

Capable Husker backfield pleases Coach Corgan

By Rob Barney

Depth is the key word used by offensive back coach Mike Corgan to describe this season's Husker football team's backfield.

Corgan Wednesday said he is pleased with the number of capable backs he has this season at both I-back and fullback.

"We have more depth than last year," he said. "We have kids three deep that can play ball."

According to the latest depth chart posted by the UNL coaching staff, Rick Berns and Isaiah (I.M.) Hipp are sharing first string I-back duties. Running third is sophomore Tim Wurth of Omaha.

Berns as a sophomore last season, led the Huskers in rushing with 972 yards, including a school record 211 yards against Hawaii.

Hipp, a walk-on from Chapin, S. C., was a 1976 red shirt but netted 366 yards rushing for the '75 frosh team.

Breakaway threats

"Berns is coming along real well and Hipp is a good prospect," Corgan said. "Both can be considered breakaway threats. They can both run the 40-yard dash in 4.5."

Corgan said he is also impressed by Hipp's strength. "He's a well built rascal. I'm surprised how quick and fast he is for his size (6 ft. 200 lbs.)."

Hipp was UNL's co-weightlifter of the year in 1976-77, sharing the honors with offensive guard Lawrence Cooley.

The Huskers have depth at the fullback position but injuries and academic problems have slowed their progress, Corgan said.

Running with the first team is junior Keith Stewart. Last year's starter Dodie Donnell is listed on the second unit with freshman Andra Franklin.

Eligibility problems

"We're trying to get caught up after some eligibility problems and some pulls (muscle)," Corgan said.

"Dodie came back a little heavy and not in the greatest shape. I don't know if that had anything to do with his hamstring pull but he is just getting back to full strength."

Stewart had to complete some correspondence courses before he could become eligible to play. He said he is number one and plans to stay that way.

"I'm here to play football and I think I can do the job to help the ball club win," he said.

"It's a lot of work being number one. You have to keep on your toes because there are other backs that can come in and do the job," he added.

Freshman given chance

Backfield difficulties have given freshman recruit Franklin a chance to show his fullback skills to Husker coaches.

"We could use him if we needed him," Corgan said. "It's tough for freshmen. They not only have to learn the mechanics but must adjust to the work load. However, Franklin is a fast learner."

Well down the depth charts at both I-back and fullback is UNL's fourth all-time leading rusher Monte Anthony.

Anthony, a senior from Bellevue, began fall practice Monday after taking some tests to clear-up his eligibility.

"I'm really tired," Anthony said following Tuesday's practice. "I have a ways to go to get back into top physical shape."

"It's hard to say whether I'll be ready for the season. I missed two-a-days which builds up your endurance and if you are not in top physical shape you're more prone to injuries and you make more mental mistakes."

