

Nee: Johnson to be NU's key leader

JOHNSONS from Page 7

third look. "Without me, he might not get that."

Eric said he appreciates his brother's help, and doesn't consider his brother's presence to be any type of disadvantage, even though people are constantly making comparisons.

Eric said Vinnie has been a great influence on his basketball career. He said Vinnie helped him as a youngster by steering him away from football and baseball and onto the basketball court.

"My first true love was football," Eric said, "but Vinnie kept telling me I should be playing basketball. So I did."

Eric said Vinnie also helped him following his senior season at Franklin Roosevelt High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., by aiding him in his college choice. He said he knew he had to follow in his brother's footsteps and attend Baylor even though he was being recruited by then-Ohio University basketball coach Danny Nee.

Eric left Baylor following his sophomore season because "things didn't go to well." He said he transferred to Nebraska because the Cornhuskers had just hired Nee to replace former Coach Moe Iba.

"I knew what type of person Coach Nee was, so I knew this was the best place for me," Eric said. "I liked Coach Nee because he recruited me

out of high school and because he stresses academics and athletics."

Eric said his first year at Nebraska two seasons ago wasn't difficult even though he was forced to spend it as a redshirt. He said he took part of the credit for the Huskers' 21-12 season and subsequent 3rd-place finish in the National Invitation Tournament because he was on the scout team.

Eric said he is also confident that he can improve this season. He finished the 1987-88 campaign as Nebraska's fifth-leading scorer with an 8.8 points-per-game average while leading the team with 112 assists and 60 steals. He also averaged 3.5 rebounds per game.

Eric said he would like to score more points this season. He said he needs to increase his points-per-game average because Nebraska lost guard Henry T. Buchanan and forwards Derrick Vick and Jeff Rekeweg. All three used up their eligibility last season.

Eric said he does not want his scoring to come at the expense of the team.

"As long as we get a 'W' (a win), that's all I care about," he said. "If we win and I score five points, I'll be happy. If I score 20 and we lose, I won't be happy."

Vinnie and Nee said they are expecting good things from Eric this season.

Vinnie said he knows Eric will have a good year because of the confidence he displayed this summer.

"He's a lot more confident now than he was in the past," Vinnie said. "He knows he can be consistent and successful."

Nee agreed. "I really feel Eric is going to be the key leader on this year's team," Nee said. "I think he is going to be the key at the point-guard spot."

'I think having a brother in the NBA will help him get a second or third look. Without me, he might not get that.'
—Vinnie Johnson

Eric said the hardest part about sitting out for a year was redeveloping his game timing. He said the quick timing in practice does not compare to the fast tempo and the crowds encountered in games.

Eric said last season was frustrating because Nebraska finished with a 13-18 record. The Huskers are confident that they can improve on that mark this season, he said.

"Let's put it that way," Eric said. "We definitely have more talent — it's just younger."

Rule upsets Coach Nee

WINDOWS from Page 7

ers.' That's a real positive thing that we have to hang our hats on."

Although Nebraska fans probably won't shift their focus off football, Nee said, he at least wants the average fan to be aware of the Huskers' basketball program.

But he said he wants Nebraska to

join the elite schools that have good football and basketball teams.

"There used to be this theory that you can't have both a good football and basketball team at the same school," Nee said. "But that's gone with the buffalo. Look at Oklahoma and Notre Dame. There are so many schools that have great football and basketball teams."

Last game stirs memories

THOMAS from Page 7

utes later he fumbled, and Nebraska stumbled 17-7.

Ordinary happenings deserve mention, too.

College football in Lincoln was more than a final score. It was drinking watered-down Seven-Up and clapping to Hail Varsity.

It was inhaling mustard-laced stadium steaks, religiously wearing school colors and listening to the P.A. man's every word when he gave the day's scores.

Nope. There was nothing like it. Can't say I'm ashamed that Saturday's swan song means a good deal to me.

