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Iceman' becoming solid Husker pass receiver

By Tad Stryker

From the time he stepped on the field to start his first rsity game against lowa, in a season that has been aracterized by surprise and upsets, tight end Jamie filliams has been a hallmark of consistancy for the Cornuskers.

Williams and other Husker first-year starters received a aptism of fire in September when Nebraska faced three ams in a row that have been ranked in the nation's top 0 this year.

"They were the type of games where you had to grow Williams said. "I think it helped me mature p fast," arly."

Whether it was the Iowa game, where nothing seemed go right for the Husker offense; the runaway wins over olorado and Kansas State; the seesaw struggle against enn State; or the intense, emotional Missouri game, Villiams has been a constant. The junior from Davenport, owa, has caught at least one pass in every game so far this eason.

"I take a lot of pride in it," Williams said, "I don't lways get a lot of passes thrown to me."

More chances

Williams is lately getting more opportunities because he Huskers' opponents have been blitzing more.

"With the linebackers rushing," Williams said, "I have more of a responsibility to catch the ball, because I'm usually open in those situations," Williams said.

Responsibility is something Williams has taken seriously, whether it be catching the ball or blocking.

"I'm still learning, every game," he said. "Things are starting to come easier for me: my blocking techniques, getting open for passes, catching the ball, everything. I'm starting to see things better than I did in the first game."

Inexperience has not kept the one they call "Iceman" from making plays in the clutch. William's first touchdown catch was in the heat of the Penn State game. He grabbed a Mark Mauer pass at the goal line as a Nittany Lion defender crossed in front of him. In the fourth quarter of the Kansas game, Williams' fourth touchdown reception of the year sealed the Nebraska victory, and a seven-yard catch on a third-and-six kept another Husker drive alive.

Williams said inexperience should not always be a cureall excuse for not getting the job done.

"It's a pride thing," he said. "You can't worry about it because it's your first year of starting. You've got to play hard and do good whether it's your first year or your fourth year as a starter."

Ignores injury

Williams has shown the ability to disdain injury as well. He had to leave the Kansas State game because of a knee injury, but came back the next week with the joint heavily taped and played at Missouri, catching three passes.

"I was really nervous about playing on it (the injured knee) at Missouri, but (wingback and tight end) Coach Gene Huey helped me out. He told me about playing with an injury like that and some things that had helped him when he had to do it.

"It's no big deal," the 6-5, 227-pound junior said. "You've got to put the team first. I figure if I can run, I can play." Williams said he is almost back to full speed.

Williams, who lived in the same neighborhood and played on the same high school team as I-back Roger Craig, is a broadcasting and speech communications major. He said he enjoyed working at KRNU, the university radio station, last year.

Williams had his own show last spring, a spot he filled with soul music and named, "The Iceman Cometh."

"The university needed a little variety in its music," Williams said. "I really liked that, or any form of broadcasting. I'm going to try to get another show next semester."

But in the meantime, the "Iceman" title may have to share time with a new one, Williams is becoming "Mr. Consistency" as the Huskers head into the climax of the Big Eight race.



UNL Sports Information photo

Nebraska tight end Jamie Williams

Soccer club isn't university sport-yet By Kevin Warneke that."

Although the UNL soccer club is finishing one of its best fall seasons, the likelihood of the club becoming a university sport is still doubtful.

"We would definitely like to become a university sport," Paul Hornby, one of the presidents of the club, said. "It would make so much difference in the way our club is run." If the club were considered a university sport, the club would no longer have to be self-supporting and it could bring in top players from around the country, Hornby said. "The sacrifice of time and money that our players have to give would be taken care of," Hornby said. "Take Creighton University, for example. They are a university sport and they have only two players on their team that are from Omaha, all the rest are from different parts of the country," he said. "If we could do that, our team could get more top-quality players." The main reason the soccer team has not become a university sport, according to Hornby and Athletic Director Bob Devaney, is because of the financial situation of Nebraska's Athletic Department.

Another reason why the club is not a university sport is because soccer is not recognized as a Big Eight sport, Devaney said.

"There are two Big Eight schools whose soccer clubs are close to becoming university sports," Hornby said. Missouri and Colorado both have strong financial backing and influence within the school. "If these schools become university sports, the others will eventually follow suit," he said. But according to Devaney, if other schools in the Big Eight did make their soccer clubs university sports, Nebraska would not necessarily follow suit. "We are like ambassadors for the university," Hornby said. "We could be a Lincoln soccer club, but we want to be associated with UNL.



"It is doubtful that the soccer club will become a varsity sport in the near future," Devaney said. "We now have to support two athletic departments instead of one."

Devaney said most soccer teams can't make it financialy and go broke and the athletic department at this time can not afford to take on another sport.

Hornby agrees that the soccer team would probably be a financial burden to the university because soccer is not a well-established spectator sport.

"We would have to show that we can turn a profit, maybe not in the first couple of years, but soon after

sports shorts

The Nebraska Alumni Center pool. Association will sponsor a Husker Huddle brunch Saturday at the Redwood West, 5104 West 6th Ave., Stillwater, Okla. Nebraska alumni and the public are invited to attend the brunch before the Nebraska Oklahoma State football game. The cash bar will open at 10 a.m. and a buffet-style brunch will be served at 10:30 a.m.

The cost is \$7.25 a person. Reservations should be made through the alumni association.

The Nebraska women's swimming and diving team will compete against UNO and Wyoming Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

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The NCAA regional cross-country meet will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Mahoney Park in Lincoln.

ABC announced its crew of Darrell Royal and Verne Lundquist will announce Saturday's Nebraska-Oklahoma State football game. The telecast will begin at 11 a.m. The kickoff is set for 11:35 a.m.

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The Nebraska men's gymnastics team will compete in the Big Eight Invitational today and Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports

"We hope it's just a matter of time before we are a university sport," he said.

"Soccer has the best chance of all the club sports of becoming a university sport," Devaney said. "Since soccer is being played in more and more high schools, it should become a varsity sport in time."

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