

Tempe will be unhappy again

About this time last year, a lot of Arizona State football fans felt pretty cheated.

Mass Tribune sports columnist Jim Achenbach sure did.

After Nebraska's 35-28 win against the Sun Devils in Tempe, Ariz., Achenbach wrote a column for the Sunday morning edition entitled "Sun Devils defeat Cornhuskers' unbeatable magic."



The article's main point was that Arizona State was a much better team than Nebraska and that the Sun Devils should have won the game.

"In football," Achenbach wrote, "as well as in life, performance wins and rumor walks. The Cornhuskers were overrated and the Sun Devils were underrated."

"ASU should have won this game."

Achenbach claimed that had Arizona State quarterback Daniel Fells had thrown a couple timely interceptions — like on the Sun Devils' final, threatening drive — Nebraska's undefeated season would have ended at Sun Devil Stadium.

He forgot to mention that the game was played on the Sun Devils' home turf, which had a surface temperature of 130 degrees last afternoon. Achenbach also forgot to mention that the 70,000-plus Arizona State fans were screaming for Big Red.

Achenbach also forgot that interceptions aren't thrown, they're made. Nebraska's defense had a lot to do with Arizona's defeat, probably that day.

But Achenbach did make some good points in his column. Like the fact that Big Eight teams have never found a pass defense.

"Nebraska showed once again that the Big Eight Conference doesn't understand the art of pass defense," his column included. "Nebraska is a quick and potent offensive team that can't play pass defense. ASU should have won this one."

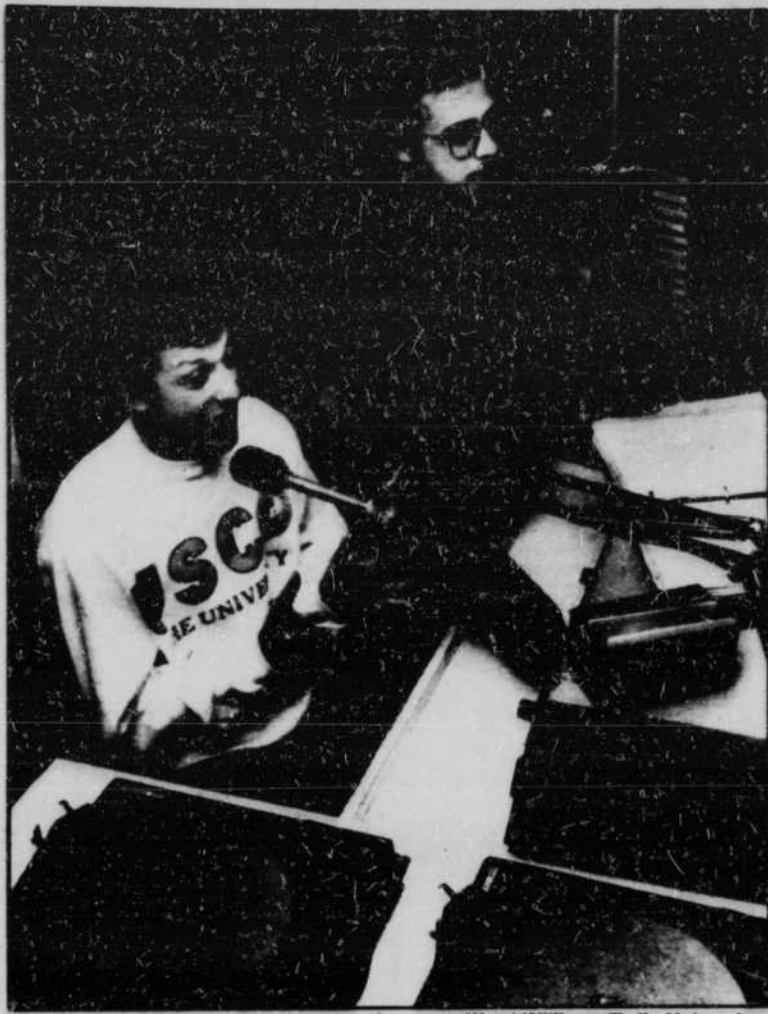
True, but irrelevant. Achenbach's warning was undoubtedly quieted when the Sun Devils lost three more games after the Nebraska loss.

Achenbach's column of a year ago gave little credit to Arizona State's defense. He seemed to ignore the fact that the Sun Devils never led in the game and that they could win the game.

