

# Injured Williams wants OU

By Kent Endacott  
First Down Reporter

Revenge is all the motivation Nebraska fullback Randy Williams needs. Williams, a 6-foot-3, 225-pound freshman from Broken Arrow, Okla., was injured last week and is expected to miss three weeks of action. Williams said he still wants to make it big at Nebraska to show his high school football coach he was worth recruiting.

He claims his coach, Gary Harper, didn't like him and encouraged recruiters to stay away.

"My head coach back in high school went to the University of Oklahoma and played football for Oklahoma," he said. "The way he feels is if you're not good enough to go to Oklahoma, then you're not good enough to go anywhere. They were recruiting me, but he told them I wasn't worth their time. He told a lot of schools I wasn't worth their time.

"So a lot of schools started to back off. I was recruited by Alabama, Notre Dame, Penn State, Georgia and all of the Southwest Conference teams and all the teams in the Big Eight."

Harper denied that he had discouraged recruiters from pursuing Williams. He also refused to discuss the nature of his conflict with Williams.

"That is a lie," Harper said. "I did not discourage recruiters. The only thing I'm going to tell you is Randy Williams is a fine athlete. Ant that's it . . . If you want to know the truth, talk to the Nebraska coaches, they know the truth."

Nebraska on-campus recruiter Dave Gillespie said he never heard any stories to indicate Williams "was anything other than a good person."

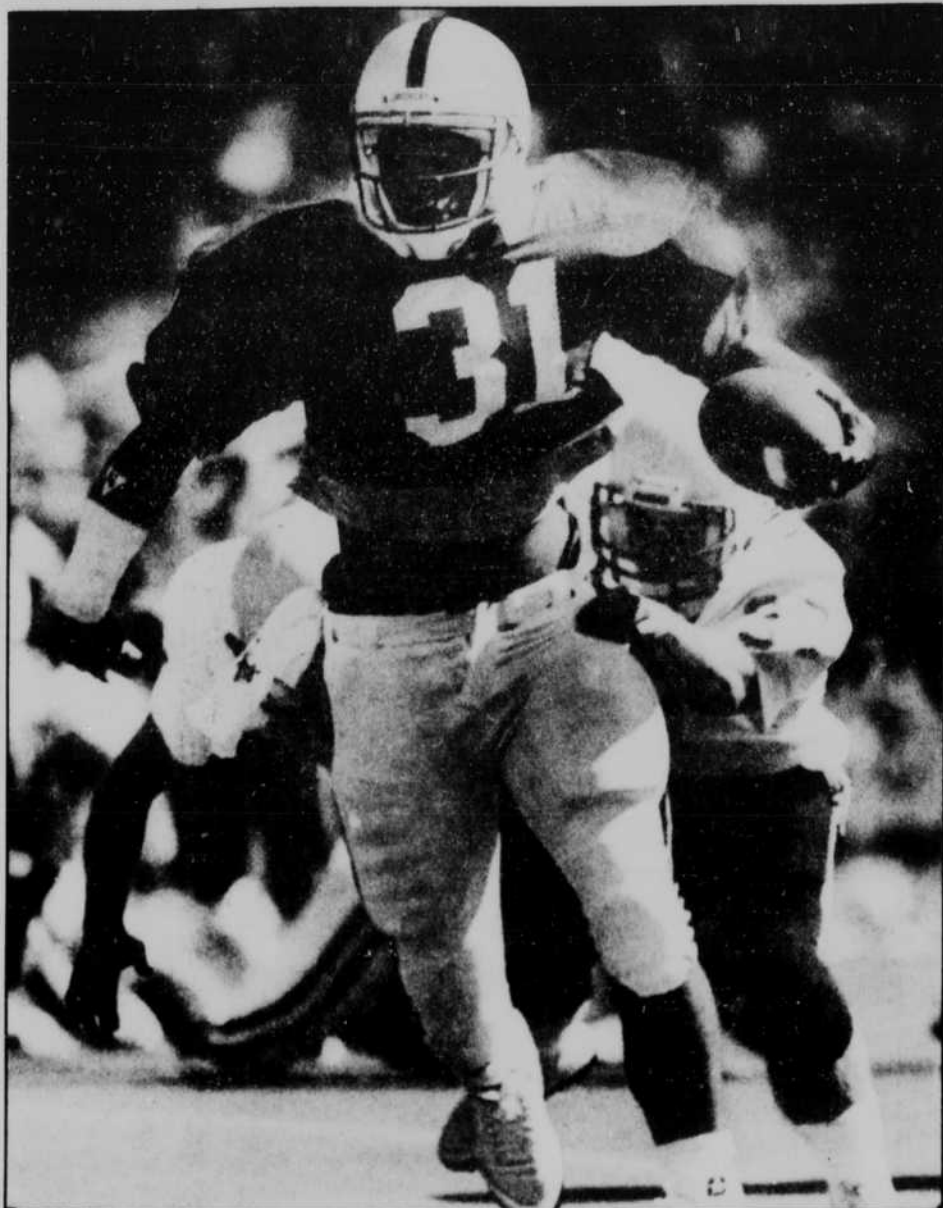
Williams said his problems with Harper began in his junior year when he transferred to Tulsa County Alternative School after the Broken Arrow Senior High administration threatened to suspend him for skipping school. He returned to Broken Arrow for his senior season, led the team in rushing and was named the Frontier Conference's Most Valuable Player.

He also was included on several blue-chip lists.

By then, however, most schools had stopped recruiting him.

"He (Harper) told a whole bunch of coaches I was just a troublemaker, not worth their time, and I was uncoachable," Williams said. "I really don't feel like that was true. All my assistant coaches really liked me."

Oklahoma State Director of Athletic Recruiting Gordon Whitener said the Cowboys had lost interest in Williams because Oklahoma stopped recruiting him. But



Andrea Hoy/First Down

## Williams

Oklahoma State started recruiting him again after school officials were contacted by his mother, Kathy Williams.

"His coach didn't like him and apparently didn't recommend him," Whitener said.

In August, Oklahoma State released Williams from his national letter of intent because he didn't meet the college's academic admission standards. Williams, however, met the minimum 2.0 grade point average in core curriculum classes established by Proposition 48, which sets academic entry requirements for athletes.

"He was a very good player," Whitener said. "Two times he scored four touchdowns in one game from the tailback position. There was never any doubt about his athletic abilities."

Williams said he contacted schools to let them know he was available after receiving his release from Oklahoma State. He said he had to decide quickly because football practice was about to start.

He narrowed his choices to Nebraska and Texas.

Williams said he chose Nebraska because of its winning tradition and disciplined environment. He said his assistant high-school football coach, Phil Angieri, convinced the coaches he was worth a scholarship.

"The coaches are calling him up, asking him for references, saying, 'How is Randy? Is he really pretty good? Coach told them, 'If he's got the right environment, the coaches work with him and make sure he goes to school and everything, he'll be one of your better players.'" Williams said.