

## Sports

# Kimball native happy as a Cowboy

By Steve Thomas  
Staff Reporter

**Editor's note: The following is the first of an eight-part series on Nebraskan's playing football at other colleges. Tomorrow — Wichita State.**

Nebraska high school football players aren't usually thought of as defectors. Eight Nebraskans have cut against the grain, however, and decided to "go west" to the University of Wyoming.

### Sports Exports

The Nebraska football program has been a solid recruiting force for some time. It's front-page material when a good one escapes the sticky hands of a

Nebraska recruiter. Time will reveal how good these players are, but it appears that Laramie, Wyo., is establishing itself as an alternative to Huskerland.

One Wyoming player from Nebraska won't have to prove his talents—that's been taken care of. Mitch Daum of Kimball has held a steady job at tight end for the Cowboys for two seasons. Daum, brother of former Nebraska line-backer Mark Daum, couldn't cite just one reason for going to Wyoming.

"My brother was already at Nebraska, and I wanted to get out on my own. I wanted to establish a name somewhere else. The idea of following in my brother's footsteps didn't appeal," Daum said.

When a player opts to leave Nebraska, the reasons are usually the same. Not everyone wants to walk-on, not everyone

wants to be a redshirt, and not everyone wants to wait four years before stepping on the field. These are valid arguments for leaving, but why Wyoming?

"The fact that it's close to home had a lot to do with it. Also, I thought Wyoming had an upcoming program. They were 8-3 my senior year of high school," he said.

Contrary to popular belief, Daum said he thinks Nebraska high school players aren't under a lot of pressure to come to Lincoln.

"There really wasn't much pressure at all. All anyone ever told me was to go where I'd be happiest," Daum said.

Daum said there really wasn't anything he disliked about Nebraska's program except that "everyone wants to go there."

Daum, a senior, relies on his blocking skills at tight end. Daum said that blocking is definitely his strength, but added that he's just like anyone else in that he enjoys catching passes too.

Catching passes at Wyoming isn't the norm. The Cowboys are a run-oriented team, which is a rarity in the Western Athletic Conference. Daum praised the ground game philosophy and said he doesn't mind if the Cowboys keep it on the ground.

On a warm fall afternoon last fall there were two games on the field. One involved Nebraska and Wyoming, and the other, the brothers Daum. At tight end, Mitch Daum found himself having to block his brother several times.

"It was pretty exciting to play in Lincoln, but I really didn't think about Mark that much. I would block him if I had to, and he would tackle me if he

had to. Then again, we were helping each other off the field after the whistle too," Daum said.

Seven other Nebraskans join Daum on the Wyoming roster. They include: Steve Bena, running back, Omaha; Randy Weiniak, quarterback, Ord; Walt Kendrick, linebacker, Bellevue; Brian Cetak, guard, Ord; Mark Foos, tackle, Gering; Pat Arndt, guard, Omaha, and Dave Sims, tight end, Grand Island.

Of the seven, Daum said Cetak and Weiniak have been impressive. Daum said the eight Cowboys from Nebraska are a fairly close-knit group. He said they all follow Nebraska football and know what's happening in Lincoln.

The Cowboys started the '85 campaign on a sour note by taking beatings from Baylor and Air Force before downing California State-Fullerton on Saturday.

# Nebraska now shoo-in for national title

Hope springs eternal for Nebraska football fans. This year that hope will be realized.

On Jan. 1 at about 11 p.m. CST, the national crown will be sitting on the head of a Cornhusker.

What would inspire such a bold and ridiculous statement? Have I lost my mind? Well, no. The truth is, Nebraska might just be the best team in the country, and that's a good place to start.

Don't mistake me, having the best team in the country is not a guarantee of a national title. Nebraska had the best team in 1983 and came up short. Florida had the best team money could buy in 1984, and it didn't win the championship either.



Bob Asmussen

No one knows that Nebraska has the best team in the country, and that is another reason to think they'll end up No. 1. Two years ago Miami won the title. What did it do in its first game? It got destroyed by Florida.

Nebraska's opening loss was more of a benefit than anyone can imagine. For one thing, it showed Nebraska that it's going to have to play with as few mistakes as possible to win games. The days of five turnovers in a 40-point blow-out are over. Secondly, the loss put Nebraska out of other teams' minds as a national title contender. No one expects Nebraska to do anything so, of course, it will win it all — Murphy's Law in reverse.

Another thing in Nebraska's favor is that it's a running team. Oh sure, Brigham Young proved that a passing

team can win the title, but, that was playing against teams that UNO could beat.

