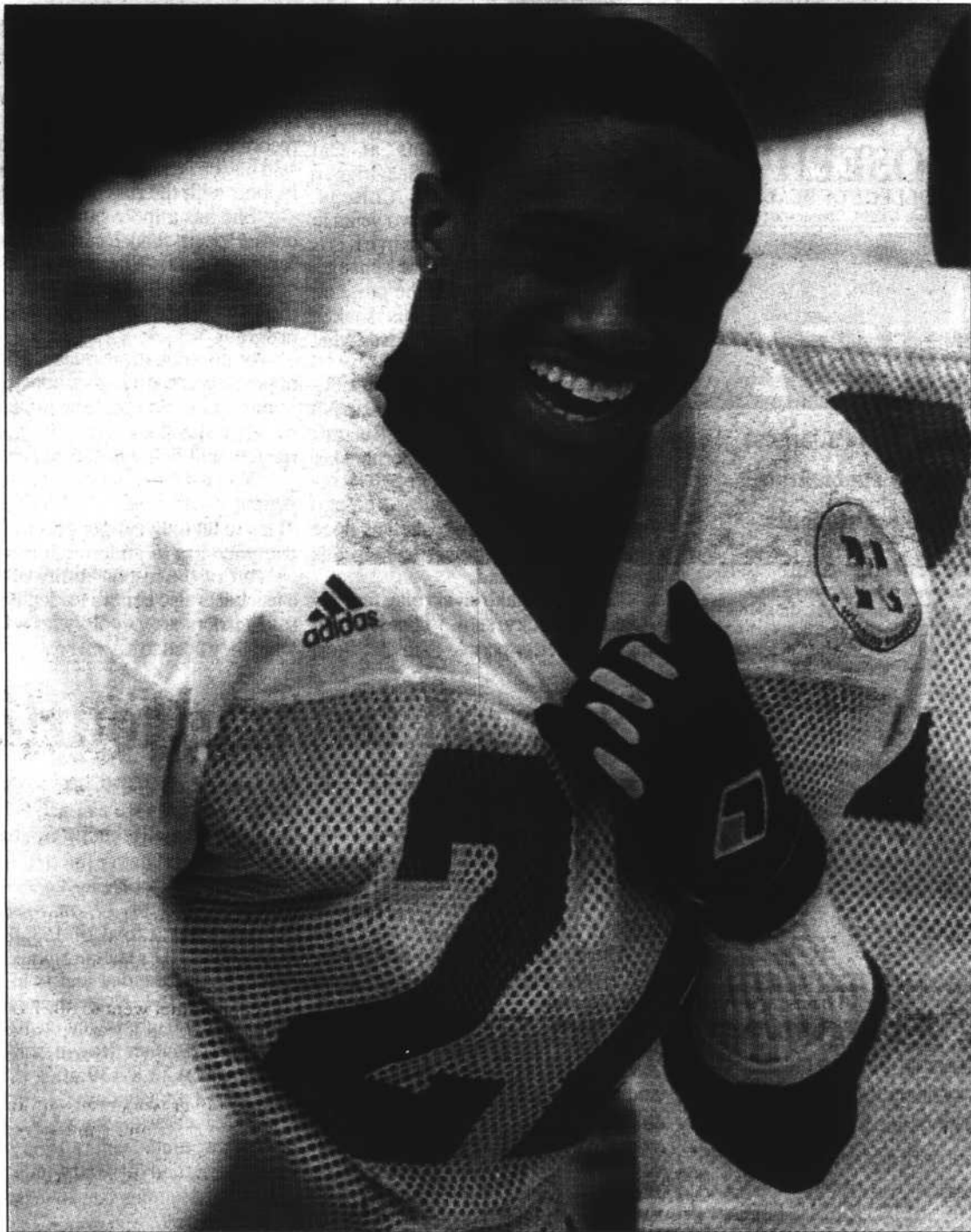
But just as unmistakable was his criminal record, making Farley a draft-day risk for any NFL team.

In time, Farley will end up getting a chance in the professional ranks, but this weekend made it clear what the NFL's current opinion of him is.

Wherever Farley was this weekend, there were no celebrations. There was no phone call from an NFL coach. There was no signing bonus, no congratulations and no forgiveness from the NFL.

There were only thoughts.

Madsen is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.



MATT MILLER/DN

RALPH BROWN has become the veteran of the Nebraska secondary after playing just one season.

Brown becomes a veteran

Sophomore is the leader of a young secondary.

