

# Husker player follows father's footsteps

By Steve Sipple  
Staff Reporter

Freshman strong safety Freeman White III is making strides in the Nebraska football program, and they are right in the footsteps of his father.

Freeman White Jr. was a Cornhusker All-America split end in 1965 and played for the National Football League's New York Giants from 1966 to 1969. He ended his career in 1970 while playing for the Ottawa Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League.

The elder White, who was recruited in 1962 by former Nebraska coach and current athletic director Bob Devaney, said it is a special feeling to have a son playing at his former stomping grounds.

"It definitely is," he said. "When the old-timers get together, like Tony Jeter, Frank Solich or Walt Barnes, we always say we started it. We feel we were the ones who started the tradition."

"Then to have a son come in and have that winning tradition still going on is a great feeling."

White helped the Husker freshmen continue their winning tradition in their season-opening, 62-0 victory over the St. Thomas (Minn.) junior varsity. He returned two punts for 86 yards and played a strong game in the secondary, Nebraska freshman coach Shane Thorell said.

White said his father helped him prepare for the rigors of college football by monitoring a summer workout program. He said every morning at 7 a.m. he would run two miles, complete a series of 50-yard uphill sprints, do sit-ups and push-ups, and pound on a speed bag.

"It was like preparing for a fight, mentally," he said. "It prepared me for making hits."

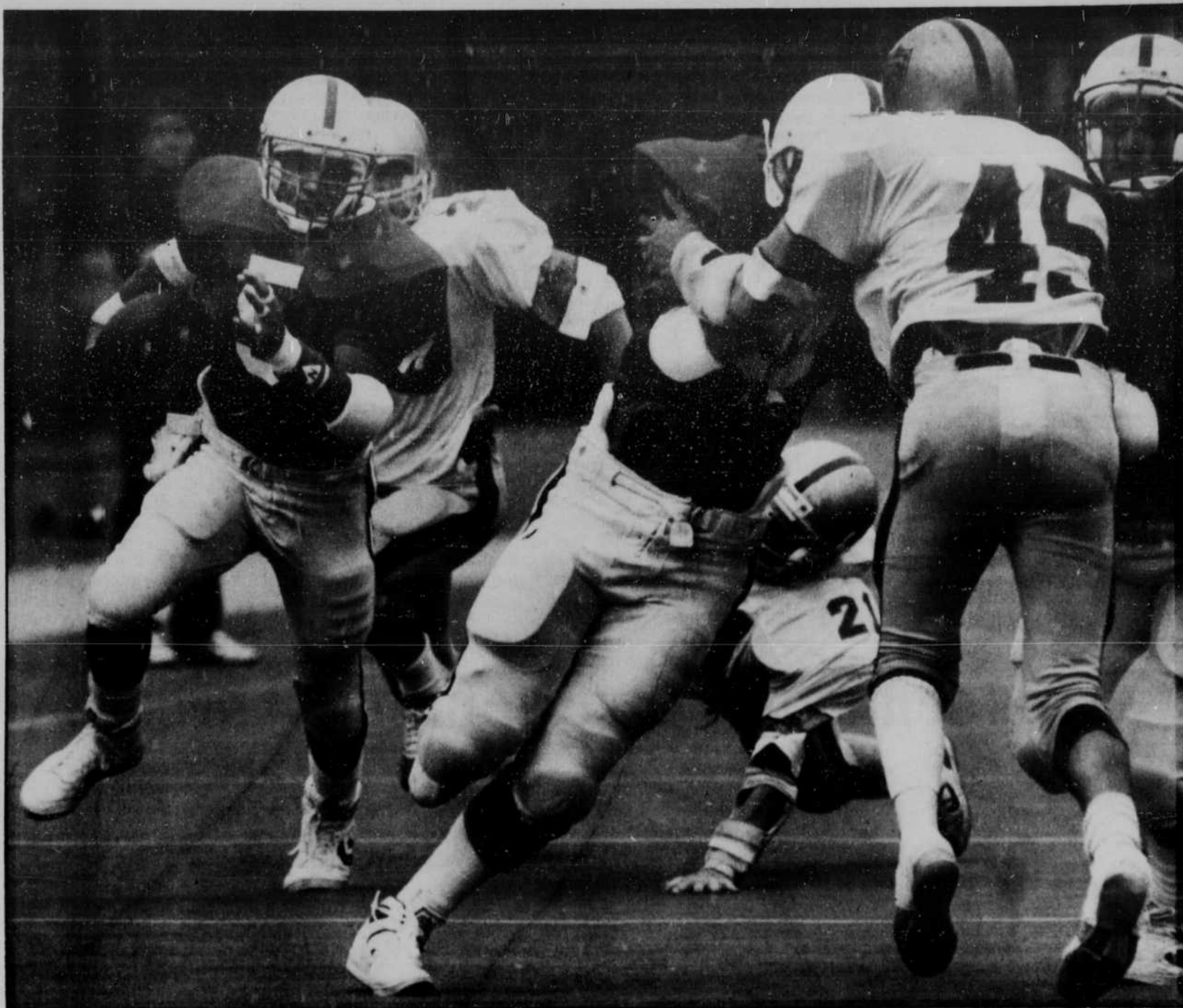
Thorell said White's "tackling and toughness" are his main attributes.

