

# Lead Husker tackler Pillen almost overlooked football

By Pete Wegman

Linebacker Clete Pillen, leading tackler on UNL's 10-1 football team this fall, almost didn't play football for Nebraska.

Pillen, who was recruited by all of Nebraska's small colleges and some out-of-state schools, didn't even play freshman Cornhusker football.

After he was graduated from Columbus Lakeview High School in 1972, where he was a stand-out tight end, split end and linebacker, Pillen played in Nebraska's August 1972 Shrine Bowl (all-star game for Nebraska high school seniors).

"The Shrine Bowl was a very physical game," Pillen said. "It takes a lot out of you. Maybe that was one reason I didn't want to play at Nebraska. Also, I just didn't think I could play here."

Pillen, now 6 ft. 1 in. and 205 lbs., was only 5 ft. 11 in. and about 180 lbs. in high school.

When Husker coach Cletus Fischer talked to him in high school, Pillen said Fischer told him jokingly, "You've got at least one thing going for you—your name (Clete)."

### Opted intramural

Instead of playing freshman football, Pillen opted for playing on the Sigma Phi Epsilon "C" intramural football team, which finished third in the 1972 all-university playoffs.

He then decided to walk-on for winter football, which involves conditioning and weightlifting, and was invited to try out

for spring football practice.

Pillen made the team, was red-shirted in 1973 and was a back-up weakside linebacker last year behind Bob Nelson and John Starkebaum.

Now UNL's number one strong-side linebacker, Pillen credits part of his success to his added weight.

"At my position I had to gain weight," he said. "There was no way I could survive unless I put on 20 pounds."

### Strongest game

Pillen played perhaps his strongest game of the season in the 35-10 loss to Oklahoma. He made 27 tackles, despite strained ligaments in his right knee on the game's second play, and was named the Associated Press National Lineman of the week for his efforts.

His previous high was "21 or 22 tackles in high school," he said.

Nebraska's linebacking strategy differs from that of many other schools, Pillen said.

"At most schools, the linebacker keys on the guard," he said. "Here we key on the fullback."

"You can't always be thinking in the game. Many times you have to just react, often by instinct," he said. "Linebackers are in on the action all the time."

### Signal formation

Defensive coach Monte Kiffin will signal from the sidelines the defensive formation Pillen must call in the huddle. If the offense comes out in an unexpected