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Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Tim Washburn left, and Troy Williams prepare for their radio-show 'Two-Minute Warning.' 'We want the whole thing to be spontaneous . . . like a one-on-one conversation,' Washburn said.

Washburn's having some fun interviewing jocks one-on-one

By Mike Reilly
Senior Editor

Tim Washburn admits he has never been an overpowering one-on-one basketball player.

But it's a whole different story when he's doing one-on-one interviews.

Washburn, a junior broadcasting major from Ashland, plays his favorite game of one-on-one every Tuesday night on "Two-Minute Warning," a radio sports talk show.

The hour-long program premiered this week on KRNU (90.3 FM).

It starts at 10 p.m., and is aired during KRNU's specialty program-

ing hours.

Washburn spends the first 50 minutes of his show doing one-on-one interviews with Nebraska athletes and sports personalities. He encourages listeners to call in with questions during the interviews. He was asked four questions, including one from his aunt, on Tuesday night.

Washburn closes each show with a 10-minute sports commentary with producer Troy Williams, also a junior broadcasting major.

"We have some great opportunities with this," Williams said. "We don't write a script. We want the

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Sun Devils hope experience will melt Husker strength

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Arizona State coach Larry Marmie hopes the Sun Devils have enough of one thing necessary to defeat a team as strong as Nebraska.

Experience. The Sun Devils have 13 starters returning from last year's 7-4-1 team, and that could benefit Arizona State in Saturday's game.

"We have some carry over of players," Marmie said during his weekly press luncheon. "It's not like we're jumping into something this program has never done before. We have a measuring stick and hopefully the experience will be a big factor for us."

Arizona State comes into the game with a 2-0 record after posting victories over Illinois and Colorado State. Marmie said the team is exactly where he expected them to be at this point in the season.

"We're 2-0 and that's what our coaching staff was hoping we'd be going into the Nebraska game, undefeated with some momentum," Marmie said. "We need to play hard each week regardless of who we play in order for us to win. With Nebraska, we have to step it up a notch on both sides of the ball."

Last year, the Cornhuskers left Tempe, Ariz., with a 35-28 win over the Sun Devils. Marmie, in his first year as coach after succeeding John Cooper, said last year's game will aid his team.

"In some instances last year, we felt we were in the right defense and (Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor) made exceptional plays," he said. "We played well enough to win, but we just didn't stop them when we had to."

Taylor rushed for 122 yards and passed for another 69 yards to lead Nebraska against the Sun Devils.

But Marmie said Arizona State has an explosive quarterback of its own in Daniel Ford.

Ford started 10 games for the Sun Devils last season and completed 128 of 257 passes for 1,756 yards. Ford, a 6-foot-2 senior from Tulsa, Okla., threw for 272 yards against Air Force in the Freedom Bowl.

Against Nebraska, Ford completed 15 of 34 passes for 200 yards, including a 2-yard, 3rd-quarter touch-

down strike to split end Chris Garrett. But Ford also threw three interceptions against the Huskers.

So far this season, Ford has completed 32 of 49 passes for 386 yards and three touchdowns. He's averaging 12.1 yards per completion and 193 yards per game.

Ford, who threw for more than 3,200 yards in high school, went to Minnesota in 1984, where he played in eight games for the Gophers. He transferred to Arizona State in 1985. After a redshirt season, he was the Sun Devils' back-up in 1986, when Arizona State was the Pacific Ten Conference champions.



At tailback, a pair of sophomores lead the Sun Devils rushing attack.

David Winsley, a 5-5 junior, has rushed for a team-leading 54 yards in Arizona State's first two games. He's averaging 8.6 yards per play of total offense, and has scored one touchdown.

Last year, Winsley gained 232 yards and averaged 4.6 yards per carry.

Vic Cahoon is listed ahead of Winsley on the depth chart going into the game against Nebraska.

Cahoon has rushed 27 times for 84 yards this season. But Cahoon is averaging 72.5 yards of total offense a game for the Sun Devils.

On defense, the Sun Devils return only one starter on the line. Saute Sapolu, a defensive end, is back after tallying 36 tackles last season. He's recorded two tackles so far this season.

The linebackers are inexperienced, but sophomore Drew Metcalf and junior Mark Tingstad lead the team in tackles with 27 and 23, respectively.

In the secondary, devil back Nathan LaDuke was named The Sporting News 1987 Freshman Defensive Back of the Year. LaDuke has recorded 12 tackles this season and also intercepted a pass.

