



# **NU** Injuries A Bad Omen?

Outlined against a crystal-blue September sky, the four words of unimaginable horror rode into Memorial Stadium. Calvin Jones is hurt

On a perfect day for Nebraskans to rededicate their lives to their yearly passion, there was suddenly something else to go along with the red hats. red balloons and red shoes.

Red faces.

And on an opening day when Ne-braska Coach Tom Osborne should have kicked back and enjoyed the debut of a team he has quietly said is his best since 1983, the badgered icon sat afterward explaining why he would leave the franchise in a blowout long enough to get hurt.

Frazier's Sprain
Oh yes, Nebraska defeated North
Texas, 76-14.

Good start. Bad omen.

Perhaps Osborne should have seen it coming. After the second play, quarterback Tommie Frazier limped off with a sprained right ankle. Maybe, by now, Osborne is just oblivious to bis bod lead.

There are those who would call it

The point will be debated from now until Jones, the junior I-back, returns to the lineup. He left with 9:21 to go in the third quarter after taking a hit to his left knee near the North Texas goal line. Jones, who finished with 124 yards and two touchdowns, fell 2 yards short of his third.

Good start.

Bad omen. The early returns on the Heisman Trophy candidate were of cautious relief. Osborne said Jones' anterior cruciate ligament was "sound." Of course, the biggest sigh might have come from UCLA Coach Terry Donahue's office in Westwood, Calif. Jones is expected to miss two to three games, including the televised duel with

UCLA on Sept.18.

That was supposed to be Jones' personal convention to announce his candidacy to Heisman delegates everywhere. The trophy is definitely on the back burner now. What counts is how soon No. 44 can return to the is how soon No. 44 can return to the off-tackle holes and, as Osborne said Saturday, "That's anybody's guess."

### One More Play

Indeed, running backs are fragile creatures when it comes to injury Offensive linemen can play on a knée that's not quite right. But a back needs his wheels securely screwed in place The problem with a strain is every knee is different. Jones could be back in two weeks or maybe this nags on into November. Maybe he's not quite right — just a step off — all season.

And the second nightmare for Os-

borne will be knowing when and where to turn Jones loose.

The first nightmare, of course, was whether Osborne should have had Jones in the game with a 49-7 lead over a Division I-AA team.

There will be some who will onestion Calvin Jones playing," Osborne said. "I'm sure right now we wish we would have taken him out. I felt all along that a good back needs to carry the ball at least 15, 16, 17 times. Calvin felt to be sharp he needed that much

"I'm sure I'll be criticized, but that's part of the game. If he had stayed healthy, nobody would say a word.

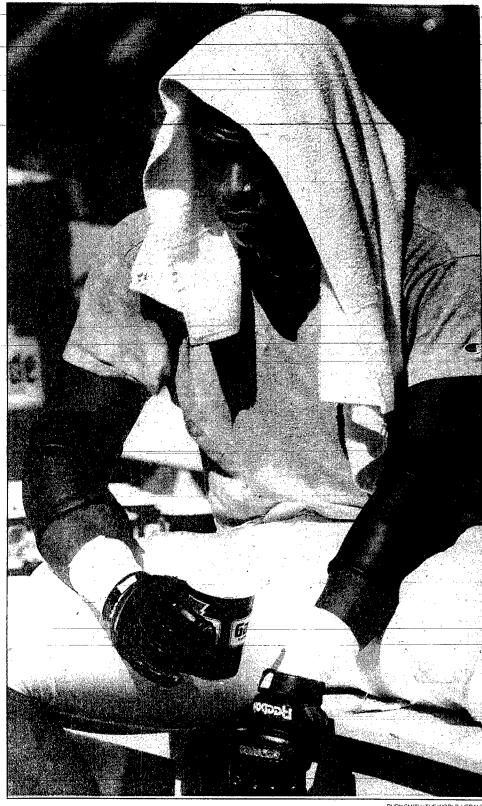
That's a pretty big "if." But when you are Tom Osborne, you are paid to make those kinds of decisions and take those little gambles that seem minute but can explode like land mines in

your face. Tough calls, yes.
In this case, Osborne made the right

Jones was scheduled to get 15 to 20 carries Saturday. Certainly, nobody could argue with that. Some would even say that's a tad paltry for a Heisman hypee. Whatever happened to 30 carries?

At halftime, Jones had 99 yards on 13 carries. He had none on NU's first possession of the third quarter. At that point, Osborne said, he asked Running Backs Coach Frank Solich if Jones should play. Solich said yes. At that point, the crowd of 75,643 wasn't screaming for Jones to leave the game. They were screaming for Jones to

But it never happened. On the 16th carry, Jones was dropped at the 3-yard Please turn to Page 6, Col. 1



DISAPPOINTING FINISH: Nebraska star I-back Calvin Jones' day ended with 9:21 left in the third quarter of Saturday's 76-14. victory over North Texas after he suffered a strained left knee ligament. Jones, who rushed for 124 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries, said he might miss the next three games against Texas Tech, UCLA and Colorado State.

# Painful Win: **Huskers** Lose Jones, Frazier

BY LEE BARFKNECHT WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Lincoln — Judging by the score Saturday, Nebraska's 76-14 victory over Division I-AA North Texas was the laugher it was supposed to be.