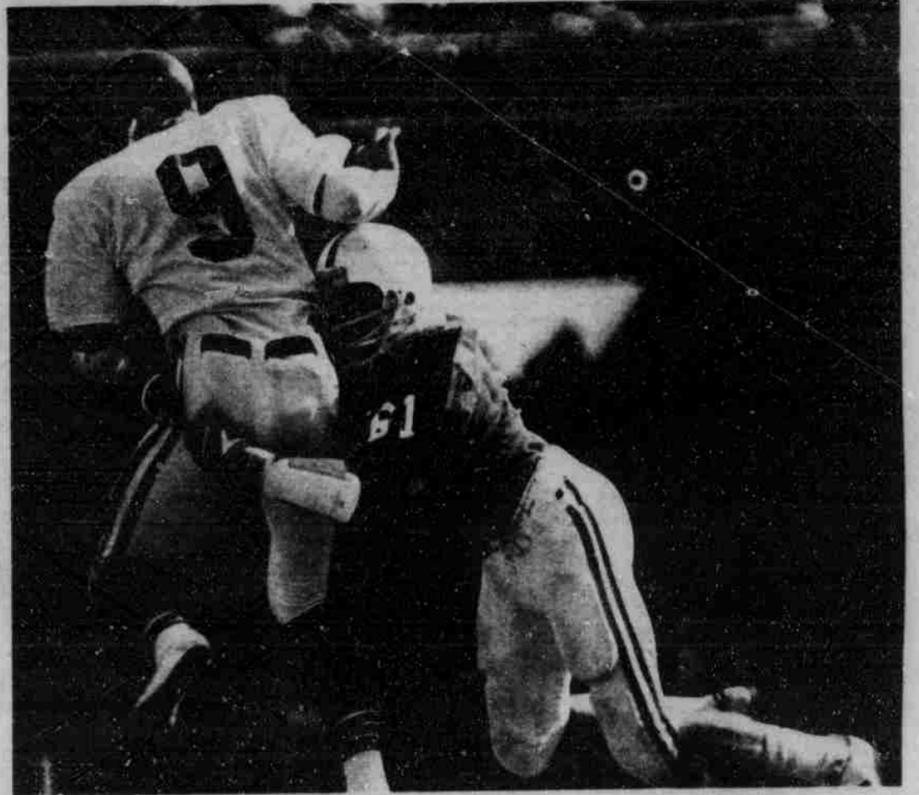


photo by [unreadable]

Linebacker Clete Pillen led the Husker defense with 47 unassisted and 76 assisted tackles in the 1975 regular season.

formation, Pillen is responsible for making a check-call, which serves like the offense's audible calls.

"It's an added pressure, but it comes easy with experience," Pillen said.

Pillen cited two keys to the success of

Nebraska's defensive units: good preparation, at least 25 hours a week for each game, and pride in the Blackshirt tradition.

Pillen participated in 47 unassisted and 76 assisted tackles in the 1975 regular season.

# Five spaces remain on backpack trip to Mexico

Five openings remain for a backpacking trip in northwest Mexico beginning Dec. 29, said Mark Ebel, outdoor programs director at the UNL Recreation Office.

Two men and three women already have signed up for the two-week trip to be taken with about 20 University of Colorado students.

Ebel said he hopes to fill the five positions by today at a 3 p.m. organizational meeting in the Recreation Office.

The backpacking group will leave Dec. 29 and return to Lincoln Jan. 11.

After driving to El Paso, Tex., they will travel 450 miles south by train and backpack for five days.

"This trip is going to take students into a rather remote back section of northwest

Mexico," Ebel said. "It's an area that has great topographical relief. It varies in elevation from 4,000 ft. to about 9,500 ft."

Ebel said backpacking experience isn't necessary but is helpful.

"It would be wise for people to be in good physical condition before signing up for the trip because it will be a moderately strenuous backpacking trip," he said.

Women as well as men may apply, he said noting that "in the past we've had approximately 40 to 50 per cent women."

The trip will cost \$157, which includes transportation, lodging, guide fees, equipment and food. A \$50 deposit is required upon registration.

Ebel said 19 positions still are open for a downhill skiing trip to Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 3-9. The trip costs \$238, including transportation, lift tickets, ski equipment, lodging, insurance and breakfast and dinner while skiing.

Reservations are due by Dec. 20.

Ebel also announced rental gear is available at the Recreation Office for holiday trips.

"We have a special rate for the holiday period so students can check equipment out before vacation and return it after they

return," Ebel said.

Equipment, rental period and cost include:

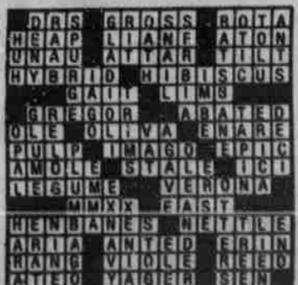
	No. Avail.	Cost Wknd.	Cost Week	Cost 2 Wks.	Cost 2-4 Wks.
Cross Country Skis	12	\$6	\$12.50	\$15	\$20
Sleeping Bags	12	2	4	6	8
Ensolite Pads	12	.75	1.50	2.50	3
Backpacks	9	1.50	3	4.50	6
Stoves/Cook Kits	24	.50	1	1.50	2
Toboggans	1	3.50	7	10	14
Tents	36	3	6	9	12
Skates	25	2.50	5	7	10