Sometime around 4:45 p.m. Saturday, the hitting will have subsided and the sun will have ducked beneath

the West stands, hinting the darkness.

And the air will have turned chilly, officially signaling the beginning of Oklahoma week.

Rather than darting for the exit, it'll be a time to savor the clock's last tick; a time to peek pockets for the final ticket stub; time to remember games and plays that have gone before.

And then, after soaking it up like a thirsty sponge, there'll be no choice but to take that walk down the concrete ramps, out of the stadium.

Chances are that walk will seem empty and long. That's unfitting. Because football Saturdays in Lincoln were anything but empty.

And never were they too long.

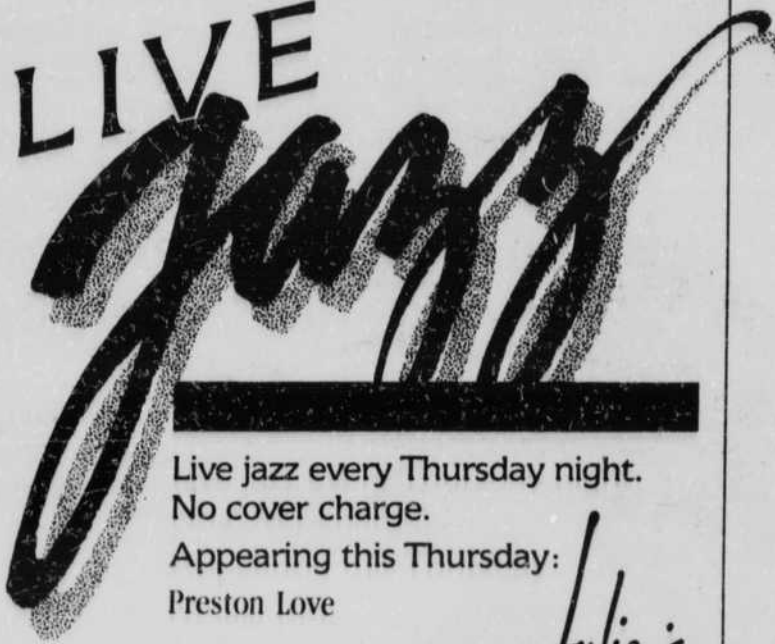
Thomas is a news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.

Pizza and pasta. Burgers and burritos. Appetizers that tease your taste and desserts that melt in your mouth. Downtown is cookin' for you.

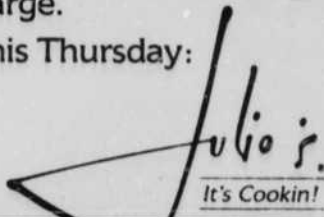
LOOK WHAT DOWNTOWN IS UP TO. 60 RESTAURANTS...BRING YOUR APPETITE.

THURSDAY NIGHT!

LIVE



Live jazz every Thursday night. No cover charge. Appearing this Thursday: Preston Love



GREAT GOURMET BURGERS & TEX MEX FOOD

Free Parking After 5 at State Federal Securities

132 S. 13th 477-5122

Watch for Kinko's election coverage on NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN

One Campaign That Never Ends.

Quality Copies For All

kinko's the copy center

1229 "R" Open 24 Hours 475-2679

48th & Vine Open 24 Hours 466-8159

Exercise Your Freedom of Choice

100 FREE Copies

or

2 1/2¢ Copies

8 1/2 x 11, white 20# auto-lead

8 1/2 x 11, white 20# auto-lead

Entire coupon must be presented for redemption at participating locations. Only one offer will apply. One coupon per visit. Not valid with any other offer. Expires November 13, 1988.



Astros Copy Center

Open weekdays 7:00 am to 1:00 am

Monday through Thursday from 10pm-1am

All Self-Service Copies

2¢ COPIES

Astro's copy center best copies in the universe.

16th & W - In The Reunion - 477-9011