

## Cooper says placement at 3rd spot unexpected

By Kyle Schurman  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska freshman strong safety Reggie Cooper is impressing people. Cooper impressed people in Louisiana so much in his senior season that he was named the most valuable defensive player in Louisiana high school football and had his jersey number retired by his high school in Slidell, La.

Cooper has impressed the Cornhusker coaches so much that he is already the third-team strong safety after one month of practice. Seniors Jeff Tomjack and two-year starter Brian Washington are ahead of Cooper on the depth chart.

"He has great athletic ability and is an excellent tackler," Nebraska defensive backs coach George Darlington said. "He has picked up our scheme well for a freshman."

Darlington said experience is the only area that is holding Cooper back.

"He needs to gain some experience," Darlington said. "But he has made remarkable strides because of his excellent athletic ability."

Cooper agreed with Darlington.

"I need to get some experience under my belt. I'm looking forward to playing in a couple of games and getting all of the techniques down," Cooper said.

Cooper said that he didn't expect to move up to the varsity as quickly as he did.

"I thought I might move up in the middle of the season after I had learned the system better," Cooper said. "I don't mind moving up early at all, though."

Cooper said he feels the coaches have a lot of faith in him because they moved him up so soon. He said his aggressiveness in his biggest strength now.

Darlington said that aggressiveness has earned Cooper a spot on

the kickoff coverage team and the second-team punt coverage team.

The hardest part about playing at Nebraska is learning all of the coverages, Cooper said. However, the other players and coaches have helped him out a lot, Cooper said.

"The other players answer your questions and the coaches are very helpful," he said. "They're helping me adjust pretty well."

Cooper said he considered attending Oklahoma, Louisiana State, Houston and Tulane as well as Nebraska. Nebraska's honesty was the main reason he decided to play for the Huskers, he said.

"I was impressed with Nebraska," Cooper said. "They were straightforward with me; all I heard were a bunch of lies at other colleges. I also wanted to get a long ways away from home."

Cooper said most of the people he knew supported his decision to attend school outside of Louisiana.

"Most people in Slidell were nice about it and were behind me," Cooper said. "There's always going to be some who are against you, but most agreed with me that Nebraska was the best school both academically and athletically in the nation."

