

Players welcome Collier's attitude

By Joshua Camenzind
Staff writer

Steffon Bradford said last year's Nebraska basketball team was based on talent.

Bradford said next year's team, led by new Coach Barry Collier will be based on discipline — a positive by his standards.

"Talent got us no damn where," Bradford said. "You saw where it got us — a 11-19 record."

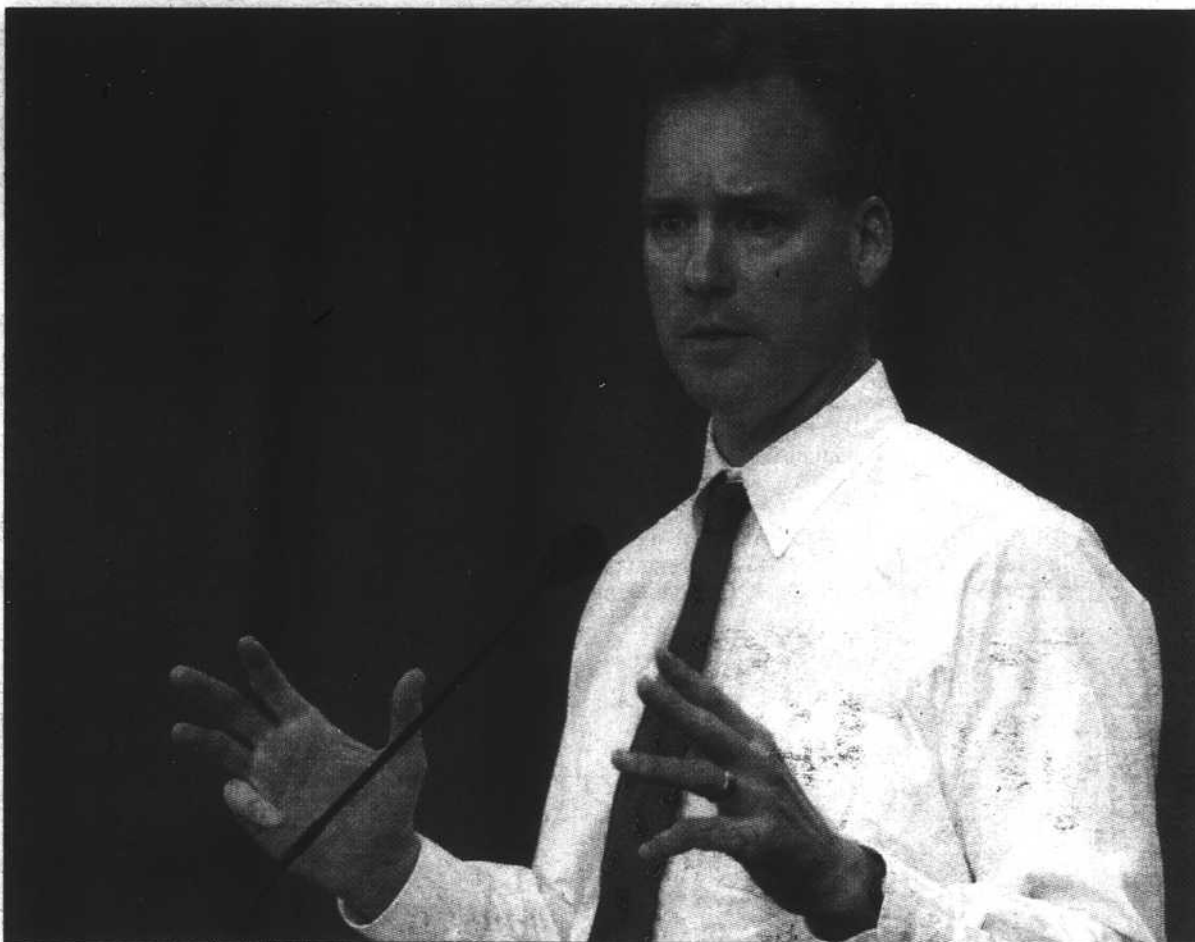
Bradford said Collier was a "cool dude" and would be a good change for the team. Many of his teammates agreed.