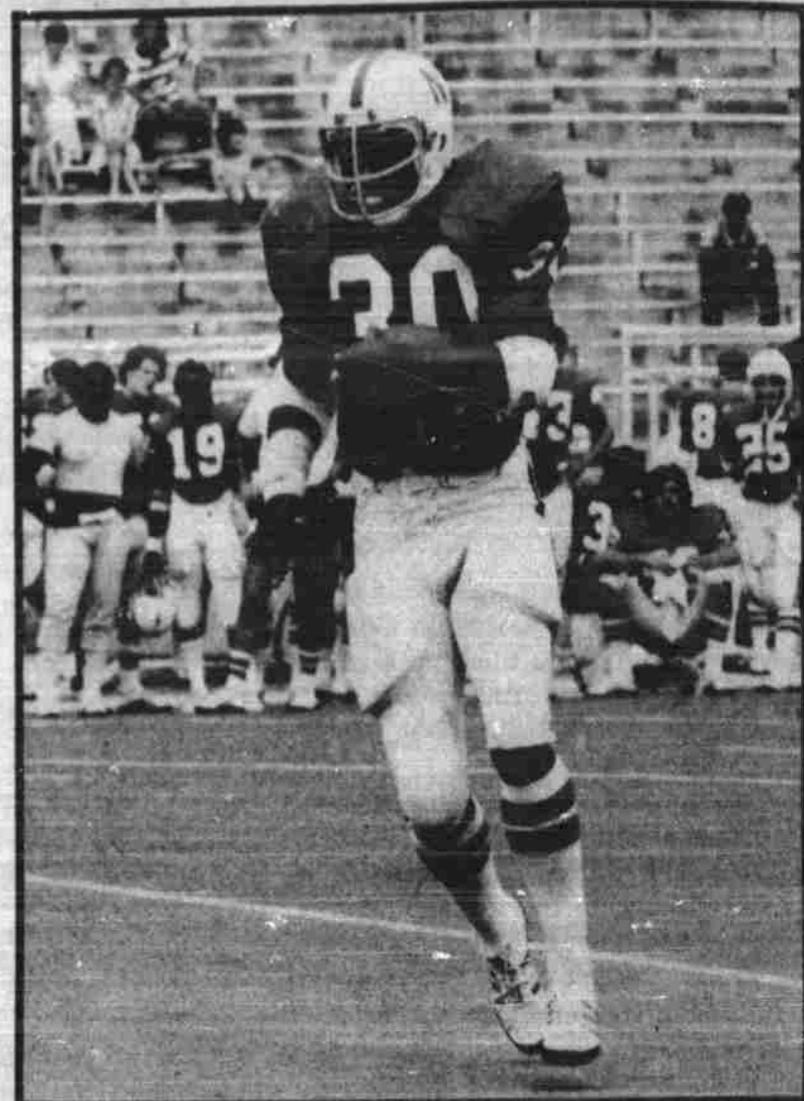


Photo by Ted Kirk

Byron Stewart

sports

Husker manager wants rally support

By Kevin Schnepf

The Husker's football team manager spent the evening at a local Discotheque Tuesday night, but he was not there for disco dancing or barley pop.

Gary Clark, new head student manager, was using some fancy footwork to persuade the manager of Uncle Sam's, 25th and O Streets, to sponsor what Clark calls "Beat the Tide night," a pre-game rally for the Huskers confrontation with Alabama Sept. 17 in Lincoln.

"We just got started with this idea and we're trying to find sponsors," the senior from Auburn said. "I've been a Big Red fan all my life and I like doing things like this."

Clark is also trying to locate sponsors to fund the purchase of Husker T-shirts. The T-shirts display Husker players running into a wave of water with Alabama Coach Bear Bryant standing on top of the wave. The shirts sport the phrase, "The Tide is Washed Up."

Clark does not spend all his time drumming up Big Red spirit off campus. He works six days a week, six hours a day assisting the football team.

"It can interfere with studies," Clark said, "but it's a matter of where your priorities are and I love Nebraska football. The teachers cooperate a lot when they know you're involved with the football team."

Clark has worked with the training staff since his freshman year. He replaced Pete "Pugsley" Smith as head manager.

When Clark was a senior at Auburn High School, he was offered the job by a hometown car dealer.

"He knew the parents of Monte Kiffin (former UNL defensive coach) and was a member of the Wheeler's Club," Clark said. "He asked if I wanted to work with the team and it has turned out to be a fantastic job."

As head manager, Clark coordinates the nine-man staff to prepare offensive and defensive stations and time each drill for head coach Tom Osborne.

"Each practice drill requires a certain amount of time," Clark said, "when the coach needs something we're all there."

Assisting Clark are Mike Frei of Grand Island, Mark Eiserman of Nebraska City, Greg Morris of Stella, Jerry Peters of Aurora, Rick Hartwig of Cortland, Alan Edwards of Wymore, Tom O'Holleran of Sidney and Andre Dobson of St. Louis, Missouri.

Clark, who said he is unsure of his major is considering a business degree. But added that many jobs are associated in athletic training.

