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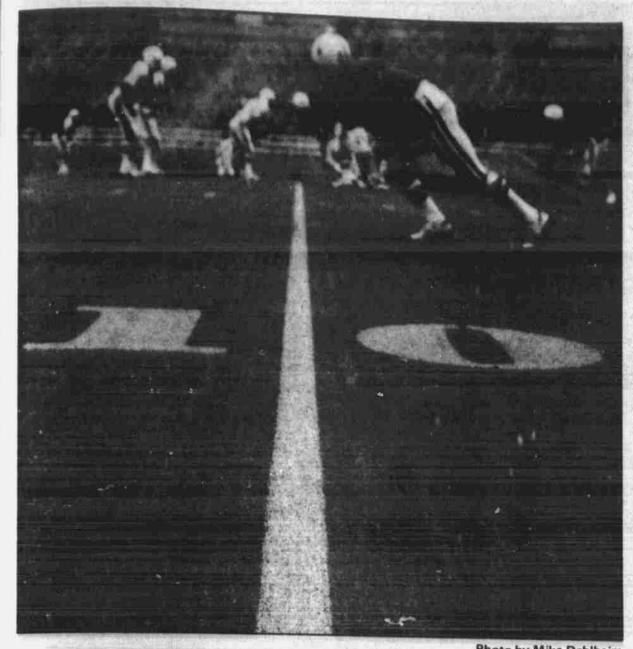
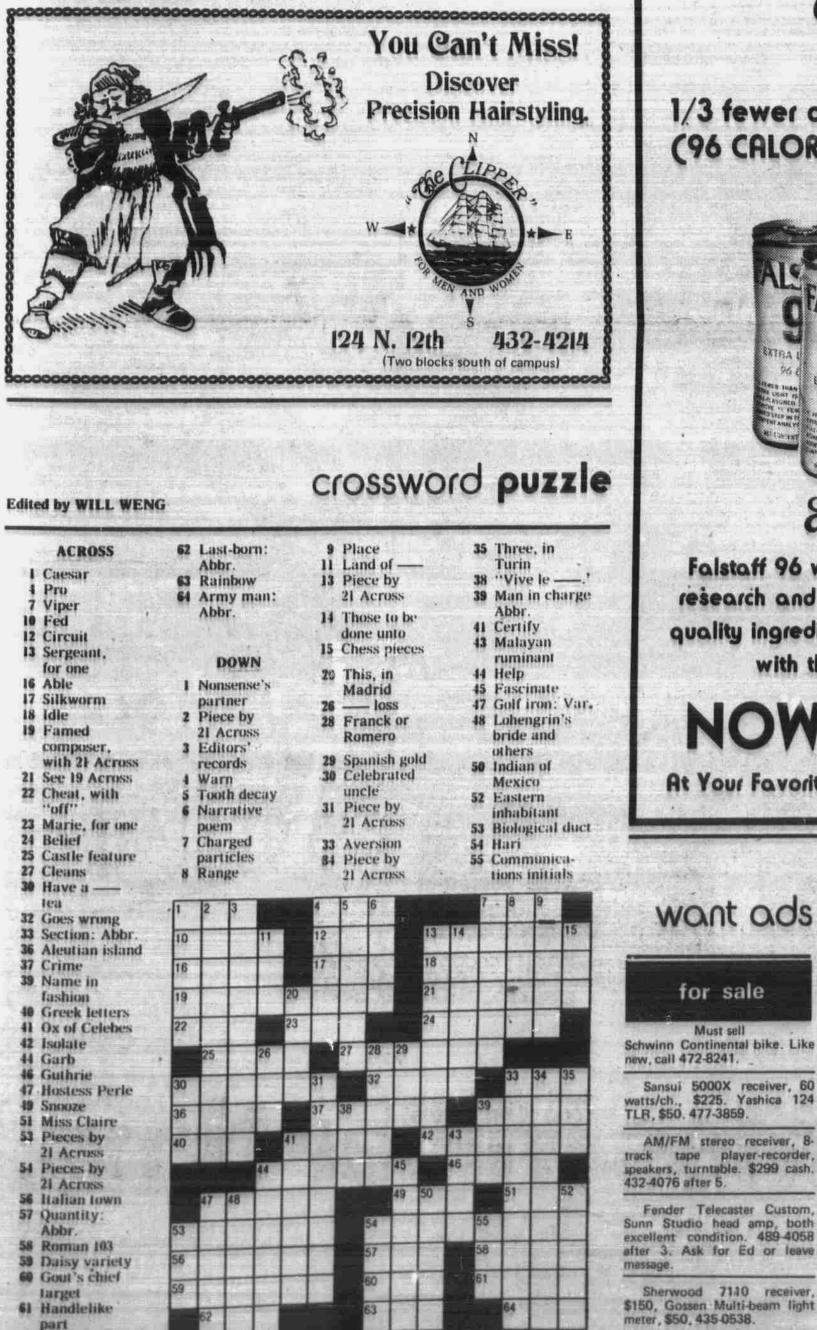


Photo by Mike Dahlheim Husker gridders may suffer more minor injuries on Memorial Stadium's new Astro-Turf, but major ones should be reduced.



Astro Turf tripping players, but will cause fewer injuries

Football players are suffering more minor cuts and abrasions since Memorial Stadium's new AstroTurf was laid down, but in the long run, injuries will be fewer, according to UNL trainer George Sullivan.

"It is hard to get statistics on the number of injuries caused by the turf," he said. "But the new turf will cause fewer injuries than the old because it was worn and slippery."

Sullivan admitted the new AstroTurf had problems when first installed.

He said the new turf lacked moisture, was slippery and weak in the seams. Time corrected that problem and glue repaired the turf's loose seams, he added.

UNL Groundskeeper Bill Shepard said "the turf's problems have been corrected" and added that he "hasn't received any complaints lately."

Shepard is in charge of picking up debris and vacuuming the AstroTurf once a week.

He said the turf's biggest drawback is that it mats.

Although players have received cuts and abrasions on the turf, its benefits outweigh the drawbacks of natural turf, Sullivan said.

"Grass is slippery and black dirt is even harder than the AstroTurf," Sullivan said, so the difference in injuries is nominal.



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