"I see a difference of attitudes right now," Brian Conklin said. "Right now everyone is working a lot harder, working on their weaknesses."

Now that people are working harder, Conklin hopes to see new rules for him and his teammates.

"Discipline is key," Conklin said. "Discipline wins ball games — that is what I have been taught and have experienced personally. I just hope that he comes in and lays down the law right from the beginning."

The change also represented a transition period that can now be achieved with Collier's hiring.



"(Collier) is the type of man that everybody in this state and university wants."

"We are finally relieved that we have a head coach and can move on," said Kimani Ffriend, who, after meeting with Collier, will not transfer.

Ffriend also said his groin injury will not require surgery, and he is going through physical therapy now. Guard Cary Cochran, who will be

a junior next season, said Collier is a great man and one with class.

"What the people of Nebraska want is what they are going to get," Cochran said. "He is the type of man that everybody in this state and university wants."

If that is true, both the fans and the

Cary Cochran
NU guard

Mike Warren/DN
BARRY COLLIER was introduced as the new basketball coach in the Memorial Stadium pressbox at 3 p.m. Collier said that a number of things influenced his decision to come to Nebraska, including the facilities and that the people who come to work for the athletic department tend to stay for a long period of time.

players got their wish. Athletic Director Bill Byrne promised the players they would meet

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SPORTS OPINION



Matthew Hansen

Coach has to reform Nebraska

You saw it happening right in front of you. It was straight out of a cheesy Hollywood sports movie: The new coach meeting his players, inspiring his players, setting the tone.

It happened right there in the Hewitt Center on Wednesday afternoon. Only a glass wall separated you and the beginning, the very beginning, of Barry Collier and his new team. You couldn't hear the words, but you could see the expressions, the responses to what Cary Cochran called "a new era in Nebraska basketball."

It looked great. Nebrasketball seemed ... exciting. Afterward, the team seemed ... team-like. It was one big feel-good electrical surge of Husker hoops happiness.

Only in the movies, right? Well, maybe.

Tomorrow morning Barry Collier will wake up as the coach of a team that, frankly, doesn't understand the concept

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Lord injury leaves hole at quarterback position

By Brian Christopherson
Staff writer

The carpet that the Nebraska offense had been flying so high on throughout these first weeks of spring football was pulled out from underneath their feet during Wednesday afternoon's scrimmage.

However, the lackluster output was the least of Nebraska Coach Frank Solich's concerns when he saw budding freshman quarterback Jammal Lord go down with a most certain spring-ending injury to his left knee.

Dr. Robert Dugas, team orthopedic surgeon, said that it was an injury to the posterior cruciate ligament, and an MRI would need to be taken later this week to further determine Lord's near future.

Lord is the second NU quarterback to be sidelined during spring ball, with Eric Crouch still staying clear of contact after undergoing shoulder surgery following the Fiesta Bowl win over Tennessee.

The injury even prompted Solich to say a brief, but still excitement inducing, comment featuring the words Bobby Newcombe and quarterback again in the same sentence.

"Bobby could take a few snaps at quarterback," Solich said.

However, Solich was doubtful on the prospects of Newcombe's playing quarterback in the spring game.

Instead, the unlikely spotlight is on sophomore Joe Chrisman, who will now most likely enter as the No. 1 quarterback for the Red-White Spring Game on April 15. Freshman Brett Lindstrom follows behind Chrisman on the depth chart.

"You have to remember that those two quarterbacks are still young in the system," Solich said. "They can do a good job, but improving comes in stages."

The injury to Lord, who redshirted last season,

"The offense took a U-turn today. We had way too many motion penalties, which put us in long yardage situations."

Frank Solich
NU football coach

was a blow to an offense that had been clicking in all facets since the start of spring ball.

"The offense took a U-turn today. We had way too many motion penalties, which put us in long yardage situations," Solich said. "It may have been a case of not being ready to play, but they were off base a little bit today."

The offense also may be tamed on the variety of plays they run during the upcoming spring game.

