

# Sports

## Miles happy in middle I-back position



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska I-back Paul Miles runs with the ball during a scrimmage. Miles is behind Doug DuBose and ahead of Keith Jones on the Nebraska depth chart.

By Bob Asmussen  
Senior Editor

To many, Nebraska I-back Paul Miles might be considered a man in the middle.

In front of Miles on the depth chart is Doug DuBose. DuBose led the Big Eight in rushing last season. DuBose is considered to have an outside shot at the Heisman Trophy this year.

Behind Miles on the I-back chart is sophomore Keith Jones. Jones, called E.Z. by his teammates, (for End Zone), had a great spring and is considered Nebraska's top I-back for the future.

But Miles says he doesn't mind being the man in the middle. He's just happy to be in a position to play at all.

Miles had a solid sophomore year in 1983 backing up Mike Rozier and Jeff Smith. He had a 78-yard touchdown run against Kansas among other achievements. Miles was to be Smith's chief backup in 1984. Then came Syracuse.

The Huskers were ranked No. 1 heading into the Syracuse game. Jeff Smith wasn't suited up because of an ankle injury, and it was to be Miles' big break. Instead, it was his big separation — a shoulder separation.

Miles sat out the next six weeks. While getting ready to come back to the team he again separated his shoulder in practice. He underwent surgery in December.

"I know my injury set me back a lot last year," Miles said. "I can't complain about where I am. I

don't think I'm completely forgotten, it's just that Doug's in the spotlight."

Nebraska I-backs have had a tradition of season-year injury problems. Roger Craig was hurt part of his senior year as was Smith.

"I think I already had my senior year of injuries," he said.

Craig went on after his injury-filled senior year to the San Francisco 49ers. In last year's Super Bowl, Craig scored three touchdowns, a Super Bowl record. Smith was a 10th-round draft pick of the Kansas City Chiefs and has a good chance to make that team. Miles said despite the history of Nebraska I-backs in pro football he isn't thinking about it as a career.

"There are too many obstacles," he said. "Too many things that could happen that I won't put all my eggs in that basket. Things that have happened to me have shown me that nothing is definite."

Despite the injuries and his backup role, Miles said he is happy with his choice to come to Nebraska. Miles, from Princeton, N.J., was recruited by many of the major eastern colleges.

"If I had a choice to do it again I would still come to Nebraska," he said. "I've learned some things here that will help me as a person, away from football."

Miles will earn a degree in speech and business communication. He was an A student in high school. He has worked the last two summers for Northwestern Bell in its federal regulatory

department. He said he has an interview with the company for a job when he graduates.

Miles said his running style is different than DuBose's or Jones'. He said he thinks any of the three backs can get the job done.

"We complement each other and we all get along," he said. "We're all good friends and we accept and appreciate each others abilities. When Doug's in there, we're on the sidelines cheering."

Miles said he understands the excitement generated by Jones. He said people want to see him play because he's only a sophomore and will be around for two more years.

"I'm a strong individual," he said. "I don't let that squeezing from the front (DuBose) and from the back (Jones) put pressure on me."

Miles has been working part of the time in practice at fullback. He said he probably would only be used if there are injuries at the position.

"There is a possibility of getting me and Doug in at the same time," he said. "That's a rough position. Those guys have the constant duty of blocking. It's a touch-and-go situation. I'll probably play there as needed."

Miles hasn't set any goals in terms of yardage or playing time. Besides the team goal of winning the Big Eight and a possible national championship, he has a simple personal goal.

"I would like to have a healthy and productive year that I'm capable of having," he said. "I'm just hoping I can be as good as I can be."

## Colorado's hopes for good season pinned on wishbone offense

By Steve Thomas  
Staff Reporter

If at first you don't succeed, throw out the old and bring in the most difficult offense known to college football. The offense is the wishbone, and the man who called for the change is Colorado football coach Bill McCartney.

McCartney's Buffaloes have found a home at the bottom of the Big Eight ranks. McCartney hopes his new offense can help the team climb the conference ladder. He said there were many reasons for making the switch.

"We feel that this program is at a stage where we have enough size, strength, and maturity to sink our teeth into something big," McCartney said.

Few would argue that the Buffaloes have bitten off a big chunk in adopting the wishbone. The wishbone offense is notorious for fumbles if not run perfectly.

If perfection can be achieved, McCartney said, he thinks the folks in Boulder will like what they see.

"If we can run the wishbone the way its supposed to be run, we can play with teams that have better football players than we do," he said. He admits his team is still in the learning stages with the wishbone, but thinks the

problems are being ironed out through repetition.

McCartney's decision to revamp the Colorado offense came as a surprise to many because of the returning personnel. The Buffaloes have a good passer in Craig Keenan and what may be the top receiving corps in the conference. It's unlikely these athletes can show off their talents in the wishbone, which is strongly geared to the ground game.

The words "ground game" still leave a bitter taste in the mouths of Buffalo fans. Last year Colorado rushed for less than 700 yards, 300 yards less than any other team in the nation.

Despite the second guessing, McCartney has been pleased with practice thus far.

"The players have given a very intense effort, and we have better coordination in our coaching staff than we've ever had," he said.

The kicking game is another bright spot which "has the potential to be very solid" according to McCartney. Areas of concern for Colorado include the defensive line and the execution of the offense.

Though the feeling may not be mutual, it's no secret that Colorado has chosen Nebraska as its rival.

"When I came here, I discovered we didn't have a rivalry with anyone,"

McCartney said. "We chose Nebraska because it's a neighboring state and because it's the premier football program in the country."

The Buffaloes have yet to bet their new rivals, but did give Nebraska a scare last year. Colorado took a 7-3 lead into the final quarter before Nebraska pulled away.

McCartney said it hasn't been demoralizing to lose to Nebraska after all of the rival hype. In the past two years, the Buffaloes have played their best football on the week following the Nebraska showdown — tying Oklahoma State two years ago, and losing to the same team last year by six points.

Asked about those who feel he has set his sights too high, McCartney said, "I don't really care what they think. Bob Devaney and some others in Nebraska think we've gone about this in the wrong way. That's fine. That's their opinion."

Nebraska will not be Colorado's only tough foe. After opening with Colorado State, the Buffaloes face Ohio State, Oregon and Arizona. The schedule has prompted many to forecast another lean year for Colorado.

"I realize everyone picks us at the bottom of the Big Eight, but we would just like to play 500 ball," McCartney said.



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