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Young quarterbacks back up Frost

By David Wilson Senior Reporter

Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne and quarterbacks coach Turner Gill agree that senior quarterback Scott Frost should be an improved signal caller this season.

However, unlike last season, the Cornhuskers have a deep bench to relieve Frost if he doesn't live up to

expectations.

"I think we have a lot of depth," Frost said. "I wouldn't want to be the coaches and try to decide who's going to be the backup. Hopefully, I'll be the starter going in, and hopefully it will stay that way. I expect it to. Right now - I'm not a coach but they have a lot of talent there."

Behind Frost, sophomore Frankie London and junior Monte Christo will battle for time. Freshmen Eric Crouch and Bobby said, he learned a lot about his posi-Newcombe could also fit into the tion from former NU quarterbacks picture before the season is over.

Crouch, a 6-foot, 190-pounder out of Millard North High School, rushed for 1,960 yards as a junior and passed for 785, leading the state's largest class in total offense. Despite being hampered by an ankle London said. "Just like when I was a injury last season, Crouch threw for 600 yards and ran for 1,300.

Newcombe rushed for 663 yards and passed for 510 as a senior at not a threat to me; I'm just a threat Highland High School, in to myself. I have to get the job done Albuquerque, N.M. As a junior, the and get it done right. Otherwise, 6-foot, 190-pounder ran for nearly 1,400 yards and passed for 477.

The two freshmen have done well in fall camp and could see playing time this season, Gill said.

"The one thing about it is they both have a chance." Gill said. our offense, and they have the physical tools to be able to run and throw. But mentally, they have to try and learn the whole thing in three weeks. That's really difficult. But some ability, both physically and mentally, to learn our offense.'

London, who played in four games last season, said he hopes to play more this year. Though he did not attempt a pass last season, he rushed three times for 6 yards.

where I'm still kind of fighting for a position," London said. "Backup is not a definite. I'm just making sure that if I am the backup, that I secure that position. It's not a difficult task being the backup. I'd say a harder just making sure each play means something to you, and that you do it right and get it done right."

has studied new plays and audibles 180-pounder also said he put on a

few pounds, which will help him this season.

"I'd just like to secure the backup spot, and if something happens in the season, then be ready to go step out on the field and get the job done," London said. "Right now I just pray that nothing happens to Scott, but if the time comes, then I'll look forward to getting out there and getting my turn to take some snaps."

As a redshirt in 1995, London Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer. Knowing what it takes to learn the system, London said, he does not feel pressured by Crouch and Newcombe.

"I try not to make it a factor," freshman, I had to learn. They come in, and they have to learn. I don't feel any immediate threats. They're they could be the backup or they could be second team or third team."

By the end of the season, Frost said, he expects the freshmen to contend for playing time.

"It will probably take them awhile for them to get there," Frost 'They've shown that they can learn said, "but by the end of the year I expect them to be challenging for the backup spot – not saying they're going to win it, but it's going to be

Frost, the Big 12 newcomer of they've shown that they do have the year last season, completed 52 percent of his passes for 1,440 ards. Osborne said he expects those numbers to improve.

"Scott should be in a lot better shape than last year," Osborne said. "In many ways he was like a freshman. He showed a lot of maturity. "Right now, I'm in a situation He has excellent speed, and he's a good thrower.'

Gill also said he expects Frost to improve his passing game and has helped Frost with his throwing motion. Frost recorded the lowest interception percentage in school task is just going out day to day and history last season and currently ranks 16th on the Huskers' all-time passing-yardage chart.

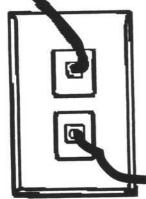
ht and get it done right."

Scholarship quarterback Jeff
Since last fall, London said he
Perino, who would have been a redshirt sophomore, left the team after and will enter this season with more spring practice, and Christo, a walkconfidence on the field. The 6-foot, on slowed by injuries in 1994 and 1995, entered fall camp at No. 3.

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Nebraska Preview

* Statistics are from the 1996 season

Frost was the Big 12 of the year last

Pass Yds. Rush Yds. TDs Frankie London 6-0 180 So. 0



Business as usual for NU linebackers

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freshman Carlos Polk, a former USA Today All-American in high school.

than anybody realizes," said sophomore Mike linebacker Ben Buettenback, listed at second string behind Foreman. "We're all working hard in practice."

Possibly the most beneficial thing for the linebackers is that the first two games of the season are against Akron and Central Florida, neither considered to be one of the top 50 teams in the nation. This may preseason No. 4 Washington.

"You don't always want to play a

great team right away," Buettenback said, "This way, we know what we've got before we play them."

Foreman agrees.

"We're not going to overlook "This team has a lot more depth Akron or Central Florida, but they will be a good preparation for Washington," he said. "Akron probably thinks they have a good running attack, and Central Florida has a Heisman candidate (quarterback Dante Culpepper), so they'll want to pass the ball.

Overall, Foreman sees the linebacker corps and the defense as one

the best in the Big 12.

"We'll be as good if not better help the newcomers get their feet than everyone in the Big 12, hopewet before the Sept. 20 showdown at fully in the nation," he said. "We just have to keep practicing and we'll be