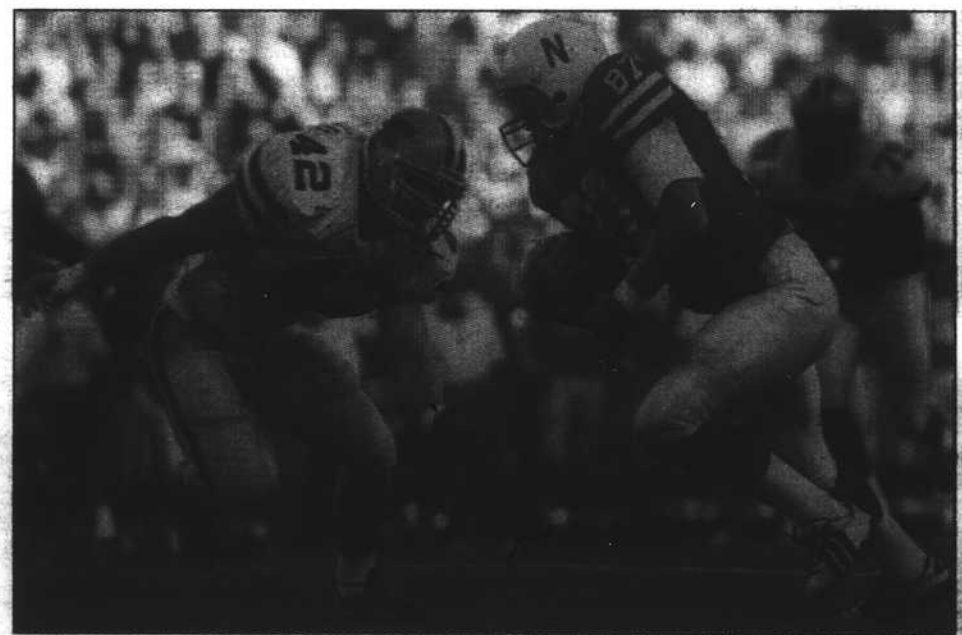
"It will probably be much more fullback and I-back oriented," Solich said. "But it might be good. We can play that style of game very well right now."

The only bright spot of the day may have been an improvement on the defensive side of the ball.

"The defense played much better, was more aggressive and appeared to be headed in the right direction," Solich said.

Despite the struggle offensively and Lord's injury, NU will be in no hurry to put Crouch back on the field any sooner, Solich said.

"We're not going to accelerate Eric's progress," Solich said. "He will have no contact this spring."



Mike Warren/DN
TRACY WISTROM will be a leader among tight ends having big-game experience and being a strong blocker. Wistrom was third in receptions and finished second in yards receiving.

Davison set for leadership

By Joshua Camenzind
Staff writer

Matt Davison acts like he has been here before. "Yeah, it's just a normal spring," said Davison, a senior with 15 career starts to his name in 36 games overall.

Normal in that it is his last as a Cornhusker. One that he hopes will go out with a bang.

"There is a little sense of urgency, I guess, going into your senior year," Davison said. "You really want to go out a champion and make the most of your last days with an 'N' on your helmet."

Davison said he is ready to step up into a leadership role next season. But that role may be just a formality with the experience of the wide receivers coming back.

Wilson Thomas and Tom Beveridge return to

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RECEIVERS PROSPECTUS

WHO'S BACK:

- TE Tracey Wistrom (16 cat. 429 yards 2 TD)
- TE Aaron Golliday (3 cat. 53 yards)
- TE John Bowling (2 cat. 30 yards)
- WB Bobby Newcombe (19 cat. 238 yards 3 TD)
- WB John Gibson
- WR Matt Davison (29 cat. 441 yards 2 TD)
- WR Wilson Thomas

WHO'S GONE:

- Sean Applegate
- T.J. DeBates

OUTLOOK:

If Nebraska so desired, it could have a heck of a passing attack with this crop of receivers. Newcombe is a home run threat, Davison is a proven entity, and the tight-end threesome all will play in the NFL.