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Scouting report tags 4 Huskers

By Steve Thomas
Staff Reporter

have something I can wash out with a hose."

The National Scouting Combine recently released its player evaluations for the April 19 NFL draft. And when scouts talk, people listen.

Skow said he thinks his chances of a successful pro career are decent, but added that a 12-year career in the NFL may not be what he is after.

It follows that four Nebraska seniors may have a good idea what to expect when they report to camp this summer.

Playing in a warm climate is something Skow said he would welcome, but it's not essential.

The Scouting Combine annually evaluates the nation's top prospects and the results are used by 19 NFL teams. This year's workouts and evaluations were in New Orleans in late January.

"I think it's pretty around Green Bay," Skow said. "I just would rather stay away from a real racy place that wouldn't be right for me."

Each prospect is tagged with a number rating, which is used as an indicator of his performance in the professional ranks. The results were published in USA Today.

Tom Rathman

Rathman will enter the draft with a 5.91 rating, the third highest rating of all fullbacks in the nation.

Jim Skow

Of all Nebraska seniors, Jim Skow's 6.8 rating as a defensive end took top honors. According to the Scouting Combine's rating system, Skow is a good prospect, will contribute, may start in time, will make the squad and will be selected in rounds two or three of the draft.

With a 5.91 rating, scouts look for Rathman to be an above average player, make an NFL squad, be taken in rounds four through eight, but doubt his ability to become a starter.

But Skow isn't so sure that a person's future is decided by a number rating.

Rathman, a 6'0, 230 pound fullback, said his size may help him secure a high selection in the draft.

"You really can't pay too much attention to those things," Skow said. "You may get some ideas, but you can't bank on it or you'll get disappointed. Nobody really knows what's going to happen until draft day."

"I think the scouts look at me as a big back who can run and block," Rathman said.

One reason Skow, an All-American, can expect plenty of attention April 29 is his versatility. At 6 feet, 3 inches and 240 pounds, Skow could be used as a defensive end or as an inside linebacker.

But, if Rathman wants to make it in the NFL, running and blocking may not even be enough.

"I think my ability to rush the passer and my quickness will really help me," Skow said.

"I'm going to have to be able to catch the ball," Rathman said. "That's something I didn't get a chance to do here at Nebraska, but I felt like I did an exceptional job catching the ball in New Orleans at the testing."

Skow said, despite other distractions, his mind is on the upcoming draft.

A chance to get a good start in life is the main reason Rathman has his sights set on an NFL career.

"It means a lot to me. I won't lie," Skow said. "It's a chance to set yourself up financially for the rest of your life unless you go around buying expensive cars — and I won't do that. I'd rather

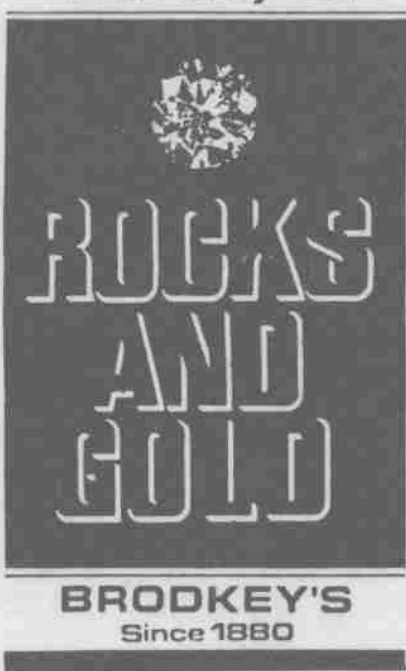
"If things don't work out, I'll probably do some teaching," Rathman said. "But, it would be a drastic blow to me if I didn't get a shot to play."

Paul Miles

Paul Miles' 5.1 rating as a halfback places him in the middle of the nation's running backs. With a 5.1 rating, Miles is labeled as an average player needing development, likely to be taken in rounds nine through 12.

See NFL on 18

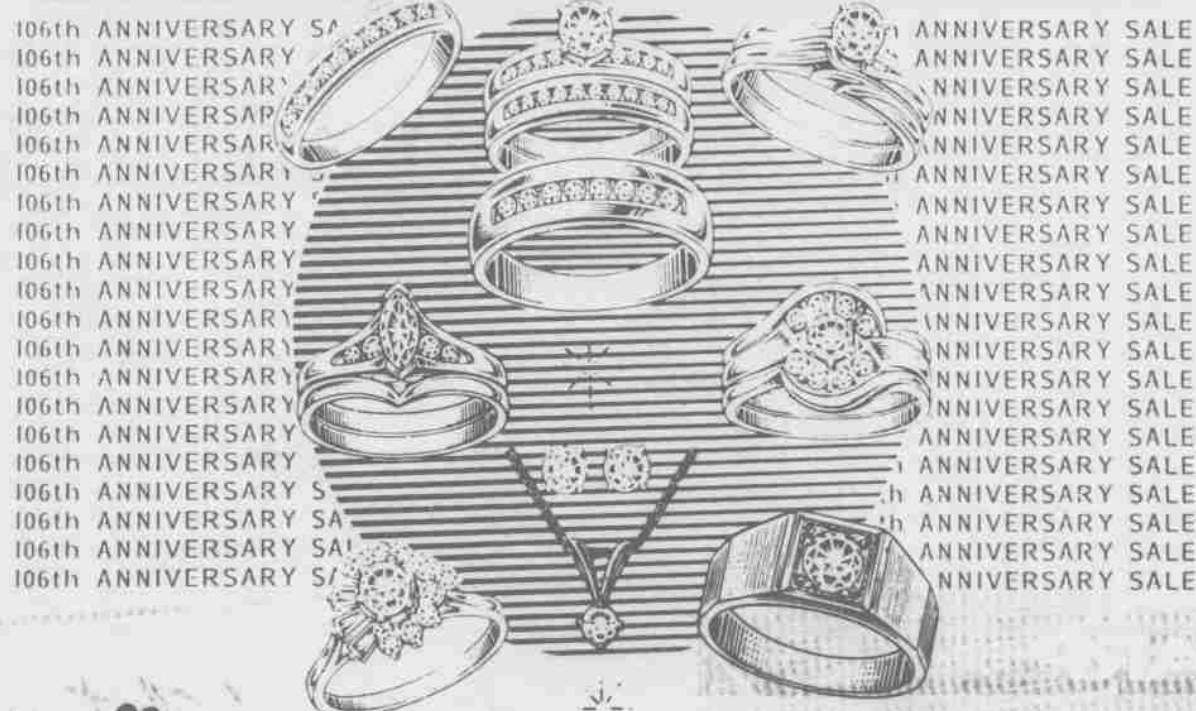
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The tires wear out
Uneven stress is placed on the frame
The steering wheel begins to shake
Soon the car functions so badly, you can't drive it

THE MISALIGNED FOOT DOES THE SAME THING.
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- and even neck pain-headaches
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