

Success means some athletes won't be home for Christmas

By Mike Reilley

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

College athletes share a common ordeal when they attend school away from their families: Homesickness. And when the holidays near, the homesickness intensifies, especially when the athletes cannot go home.

Many of Nebraska's football players will not be able to go home until after the Jan. 1 clash with Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl. The Huskers leave on Christmas Day for New Orleans, which leaves little time for yuletide celebrations with the family.

Guy Rozier, a junior monster-back from Camden, N.J., is one of those spending Christmas away from home.

"It's not a nice feeling," Rozier said. "I hate it because I haven't been home for Christmas for four

years."

However, Rozier said, athletes who play for a successful program like Nebraska's must make sacrifices. Family life often pays the price, he said.

"When you come here as an athlete you have to keep in mind that you are a top contender and you may not get home for Christmas because of the bowl games," Rozier said. "But I still feel empty inside without my family."

Rozier is having even more trouble coping with holiday homesickness since his brother, last year's Heisman Trophy-winner Mike, is no longer at UNL and will be home with the family.

Not all Husker athletes spend the holidays in Lincoln. Basketball coaches Moe Iba and Kelly Hill plan their schedules so players can go home for a few days.

"I'm going to give them a couple of days off," Iba said. "We kept them last year, but that didn't

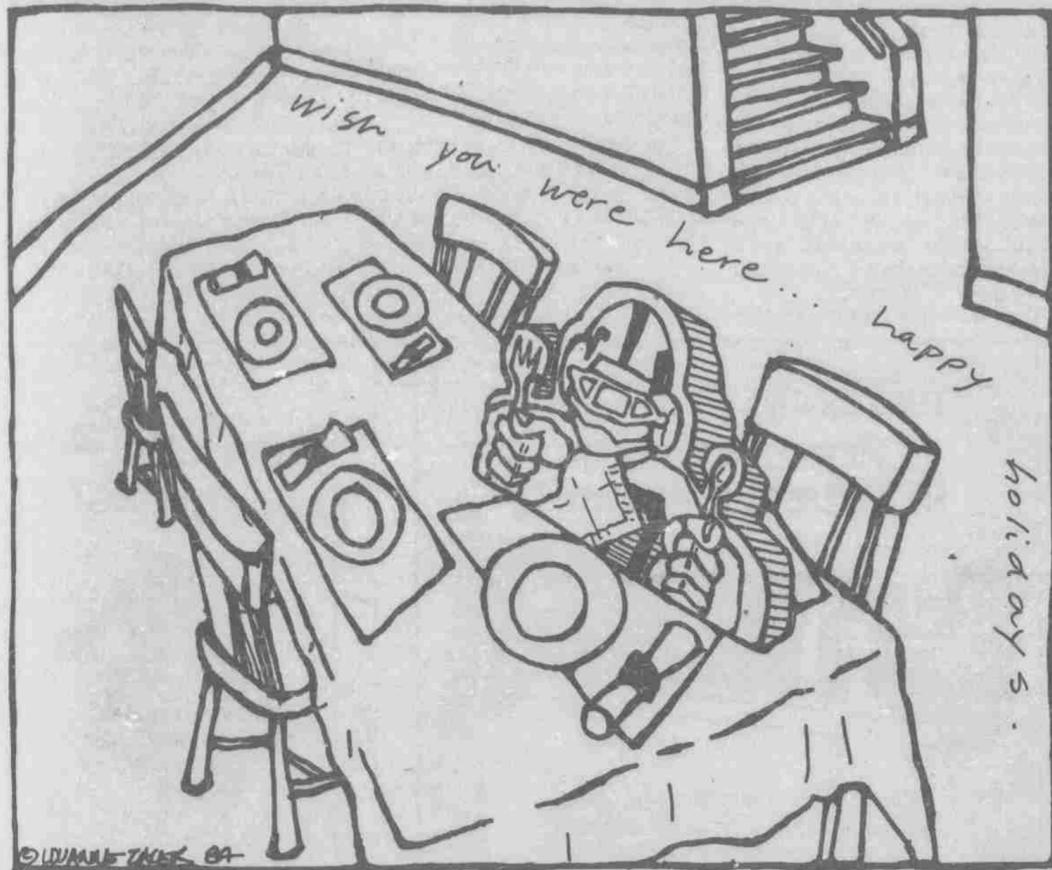
work out too well. Everybody likes to be home around Christmas time. It doesn't hurt them to have a break."

Iba squeezed in some vacation between the Huskers' home game against Washington State Saturday and the Cable Car Classic in Santa Clara, Calif., Dec. 28 and 29.

Hill plans to give her squad three days off before it travels to Ann Arbor, Mich., for the Domino's Pizza Wolverine Classic on Dec. 29.

Although she said she thinks it is important to her players, Hill hesitates giving too much time off because it interferes with the players' training.

"We like to give them some time to go home and be with their families," Hill said. "But we try not to give them too much time off. Then they go home and eat too much turkey and come back out of condition."



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9:15 a.m.	9:30	10:40	11:55	1:05	1:30
11:20 a.m.	11:40	12:50	1:40	2:50	3:05
1:45 p.m.	2:00	3:10	3:40	4:50	5:05
2:45 p.m.	3:00	4:10	4:50	6:10	6:25
3:45 p.m.	4:00	5:10	5:50	7:00	7:15
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