

Dave Mason (left) . . . heads into contact session.

Fast starting defense heads drill

by JIM JOHNSTON **Sports Editor**

Bob Devaney found nothing to get alarmed about Wednesday. He's used to his defense being ahead of the offense during early spring drills.

"Again it looks like the defense is ahead of the offense," said Devaney after the Cornhuskers went through their first scrimmage sessions on the AstroTurf Wednesday. "We're always concerned if our offense isn't performing at its best, but it's nothing to get excited about."

The most pleasing part of the defense wa middle guard. And that was kind of a surprise. John Peterson, a non-scholarship player from Alma, added a fourth dimension to the battle for middle guard.

"Peterson's pretty tough," observed Devaney. "He really hit some people out there.

Monte Johnson and John Bell are also battling for the middle guard spot. So is Bob Pabis, but he's sidelined for another week while recovering from knee surgery

Devaney also had praise for the offensive backfield...especially the I-backs. It now appears that finding a partner for veteran

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I-back Jeff Kinney will be an enjoyable task

"Some of those kids looked good at I-back," said Devaney. "They showed us something. But of course Jeff Kinney continues to do a good job." The fullback situation was not as

pleasing. Finding a replacement for the blocking ability of Dan Schneiss still appears to be the No. 1 task in the offensive backfield.

The Huskers will go through drills again Friday and Devaney has scheduled split scrimmage sessions on the AstroTurf Saturday.

Saturday's drills will be at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. At 2 p.m. Sunday workout is also planned.

The only injury during the first contact session Wednesday was suffered by linebacker Bruce Hauge. Hauge was knocked out, but it was not believed serious.

Redshirt Randy Butts, sophomore Don Westbrook and junior college transfer Gary Dixon ran well in the first scrimmage. Dave Goeller, also an I-back contender, worked out in sweat clothes while recovering from the flu.

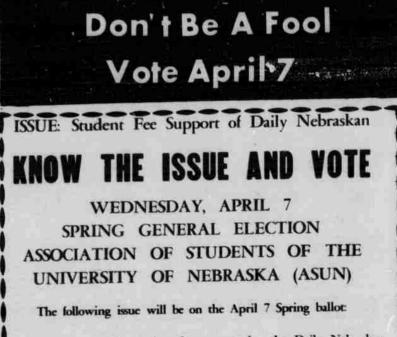
Nebraska loses third game

HOUSTON-Nebraska lost its third straight outing here Wednesday, dropping a 4-2 decision to Houston University.

For the third consecutive game Nebraska relief pitching failed to hold up. Nebraska scored two runs in the opening inning but Houston tied the score in the fifth and added two more runs in the last of the seventh for a 4-2 lead.

John Husman went the first six and two-thirds for the Huskers and gave up all four runs. Bruce Cramer relieved Husman in the last of the seventh and yielded a single which scored Houston's two final runs.

The two teams will play a double header Thursday and have single games Friday and Saturday.



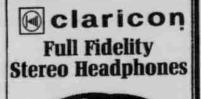
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griculture and Home Economics students vote at East Union from 800 a.m.-500 p.m. and then at City Union Lounge from 500 p.m.-800 p.m. All other students vote at City Union Lounge from 800 am-800 p.m.



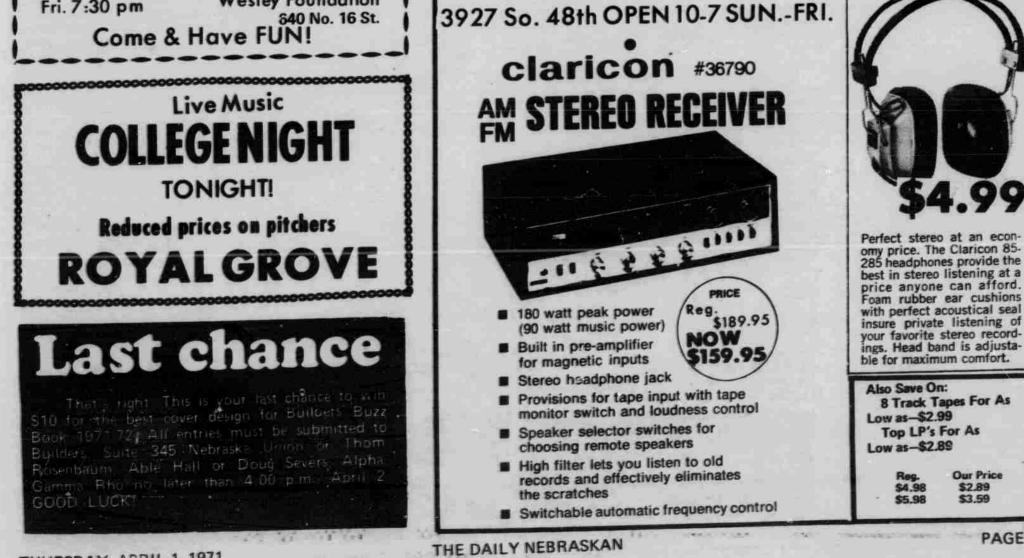
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