



Griffin's pal burns the Huskers

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

PASADENA Calif. — Willie Griffin was disappointed Saturday night after Nebraska dropped a 41-28 decision to UCLA, but still was able to work up a smile.

Griffin, a senior defensive tackle from Monrovia, Calif., was able to smile because a friend of his had played well.

Griffin's friend is UCLA left cornerback Darryl Henley. Henley returned a 75-yard punt for a touch-down to help the Bruins build a 28-0 lead in the first quarter. In addition, Henley recorded five unassisted tackles and broke up one pass.

The senior from Duarte, Calif., said he grew up with Griffin and has known him since he was seven-years-old. Henley said he didn't get to talk to Griffin after the game, but saw him on the field.

"He's big! He's gotten huge," Henley said.

Henley grew up in Duarte, Calif., but said the borderline to Monrovia is so close that he, Griffin, and USC cornerback Chris Hale lived around the block from each other.

Henley said a decision when he was eight-years old kept him from playing football with Griffin.

"In Duarte, they didn't have an eight-year-old team and I had just turned eight," he said. "I had the option to play in Arcadia, Monrovia, or anywhere I wanted to play," Henley said. "They (Griffin and Hale) wanted me to play for them, but I said, 'no I am going to play for Arcadia.' So, we kind of missed each other there. I wish I could have played with them."

Griffin said he and Henley had a chance to play together in another sport.

"We played on the same little league baseball team," Griffin said. "I'm happy for him."

Griffin said that although he doesn't keep in touch with Henley much any more, he is still friends

with him. He said he saw Henley when he played last year in Nebraska and has seen him a few times when he's been in California.

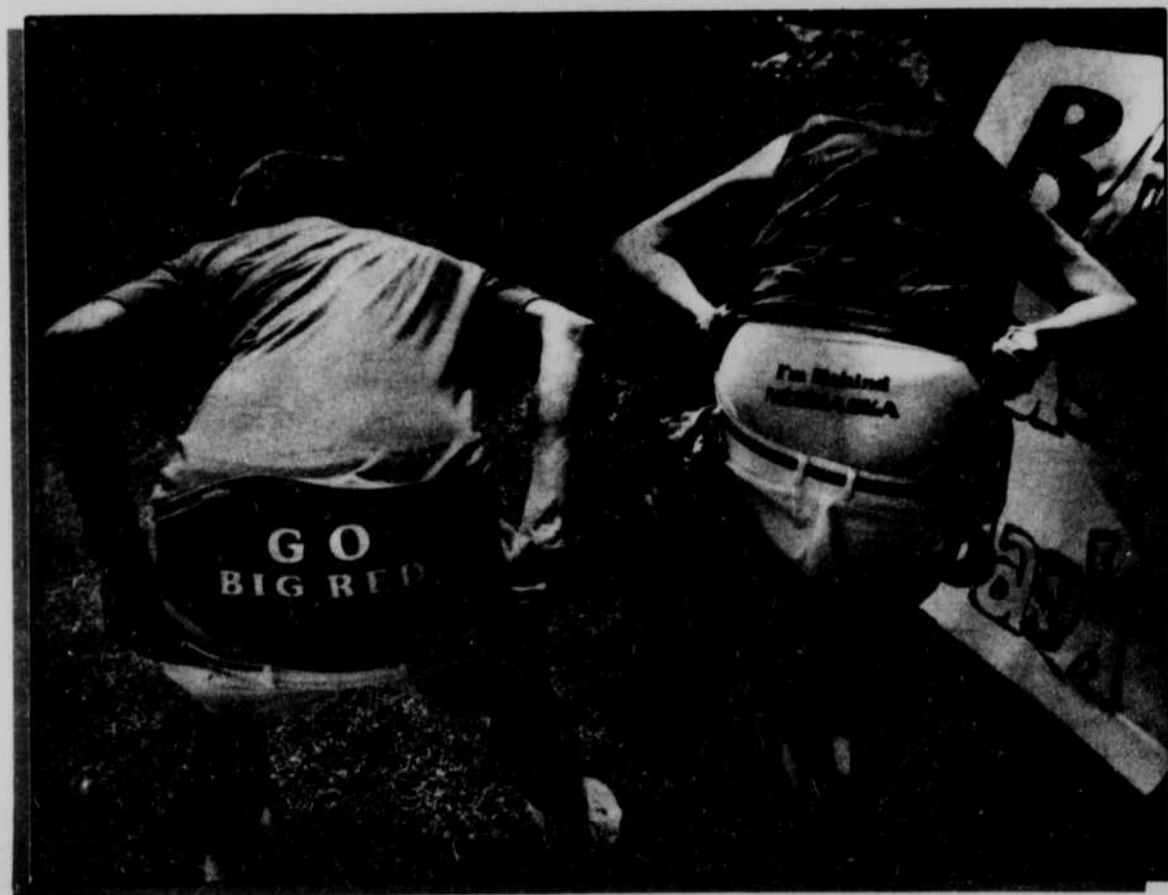
Henley said his punt return was one of his most memorable moments during his four-year career at UCLA.