Griffin changes his attitude during football game days

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

A split personality overtakes Nebraska defensive tackle Willie Griffin each time he takes the football field.

Griffin scraps his friendly, outgoing attitude and becomes a very intense, competitive person each time a game begins. He said he prepares for his "360-degree mood change" by psyching himself up mentally several hours before game time.

"I try to be pretty intense," Griffin said. "When I'm out on the field, there's no laughing and giggling."

Griffin said he has been an outgoing person ever since his childhood. He said the only times he switches into his intense moods are when he is playing or when he is watching a football game on television and sees a hard hit.

"Otherwise, I'm pretty mellow," Griffin said.

Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said Griffin's attitude makes the 6-foot-3, 285-pound senior a "pleasure to coach." He said Griffin is a "care-free guy."

"He's fun to be around," McBride said. "He's not a moody person — you can joke with him."

McBride said Griffin's easy-going attitude and his willingness to learn helped him make the transition from tight end to defensive tackle to middle guard and then back to defensive tackle.

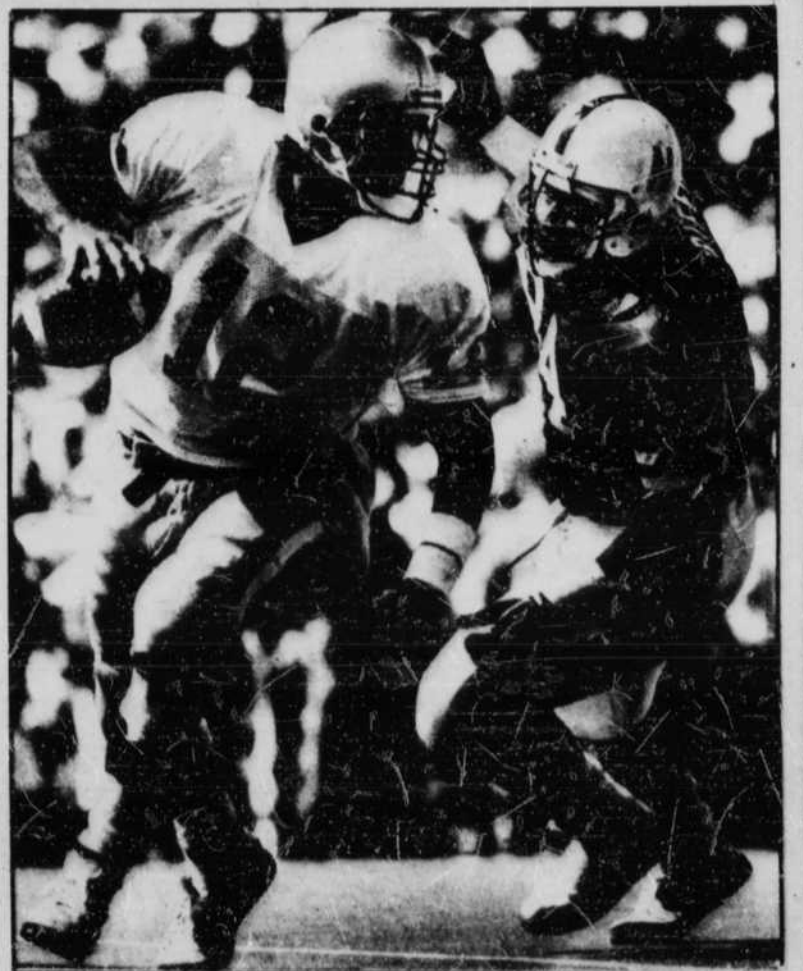
Griffin played tight end during his first season at Nebraska in 1984, but switched to defensive tackle in the spring of 1987. He moved to middle guard during the fall of that same year and then switched back to defensive tackle last spring.

McBride said weight problems forced Griffin to play three different positions in five years. He said Nebraska coaches planned to leave Griffin at the tight end position, but were forced to move him when he outgrew it.

"Willie always has had a weight problem," McBride said. "When he outgrew the tight end spot our feeling was he could contribute on defense. To this point, he has been our most productive lineman."

McBride said Griffin's transition from tight end to defensive tackle were eased by his accomplishments in high school. Griffin was named the defensive lineman of the year by The Los Angeles Times and Pasadena Star-News following his senior season at

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Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska defensive tackle Willie Griffin pursues Utah State quarterback Brent Snyder during the Cornhuskers' 63-13 win against the Aggies in Memorial Stadium Sept. 3.