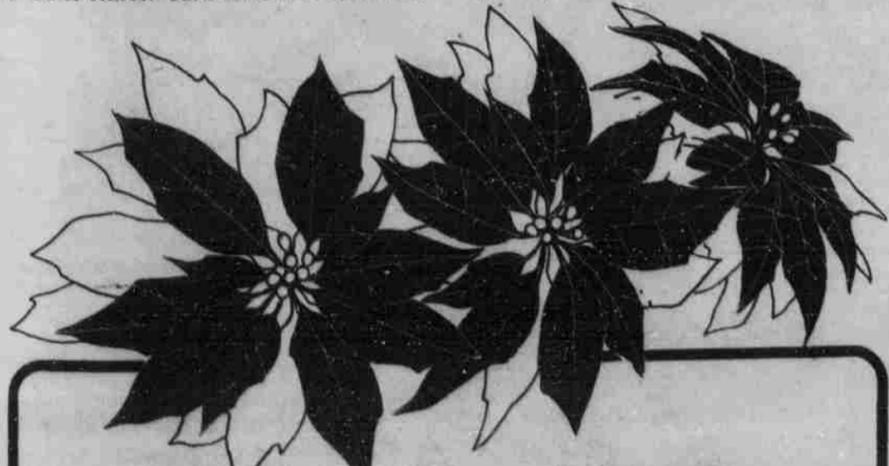
# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by WILL WENG  
Courtesy of New York Times

- |                                 |                             |                             |                              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 5 Inclined                  | 37 Works of Shelley         | 49 Baseball executive — Paul |
| 1 Maine port                    | 6 Charon's bailiwick        | 38 Cover a dice bet         | 50 Alfred of stage           |
| 5 Clip                          | 7 Hibernia                  | 43 Traditional              | 51 Piqued                    |
| 10 Sight near Tokyo             | 8 Teen or golden            | 44 One busy in a leaky boat | 52 Consumer                  |
| 14 Potpourri                    | 9 Sanitarium                | 45 Washington Sq. sight     | 53 Adam —                    |
| 15 Bass-mouth size              | 10 Ship's stack             | 47 Bogus                    | 56 Marsh                     |
| 16 Javanese tree                | 11 Busy                     | 48 Asian servant            | 57 British decoration        |
| 17 Pipe-and-slipper people      | 12 Practical joke           |                             |                              |
| 19 Calif. city                  | 13 German river             |                             |                              |
| 20 Dakota Indian                | 18 Cotton pod               |                             |                              |
| 21 Candid                       | 23 Island off Venezuela     |                             |                              |
| 22 Leather craftsman            | 24 Excellent                |                             |                              |
| 24 Beverages                    | 25 Asian sheep              |                             |                              |
| 25 Scrap                        | 26 Grudge                   |                             |                              |
| 26 Reprove                      | 27 Certain dancer           |                             |                              |
| 28 Jostle                       | 28 Swung around             |                             |                              |
| 31 Traverse                     | 29 Uncanny                  |                             |                              |
| 32 Yeanning                     | 30 Small deer               |                             |                              |
| 33 Anti-poverty org.            | 31 Offend                   |                             |                              |
| 34 With enthusiasm              | 35 Tiger moth               |                             |                              |
| 39 All-purpose truck, for short | 36 Relative of custom-built |                             |                              |
| 40 Set of rules                 |                             |                             |                              |
| 41 Blackbirds                   |                             |                             |                              |
| 42 Heated again                 |                             |                             |                              |
| 44 Hallmark                     |                             |                             |                              |
| 46 Writer James and family      |                             |                             |                              |
| 47 Get along                    |                             |                             |                              |
| 48 Radiant                      |                             |                             |                              |
| 50 Secular                      |                             |                             |                              |
| 51 Center of activity           |                             |                             |                              |
| 54 Powerful shark               |                             |                             |                              |
| 55 Draw — (sell out)            |                             |                             |                              |
| 58 Steelworkers' head           |                             |                             |                              |
| 59 Compact                      |                             |                             |                              |
| 60 Engendered                   |                             |                             |                              |
| 61 Drove                        |                             |                             |                              |
| 62 Go onstage                   |                             |                             |                              |
| 63 Being: Fr.                   |                             |                             |                              |

ANSWER TO  
PREVIOUS  
PUZZLE





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- DOWN**
- 1 Danish physicist
  - 2 Succulent plant
  - 3 Occasion
  - 4 Work in the garden