"I liked the one last week, but you can't ask for anything more against a team like Nebraska," Henley said. Henley returned a punt in UCLA's opening game against San Diego State on Sept. 3 — a 59-6 win.

Griffin said he wasn't surprised by Henley's performance, but was surprised by Bruin quarterback Troy Aikman's play.

"Aikman's a good quarterback, he surprised me," Griffin said. "Everytime we play a guy who's up for the Heisman Trophy, we stick it to him. He stuck it to us this time."

Griffin said he is happy for Henley, but as far as Nebraska goes, he knows the Huskers will have to work hard this week to recover.



Husker fans party on the coast

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

PASADENA, Calif. — In Pasadena Saturday, Nebraska fans lived it up at a country barbecue before trying to live down Nebraska's 41-28 loss to UCLA.

Approximately 3,000 Nebraska fans living in California, and people who made the trip from Nebraska to California to see the game, attended a country barbecue at a golf course near the Rose Bowl.

The barbecue was sponsored by the Californians for Nebraska (CFN) — a Nebraska athletic department support group — and featured a speech by Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney. It was held under a tent set up on the golf course. Hay bales and baskets of fruit were spread throughout. A Dixieland band was also playing different Nebraska fight songs and jazz numbers.

Loren Zimmerman, who is originally from Axtell and now lives in West Covina, Calif., organized the barbecue. Zimmerman graduated from the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln in 1955 and was a student manager for the Cornhuskers during his freshman and sophomore years.

"This is nice," Zimmerman said. "I'm so satisfied. It's bigger than I ever imagined."

Zimmerman said the event is fun because it gives former Nebraskans both a chance to see people they haven't seen and to find out what is happening in Nebraska.

The CFN group has been beneficial in helping different Nebraska programs such as the alumni association, the Nebraska Foundation and the athletic department, Zimmerman said.

"We have contributed to every organized sport at the University," Zimmerman said. "Football is certainly the strong hold which holds us together."

Devaney said the CFN is the largest Nebraska alumni association. He said CFN previously sent information to Nebraska on different recruits, but now just shows "a lot of enthusiasm." NCAA rules prohibit the group from sending

information on recruits, he said.

Zimmerman said that while CFN is a strong supporter of Nebraska athletics, it also has another mission.