But after seeing which players hobbled off the field, the Huskers said their most-lopsided victory in seven years

On the season's first play, quarterback Tommie Frazier suffered a sprained right ankle that sidelined him for the day one snap later.

Then with 9:21 left in the third quarter and NU leading 49-7, I-back Calvin Jones strained a left knee ligament at the end of a 6-yard run to the North Texas 3-yard line.

A sellout crowd of 75,643 at Memorial Stadium was near silence as doctors and trainers helped the Heisman Trophy candidate to the bench.

"We're like everybody in the country," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "There are two or three players we can't afford

'And you'd maybe start with Calvin

How soon might Jones, the returning Big Eight offensive player of the year, and Frazier, last season's Big Eight offensive newcomer of the year, be ready?

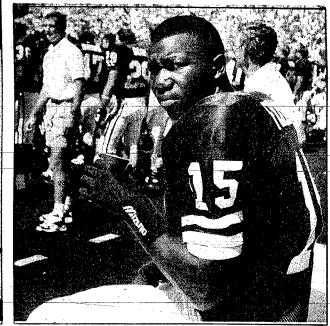
"I've got a good feeling about Tommie for next week," Head Trainer George Sullivan said an hour after the game. "But I don't think we'll plan on Calvin.

"When we took him off the field, he said when he got hurt that it felt like somebody had just grabbed his leg and jerked it."

Team doctors said Jones' anterior cruciate ligament appeared to be sound.
Still, Osborne said, the junior out of
Omaha Central — who gained 124 yards on 16 carries and ran 1 and 24 yards for touchdowns - might miss two to three

Jones, in a statement issued through the sports information office, said he's disappointed that he might miss upcom-ing games against Texas Tech, UCLA and Colorado State.

'I was looking forward to helping the Please turn to Page 4, Col. 1



PROGNOSIS IS GOOD: Tommie Frazier's status for next Saturday's game against Texas Tech was listed as probable after NU's starting quarterback was significantly sprained right ankle on the first play from scrimmage against North Texas.

# Wayne State Uses Air Raid To Sink UNO

BY MIKE PATTERSON WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Wayne State set the tone for UNO's postgame country western concert Saturday with some pickin' and grinnin' against the Mavs.

The pickin' was done by quarterback Brett Salisbury, who picked apart the defense for 487 passing yards and two touchdowns. The grinnin' was done after the Wildcats' 32-19 victory over the Mavericks, the second time in four years that Wayne has beaten the University of that Wayne has beaten the University of Nebraska at Omaha in a season opener.

"It's a big win for us," Wayne Coach Dennis Wagner said. "We think we've got a good team, and we're not afraid to play anybody in Division II.

An estimated 4,900 at Caniglia Field couldn't have guessed the game would unfold the way it did as they watched May running back Maurad Cave sprint 96 yards for a touchdown on the opening kickoff. But UNO missed the extra point

and it quickly went downhill from there.

The Wildcats rolled up 32 straight points to take command. Wayne finished with a school-record 569 yards in total offense, most coming through the air from Salisbury to a talented group of

"They've got some great players at-skill positions," UNO Coach Tom Mueller said. "They took advantage of

our inexperience in the secondary."

Shortly after a 25-yard field goal by Andy Parr sliced UNO's lead in half, Salisbury went back to work. The transfer from the University of Oregon hit Byron Chamberlain with a short toss that Please turn to Page 9, Col. 5



BROKEN UP: Wayne State's Dan Aguayo can't hold onto this second-quarter pass as UNO's Byron Johnson defends during Saturday's game at Al Caniglia Field. Johnson, finished with five tackles and an interception for the Mays.

# Yanks' Abbott 'Thrilled' After Tossing No-Hitter

THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

New York - When the final out was made and the moment seemed surreal to him, New York Yankees pitcher Jim Abbott said, he thought first of his catcher, Matt Nokes. Later he would recall "the tremble" in his wife's voice as they embraced. But what seemed to strike him most about throwing a no-hitter Saturday was the irony of it all.

Only six days earlier, he'd been bounced in the fourth inning by these same Cleveland Indians, a forgettable moment in a disappointing season for Abbott.

And now here he was, adding still another glorious moment to a career, and a life, really, that has been a shining example of courage and remarkable Please turn to Page 2, Col. 5



JIM ABBOTT: He became the first Yankee in 10 years to throw a no-hitter.

# Hawkeye QB Burmeister Says Bottom Line Is 26-25 Victory

BY STEVEN PIVOVAR

Iowa City, Iowa - Paul Burmeister grew up watching Iowa quarterbacks lead stirring comebacks at Kinnick Stadium. Saturday. Burmeister grew up as a, quarterback while leading an Iowa confeback of his own.

The senior from Iowa City drove the Hawkeyes 96 yards to a touchdown with 53 seconds to play, then completed a two-point conversion pass to sophomore

tight end Scott Slutzker to finish off Iowa's 26-25 victory over Tulsa

"I had the utmost respect for Paul before," Slutzker said. "But he really showed all of us something today. It was crunch time, and he stepped up and came through.

Burmeister, a model of inconsistency much of the afternoon in his fourth collegiate start, completed five passes for 55 yards on the march that started with 6 Please turn to Page 7, Col. 1