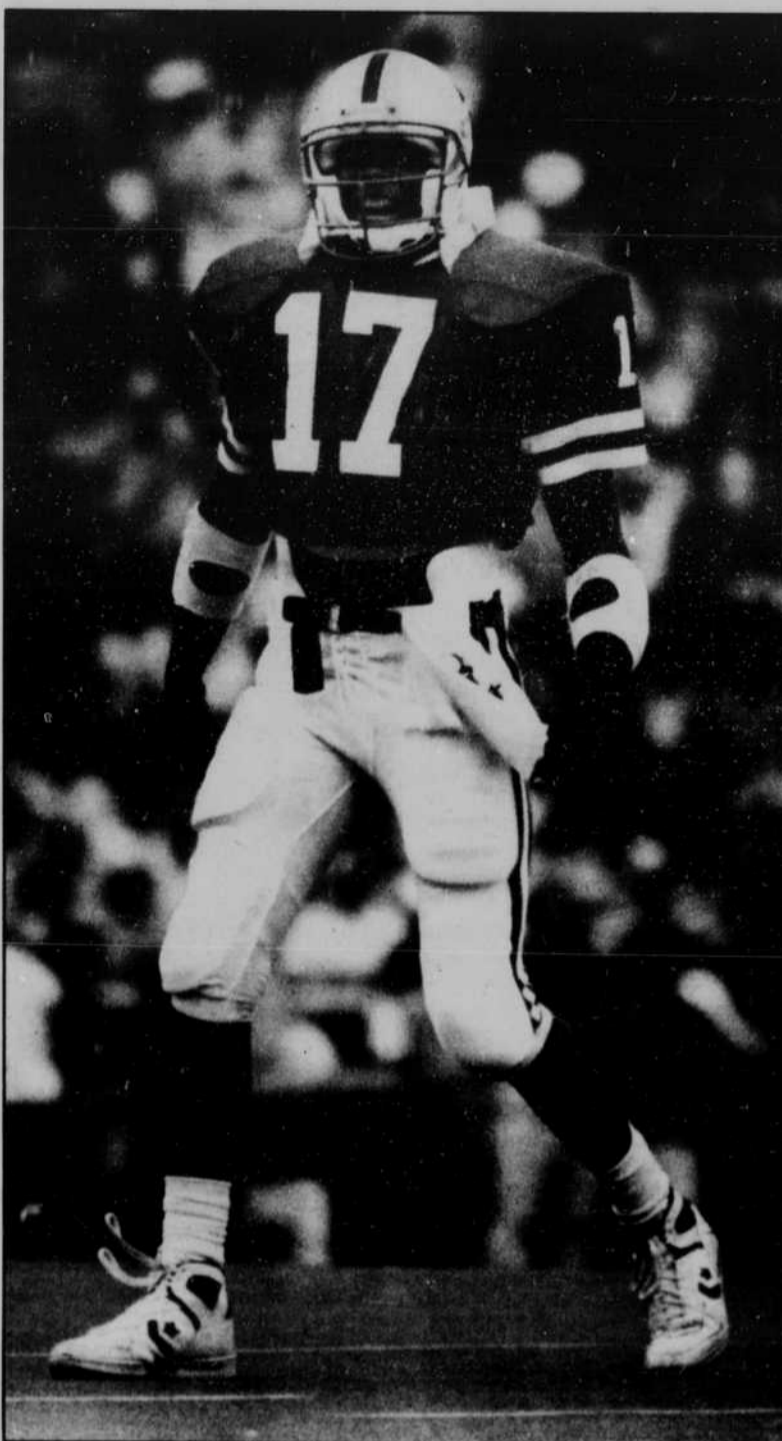
Cooper said he was surprised that he was named the most valuable defensive player in Louisiana high school football last year because "there are a lot of good defensive players in Louisiana."

He also said having his jersey number retired was a great honor because "most players don't usually get their numbers retired."

Darlington said Cooper is a good person as well as good football player.

"He is fairly quiet and he's serious about studies and football," Darlington said.

"We're very pleased with his performance to date, and hope that he'll continue to improve and be a fine football player for us."



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska strong safety Reggie Cooper.

## Williams leads frosh to 62-0 win

By Nick Hodge  
and  
Kyle Schurman  
Staff Reporters

Nebraska fullback Randy Williams scored three touchdowns while rushing for 90 yards to lead the Cornhusker freshman to a 62-0 victory over the St. Thomas (Minn.) junior varsity Monday at Memorial Stadium.

Williams, a freshman from Broken Arrow, Okla., scored on runs of 32, two and 12 yards to help Nebraska to its first victory of the season. He finished with 90 yards on eight rushing attempts.

Williams said his 32-yard run that gave Nebraska a 28-0 lead in the third quarter was the result of an off-tackle play.

"We ran an off-tackle play that has a good chance to go for a touchdown," Williams said. "I looked for that and broke it outside. I have never been caught from behind and I hope I can keep that up."

The Huskers broke the game open in the second half when they scored 41 points while allowing St. Thomas only 49 yards of total offense.

Defensive end Kylin Camp gave Nebraska a 35-0 lead in the second half when he recovered a punt blocked by Mark Quist in the endzone, and Williams followed with his 12-yard run.

The Huskers then added three more touchdowns in the fourth quarter on a 33-yard run by wingback Steve Weiss, a four-yard run by I-back Brian Harchelroad and a 37-yard interception return by defensive end Justin Krantz.

Nebraska freshman coach Shane Thorell said he was pleased with the Huskers second-half effort.

Nebraska compiled 416 yards of total offense, 335 of which came on the ground.

Nebraska's next game is Sept. 28, when the Huskers face the Bethany (Kan.) junior varsity at 1 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

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