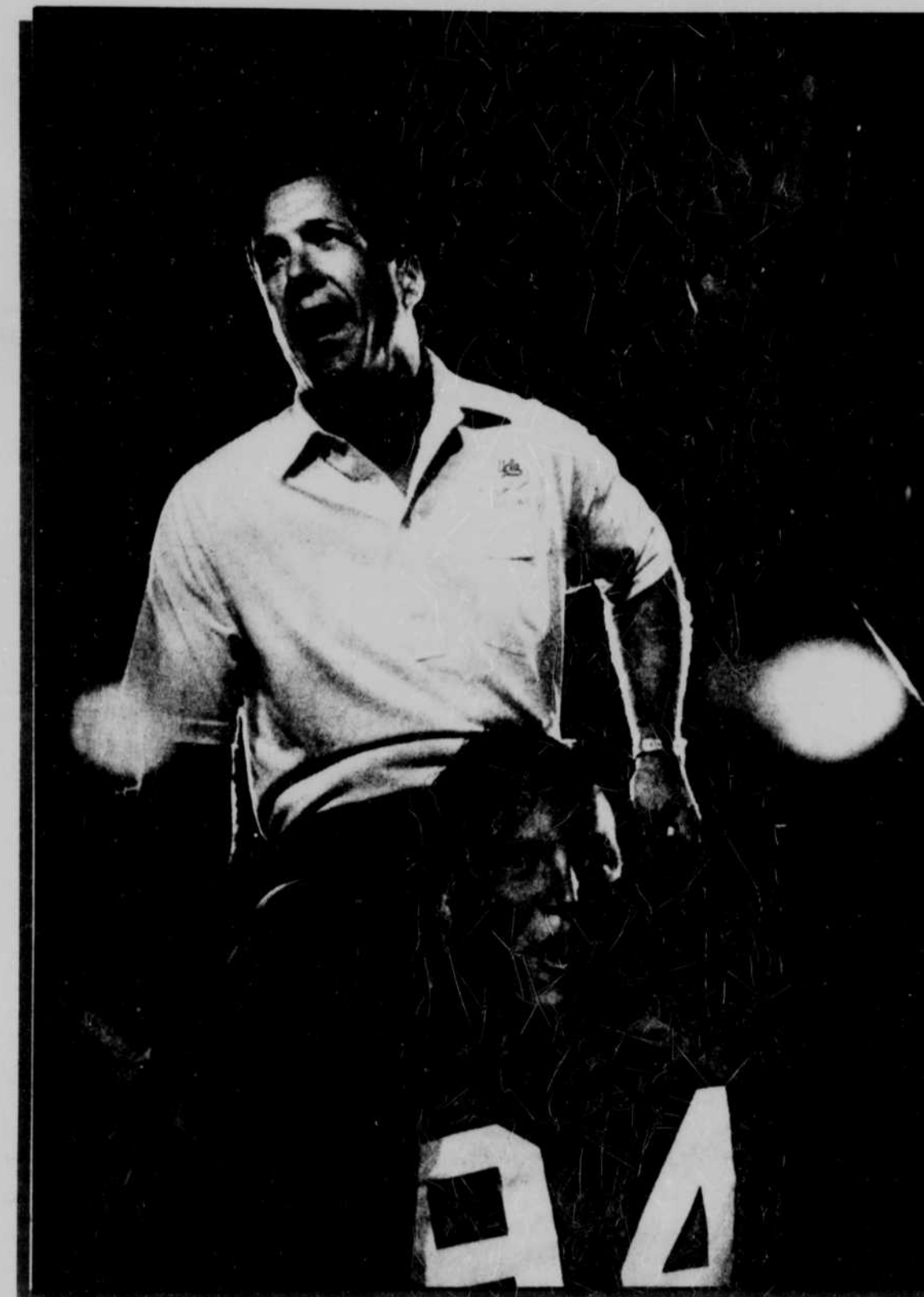
"We also want to be hospitable to fellow Nebraskans who move out here," Zimmerman said. "If someone from Nebraska moves out here and is looking for where to stay in West Covina, I try to help them out. I am like a 'big brother' to them."

Nebraskans had a choice between the country barbecue and the many tailgate parties that took place near the Rose Bowl.

One of the parties was "The Nebraska Bad Bash." The party consisted predominantly of people from Kearney who now live in California. Organizer Pam Ball of Burbank, Calif., said the members had one goal in mind.

"We are here to party!" she said. Lori Clements, who was also at the "Bad Bash," said the party was like a big family reunion of Nebraskans.

"People in California love us because we're good," she said.



Clockwise from left: Doug Metz of Long Beach, Calif., and Pam Ball of Burbank drop their pants at a pre-game tailgate party; Nebraska's Terry Rodgers goes airborne in the first half against the Bruins; UCLA coach Terry Donahue celebrates his 100th victory as Bruin coach.

Photos by Butch Ireland Layout by Steve Sipple