White agreed. "That's why I play," he said. "I like to hit."

White, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound walk-on from Kansas City, said he's anxious for Nebraska's next game against Bethany College because he wants to show the Husker coaches he deserves a scholarship.

White said the special teams are the best place for him to earn a scholarship.

"I know there's great athletes at that level," he said. "I'd break my heart to just be on the special teams. I have the desire. My dad always told me it's 90 percent desire and 10 per-



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Freeman White III returns a punt during the Cornhusker's 62-0 victory over the St. Thomas (Minn.) Junior Varsity. White is a starting strong safety for Nebraska.

cent what you know."

Thorell said any talk of a scholarship at this point is premature.

"We usually don't give them scholarships before they get at least to second team on varsity," Thorell said. "He really shouldn't worry about it until spring ball."

Currently, freshman Reggie Cooper is the No. 3 strong safety on the varsity depth chart behind seniors Jeff Tomjack and Brian Washington.

White said even though he knows moving ahead of the seniors isn't realistic, he would "break his neck" to be in Cooper's spot.

White said he received scholarship offers from Maine and New Hampshire, but his father figured prominently in his decision to become a Husker.

"Basically, he was my mentor," he said. "He gave me all the information. He didn't say I should go here or I

should go there... he just helped me. "Since I've been young, everyone I knew who came to NU, which is a lot, were positive about it. I never talked to anyone who wasn't positive about it."

He said the favorable reviews have held true, but one thing is missing. "The only problem is, I need a scholarship," White said.

While White has set lofty goals for himself, the elder White said he has

always been careful not to force too much on his son.

"He's at the age now where he can make his own decisions," he said. "He knows my feelings. My feeling is you always give it 100 percent. You know what they say, you get out of it what you put into it."

White said he's confident his son will succeed.

"He has got an extra-ordinary heart," he said.

## Deardorff leads NU to Jayhawk Invitational title

By Lori Griffin  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska pitcher Donna Deardorff struck out 13 batters to lead Nebraska to a 2-1 victory over Kansas Sunday in the finals of the Jayhawk Softball Invitational at Lawrence, Kan.



Wolforth  
The Cornhuskers, who finished

the tournament with a 2-1 record, defeated Iowa State 7-2 Saturday, but lost to Illinois State 2-1 Sunday to finish in a three-way tie for first place. Iowa State and Illinois State also finished with 2-1 records.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said the Huskers didn't play up to their expectations. He said he felt responsible for Nebraska's performance.

"I believe that we played with less intensity and less aggressiveness than I thought we would. We

need to get our minds on the matter at hand," Wolforth said. "The chemistry wasn't there, and we weren't as mentally tough as we need to be to win the Big Eight or any other tournament."

"We have to have a certain level of concentration, but it just wasn't there."

Wolforth said that although they committed no technical mistakes in the tournament, the Huskers made too many mental errors. "I was disappointed in the

mental frame of mind our players had," he said. "We are, by far, the best team in the Midwest, but we can't coach on potential. We have to execute."

Wolforth said the relaxed attitude of the Nebraska coaching staff helped the Huskers throughout the tournament. He said Nebraska has taken a relaxed attitude throughout its fall season.

Wolforth said the best Nebraska player throughout the tournament was senior outfielder Margie Ogro-

dowicz. He said all the Husker players would benefit if they followed Ogrodowicz's lead.

Ogrodowicz, who transferred from Texas Tech University as a sophomore, broke the all-time Nebraska stolen-base record when she stole her 49th career base against Iowa State. That mark broke the old record of 48, which was set by former Nebraska player Shelly Scott in 1981.

"Margie played every inning as if it were her last," Wolforth said.

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