

Nebraska linebacker LeRoy Etienne.

Linebacker Etienne tackles for player of the year

By Tim Hartmann Senior Reporter

Talk of UCLA running back Gaston Green winning the Heisman Trophy has been increasing this season, but Nebraska linebacker LeRoy Etienne said Green's visit to Memorial Stadium Saturday will not help his chances.
"No doubt about it, he's a good

player. He's probably a good Heisman Trophy candidate, but we won't let him increase his votes on that (the Heisman Trophy) against us," Etienne said.

The Heisman Trophy is given annually to college football's player of the year by the Downtown Athletic Club in New York. Green established as a candidate last season when he rushed for 1,405 yards and 17 touchdowns. He opened this season by rushing for 135 yards and a touchdown against San Diego State last week.

Etienne also got off to a strong start last week in Nebraska's opener against Utah State. Etienne led all Cornhusker tacklers with six total tackles, including three unassisted.

The Utah State game was the first career start for Etienne, a junior from New Iberia, La., said he was pleased with the way he opened the 1987 season.

"It went pretty well," he said. "I was pretty satisfied with the way I performed. I was satisfied with the defense as a whole. We didn't get that many running plays in. I wish we would have pretty well taken care of.'

will be important, Etienne said, because that is their strength.

"I've seen a lot of film on them," Etienne said. "Gaston Green is a good runner; he likes to cut back. That's about the only thing I worry about is him cutting back.'

UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman, a transfer from Oklahoma, opened the season by completing eight of 10 passes for 166 yards. Despite the Aikman's impressive numbers, Etienne said, Nebraska should be able to contain the Bruins' passing game.

"Their passing game is consistent too, but they mostly focus on their running game," he said. "The passing game is nothing too difficult to handle.'

When the season began, linebacker coach John Melton said Etienne had all the tools to be a great linebacker, but it would just take a while to develop the mental aspect. Etienne said he now has that down.

"Most definitely," he said. "I've got everything down now.

Among Etienne's "mental jobs" are calling the defensive plays and making defensive checks. Etienne said the plays usually come from a coach on the sideline, but if there isn't time he make the call himself.

Calling plays isn't difficult, Etienne said, but it helps keep his intensity up.

'It just keeps my head in the game a little bit more, keeps me concentrating a lot," he said.

Last season Etienne was Nebraska's third linebacker, behind seniors Marc Munford an Kevin Parsons. Despite coming off the bench, Etienne made 38 tackles during the year, and ended the season with five unassisted tackles against Louisiana State in the Sugar

His play last season, which included a team-high 10 tackles against Oregon, earned Etienne a second-team spot on the Football News' sophomore All-America team.

Etienne came to Nebraska in 1985 after being named to the Parade Allgotten a little more repetition on the America high school football team and runs. As far as pass drops, I got that being named the Louisiana state defensive player of the year for the second Stopping the run against the Bruins year. He was credited with 210 solo tackles as a senior.

As a freshman Etienne played three games with the junior varsity team, making 18 tackles, before being called up to the varsity.

Now that he is starting with the varsity, Etienne said, he wants to play his

"My main goal right now is to really play consistent and to do the best I possibly can to contribute to the team, and all the personal goals I have set for myself will probably fall into place," he

Injuries bench Huskers

By Nick Hodge Staff Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Thursday that ankle injuries will prevent starting middle guard Lawrence Pete and right tackle Lee Jones from playing in Saturday's game against UCLA.

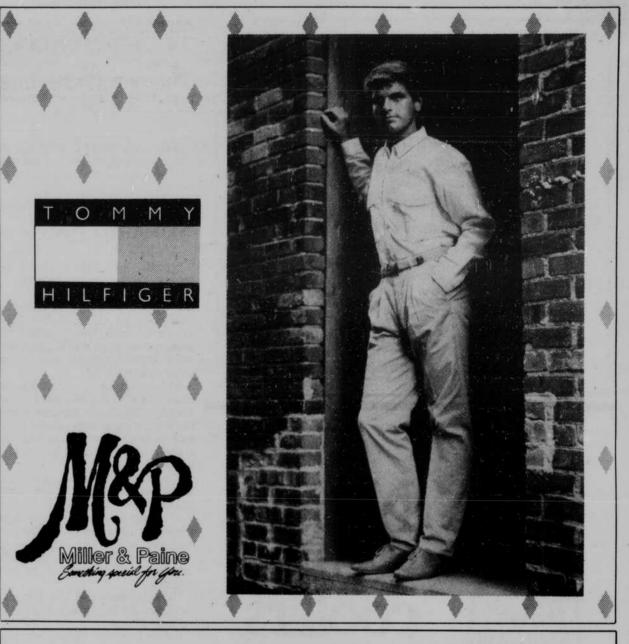
Osborne said sophomore Mike Murray and senior Tim Rother will replace Pete and Jones.

"Lawrence will be out until

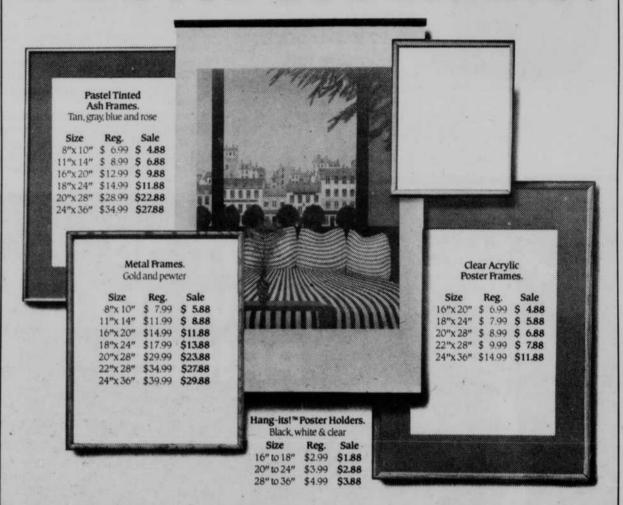
sometime next week," Osborne said. "It will take a miraculous recovery for Lee to see any action Saturday.

Osborne said he felt good about the Huskers' toughest of the season. and Jones were hurt. He said sophomore middle guard Kent Wells, a Lincoln East High School graduate, and redshirt freshman Paul Brungardt will see action against the third-ranked Bruins.

Osborne said he expects a physical game from UCLA.



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