



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska right tackle Jim Skow (96) sacks Louisiana State quarterback Jeff Wickersham as left tackle Danny Noonan (95) closes in during the Cornhuskers' 28-10 victory over the Tigers in the Sugar Bowl last year.

# Interior line depth concerns defensive coordinator McBride

By Mike Reilley  
Senior Reporter

Although Nebraska returns four experienced interior linemen from last year's top-ranked defense, Cornhusker defensive coach Charlie McBride is still concerned about depth at the interior positions.

All-Big Eight right tackle Rob Stuckey, middle guard Ken Graeber and ends Scott Strasburger and Bill Weber all played their final collegiate game when the Huskers defeated Louisiana State 28-10 in the Sugar Bowl last year. Reserves Mike Zierke and John Reinhardt are also gone.

"The only problem with the defensive front is with the backup people," McBride said. "Our starters this year have a lot of experience because they alternated with the starters last year.

"They all have as much experience as we can expect them to have at this point."

Chris Spachman, a 6-4, 260 pound junior left tackle from Kansas City, Mo., is the only full-time starter returning. Spachman led the team with seven sacks for a total loss of 45 yards.

Jim Skow, who shared time with Stuckey at right tackle last year, was listed as a starter at that position after spring drills. The senior from Omaha had six sacks last season.

Others vying for tackle positions include Lee Jones, a sophomore red-shirt, and Neil Smith, a 6-6, 230 pound sophomore from New Orleans, La.

Danny Noonan alternated with Spachman at left tackle last year but moved to middle guard in the spring when regular Ken Shead was held out of drills because of academic problems. Noonan, a 6-3, 260 pound junior from Lincoln Northeast, finished spring practice as the No. 1 middle guard.

"Right now Danny's suited to play inside but we might use him at tackle occasionally," McBride said. "He's smart enough to play both.

"It's a problem we don't like to have though. We don't want to play him at one position for half of the game and move him over for the second half."

Shead, who alternated with Graeber last year, managed to work out his academic problems and will rejoin the

team this fall as the No. 4 middle guard behind Noonan, senior Phil Rogers and sophomore Lawrence Pete. Shead recorded 36 tackles and two sacks last year.

McBride said seniors Brad Smith, Gregg Reeves and Scott Tucker are the leading candidates to replace Weber and Strasburger at the defensive end slots. Tony Holloway, who moved over from linebacker during spring practice, Jeff Jamrod and Brad Tyrer are also in the running, McBride said.



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