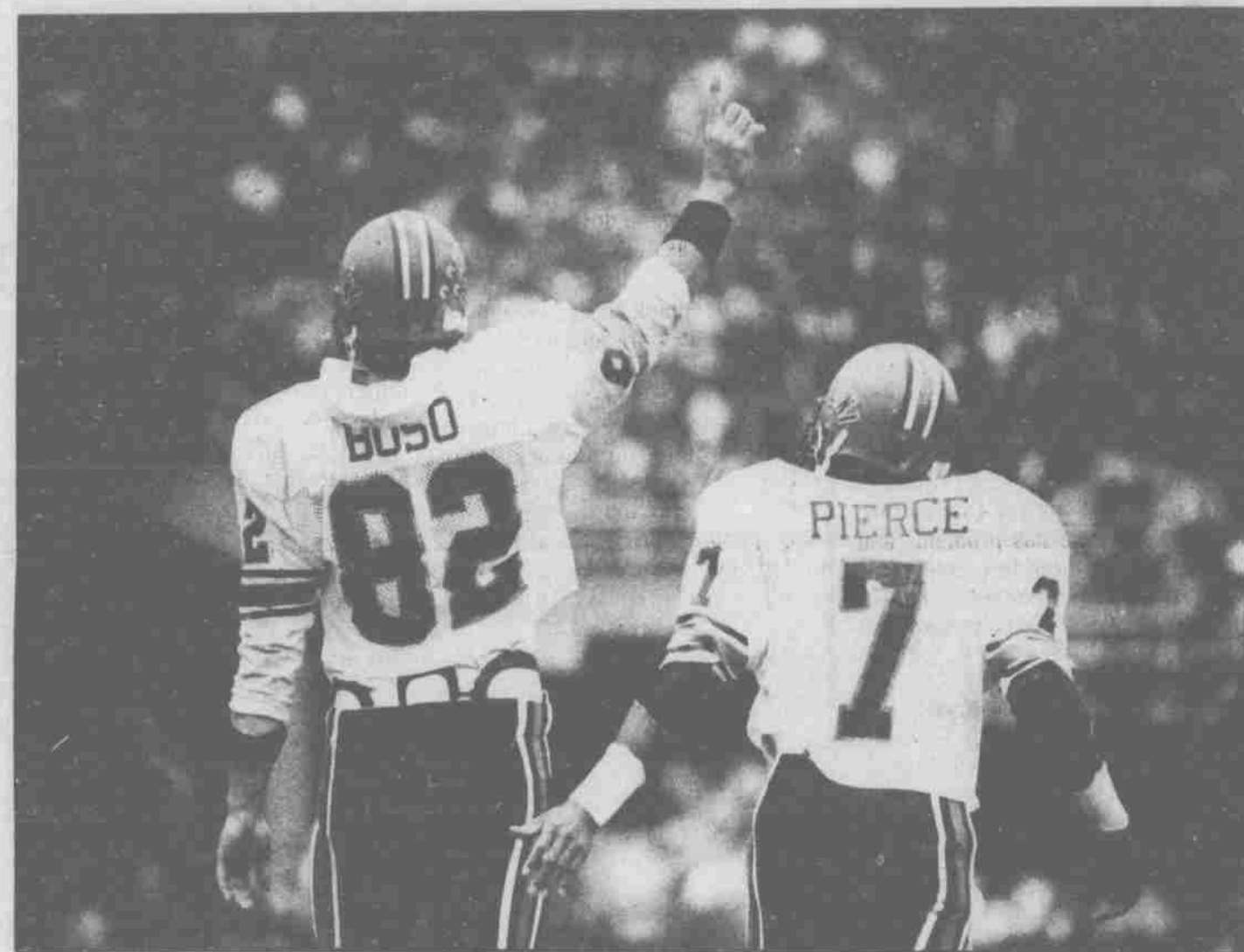
When it comes right down to it, an all-run team will beat an all-pass team. The field shrinks on a passing team, but it gets chewed up by a running team. When a passing team gets inside the 20, the pass routes shorten up, and there's less field for the defense to cover. A running team can move the ball anywhere. Let's put it another way: a running yard is like an American dollar and a passing yard is like any foreign currency. Therefore, 400 yards rushing equals about 800 yards passing. Not even Robbie Bosco has done that lately.

Another factor in Nebraska's favor is its schedule. Hey, Nebraska plays Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Missouri on the road! Big deal. In the Tom Osborne era, Nebraska has beat Oklahoma four times and two of the wins were at Norman. Nebraska has not lost to Oklahoma State since 1961 when Bill Jennings was the coach. As for Missouri, Coach Woody's troops lost at home to Northwestern.

Don't get me wrong; I'm no heigh-ho Husker fan. I lean toward the cynical side when it comes to Nebraska football.