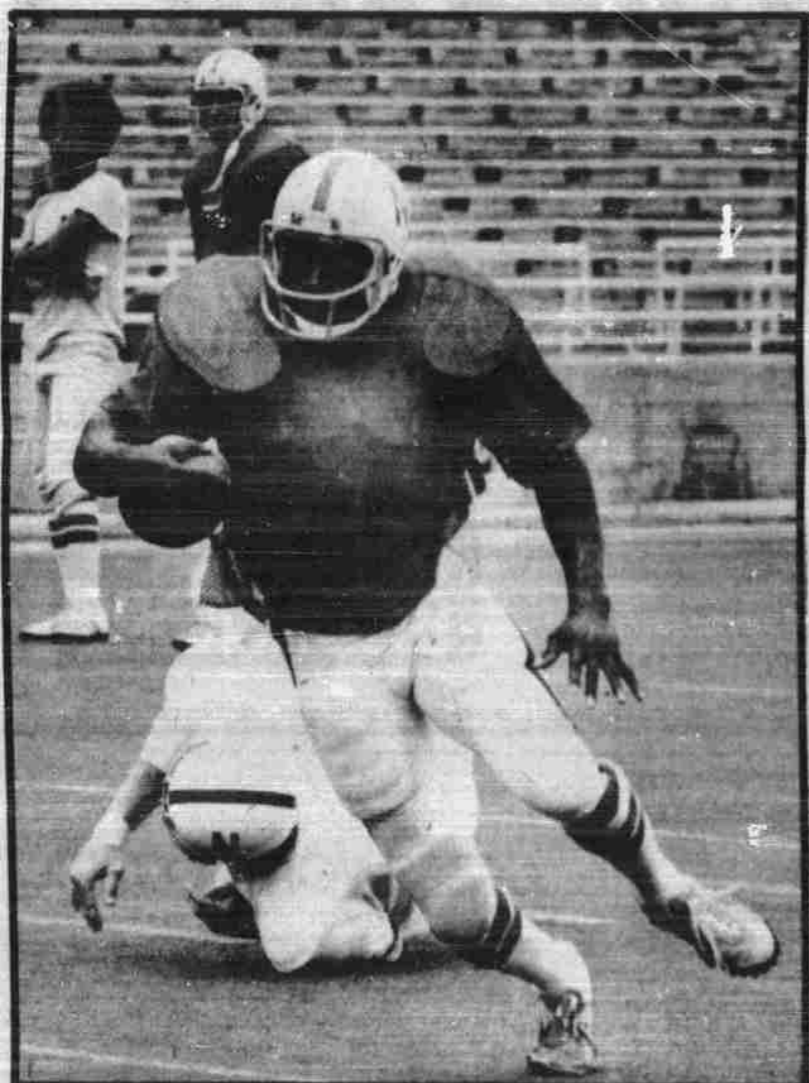


Photo by Ted Kirk

Isaiah (I.M.) Hipp

UNL near bottom

The Husker football team has been ranked 18th in Sports Illustrated magazine's Sept. 5 College Football preview issue. UNL was picked for third place in the Big 8 Conference behind the University of Oklahoma and the University of Colorado.

OU was ranked second behind the University of Notre Dame for national honors and CU was picked 11th.

Sports Illustrated Top 20

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Notre Dame | 11. Colorado |
| 2. Oklahoma | 12. UCLA |
| 3. Michigan | 13. Pittsburgh |
| 4. Texas Tech | 14. Mississippi State |
| 5. Alabama | 15. Houston |
| 6. USC | 16. Arizona |
| 7. Ohio State | 17. Florida |
| 8. Texas A & M | 18. Nebraska |
| 9. Maryland | 19. Kentucky |
| 10. Penn State | 20. Brigham Young |

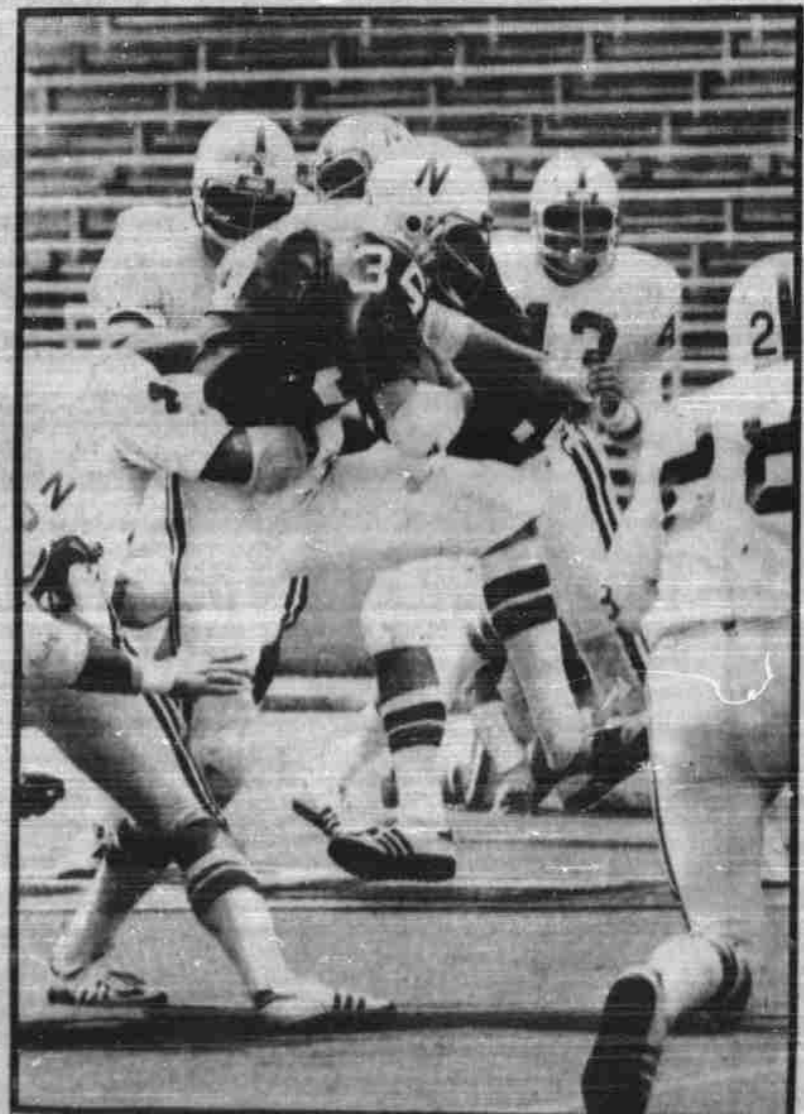


Photo by Ted Kirk

Rick Berns (35)

sports shorts

UNL Rugby practice will be at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at Mabel Lee Field.

Anyone interested in women's field hockey can report to Mabel Lee Field 4 to 6 p.m. weekdays. Coach Harriet Gould said recruits do not need experience and should come ready to play.

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