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

When Ralph Brown runs onto the Memorial Stadium turf next fall, he will see mostly the same 76,000 red-clad, screaming fans he saw last year. He will hear the familiar cheers. He will sense the same anticipation that sweeps through the stands every season.

He will know how high the expectations are. But he won't feel the intimidation that overcame him last fall.

The Nebraska cornerback entered last season as a wide-eyed freshman playing — and starting — his first collegiate game on a defense that included seven returning starters.

But after becoming the first true freshman ever to earn a starting role in all 13 games for the Cornhuskers, he left the season as an experienced veteran.

"Last year, I was nervous," Brown said. "I was coming out of

high school, and I had always watched these guys on TV. It was just a fantasy being here, like a dream come true."

What started out as a fantastic dream turned into an even better reality for Brown over the course of the season.

As an untested freshman in an experienced secondary that included seniors and soon-to-be NFL draft picks Mike Minter, Eric Stokes and Michael Booker, Brown was often the target of opposing quarterbacks.

Please see **BROWN** on 8

Beck may leave NU for ABL

NU's coach of 11 years interviewed for job with the San Jose Lasers.

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Women's Basketball Coach Angela Beck may be named the general manager and coach of the American Basketball League's San Jose Lasers on Wednesday.



Beck

The Lasers, a member of the nine-team first-year women's professional basketball league, which finished its first year of competition in March, have had a coaching vacancy since Jan Lowrey was fired earlier this month.

Beck has been the Cornhuskers' coach for 11 seasons, compiling a 191-128 record. She led NU to three NCAA Tournament appearances and one NWIT appearance in that time.

On Monday night, Beck and current Nebraska players had no comment when asked about Beck's future at NU. On Sunday, Beck held an unscheduled team meeting apparently to discuss her future with the school.

"Unfortunately, I'm not at liberty to discuss that right now," Beck said Monday night. "Right now I'm the head coach at Nebraska, and until that

Please see **BECK** on 8

Beck at NU

Year	Record	Postseason
1986-87	16-13	
1987-88	22-7	NCAA Tournament
1988-89	14-14	
1989-90	10-18	
1990-91	17-11	
1991-92	21-11	NWIT
1992-93	23-8	NCAA Tournament
1993-94	17-13	
1994-95	13-14	
1995-96	19-10	NCAA Tournament
1996-97	19-9	

Huskers worry top-ranked Texas Tech

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

You'd think the top-ranked baseball team in the country would be confident entering a three-game series against Nebraska — the second worst team in the Big 12 Conference.

But after two weeks at the No. 1 spot, Texas Tech Coach Larry Hays is still not completely convinced that his team is the best in the country.

The Red Raiders (37-5 overall and 17-4 in the Big 12) play host to the Cornhuskers (22-25 and 4-14) in a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m. today at Dan Law Field in Lubbock,

Texas. The two teams play a single game Wednesday at 1 p.m.

"They scare us to death," Hays said. "They're scoring runs. I guarantee you (NU Coach) John Sanders' teams always scare us. They'll get after you. We're expecting a battle."

Nebraska was swept by Oklahoma in a three-game series last weekend. The Sooners extended their winning streak to 10 games and moved up to 14th in this week's Collegiate Baseball poll.

Oklahoma (30-10 and 14-4) ranks second in the league followed by No. 15 Oklahoma State (32-12 and 14-7).

The Huskers are 0-9 against the southern teams of the conference and are 0-13 in road games this season. But Hays

said he refused to believe that the Red Raiders will have their way with NU.

"When we went into conference (play), we were as concerned as we've ever been because we just felt like we weren't ready," Hays said. "We felt totally unprepared. So that's why doing well has kind of surprised us."

Hays said although his team is not looking ahead to postseason play, the Red Raiders are just three wins away from clinching a spot in the conference tournament. The top six teams in the league will travel to Oklahoma City, Okla., May 15 through 20 for the Big 12 Conference tournament.

Hays said he didn't see his team as one of the top in the country entering

the season, but his players have almost convinced him, he said.

"These guys find a way to win, so I'm not going to argue with them," Hays said. "We're not as talented as we have been."

With six returning starting pitchers this season, the Red Raiders' staff has carried the team, Hays said. Texas Tech returned just one starting position player this season.

"We're surprised and we feel pretty fortunate that things have fallen in place for us," Hays said. "But we've really struggled. We've had lots of injuries. We've had enough problems that you'd think our win-loss record would reflect it more than it does."