Daily Illini Associate Sports Editor Terry Hackett was at Saturday's game and he lived and died with every play. Not me. After the game I saw Terry and he looked like he'd been crying. He also came to and from Lincoln on the Illinois team plane. I don't think the Nebraska football team would let us in the same airport, let alone on the same plane.

So why pick Nebraska No. 1? Well, no one will so we can be a little different. The simple truth is, given Nebraska's schedule, its talent, its coaching and its tradition, it shouldn't lose another game this season. Oregon will be a tough game for Nebraska as will Okla-



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Cap Boso of Illinois thinks the Illini are No. 1. Think again Cap. Nebraska beat Illinois 52-25 Saturday to even its record 1-1. Illinois' record dropped to 1-2 and gives Nebraska one less team to worry about challenging for the national championship.

homa State and Oklahoma. But Oregon is nicknamed the Ducks, Oklahoma State fries up against Nebraska, and Oklahoma has Troy Aikman at quarterback. Those are three good reasons that Nebraska will win those games.

Three more good reasons are Doug DuBose, McCathorn and the defense. DuBose has become another in a long line of great Nebraska I-backs. Next season he will be a legitimate Heisman

Trophy candidate (as opposed to being an illegitimate Heisman Trophy candidate). McCathorn Clayton has taken the starting reins from Travis Turner and has shown himself as a good leader. He even completed a pass Saturday that turned the game back in Nebraska's favor for good. The Nebraska defense seems to have worked the cobwebs out of the defensive system and might be a stronger unit than last

year. Jim Skow, Chris Spachman and Danny Noonan give Nebraska a good pass rush. The defensive ends are getting better, the linebackers cover the field well and the defensive backs are better than last year. Throw in Nebraska's usual solid offensive line, good wide outs and tight ends and a kicking game that rebounded from a rough first game, and you can see things are going pretty well at Memorial Stadium.

### Hopes to start three years

# Illinois freshman pleased to be a Husker

By Chuck Green  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska freshman defensive back Marvin Sanders has set a goal for himself.

"I'd like to start for three years," Sanders said. "I'll play on the freshman team this year and probably redshirt next season, but after that, it's all mine."

Sanders, a 6-0, 175-pound recruit from South Holland, Ill., is the only player from Illinois in this year's Husker freshman class. As a senior at Thornwood High School, Sanders was an All-State and All-Area selection. He was also named as one of the top 50 players in the state, overall.

Sanders also played in the Chicago All-Star game. He earned outstanding player honors.

Sanders was highly recruited as a senior, receiving offers from Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Miami, Hawaii, Indiana, Wyoming and Nebraska. Husker coaches discovered Sanders while analyzing film of teammate John Banaszak, a prep All-America lineman.

There was pressure on Sanders to remain in the state to play football for the Fighting Illini.

"My girlfriend's father went to Illinois," Sanders said. "He didn't really pressure me, but I know how he felt. I just didn't like the Illinois program."

"I selected Nebraska because the coaches came to me truthfully. They told me I wouldn't play varsity as a freshman, that I'd play on the freshman team. I accepted this. Other places say, 'we'll give you this, we'll give you that,' but Nebraska didn't do this."

Aside from his goal to be a three-year

starter, Sanders said he wants to improve his speed.

"Right now, I run a 4.7-second 40," Sanders said. "That's electronically timed. It converts to a 4.5 hand-held time. I'd like to get that down to a 4.4."

The freshman team has played only one game so far this season, but Sanders is pleased with his performance in that game.

"I started, but Coach Dan Young

didn't leave us in for too long," Sanders said. "He wanted everyone to play. I had a pass interference call against me, but other than that, I thought I played pretty well."

With a 30-inch vertical jump, a 260-pound bench press, and ever-increasing speed, Sanders has a chance to fulfill his dream of being a three-year starter for the Huskers. But like any goal, it will take time and hard work to achieve.

Sanders does think, however, that the Nebraska program will help him reach his goal faster than any other program in the country.

"The Nebraska football program is about what I expected," Sanders said. "Maybe even a little more. The place is just great. The coaches know you by name, and they all care about you on and off the field. I think it's the best program in the nation."

# Stroh's Run for Liberty race Oct. 12

Plans for the Stroh's Run for Liberty II in Lincoln were announced Monday by Jim Lewis, president of the Lincoln Track Club.

The race will be the largest single-day running event ever held in the United States, with up to 28,000 runners expected at 127 race sites across the

nation.

Lincoln is the only city in Nebraska chosen for the race. All Stroh's Run for Liberty II races will be Oct. 12, with the Lincoln race starting at 8:30 a.m. at Pioneers Park.

At least \$2 from each entry fee will

be donated to the restoration of the Statue of Liberty in New York. Participants in the race each will receive a commemorative medallion cast of material from the Statue of Liberty.

The race will be run over an 8 kilometer course, just under 5 miles.