

## Tampa Bay picks Thomas in first round

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Nebraska outside linebackers coach Tony Samuel was not surprised when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers selected former Cornhusker All-American Broderick Thomas Sunday in the first round of the National Football League draft.

Samuel said he thought either Kansas City, Tampa Bay or Pittsburgh would select Thomas in the draft's opening round. While Kansas City selected former Alabama outside linebacker Derrick Thomas and Pittsburgh chose former



Thomas

Georgia running back Tim Worley, Tampa Bay used its sixth selection to nab Broderick Thomas.

"I'm definitely glad to see him get drafted early," Samuel said. "It's well deserved."

Thomas was the third defensive player selected in the draft. The first was Derrick Thomas, who was the fourth selection overall. The Atlanta Falcons selected former Florida State cornerback Deion Sanders with the fifth pick.

The first player selected was former UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman, who was chosen by the Dallas Cowboys. The Green Bay Packers then selected former Michigan State offensive tackle Tony Mandarich. The Detroit Lions followed by selecting former Oklahoma State tailback Barry Sanders.

Samuel said Thomas' natural ability made him an attractive NFL prospect.

He said Thomas is the best player he has coached during his 10-year career.

"He's the best player I've been around," Samuel said. "Broderick is an impact player. That's the bottom line."

In addition to Thomas, the list of players that Samuel has coached includes Garin Veris, a former Stanford defensive end who now plays for the NFL's New England Patriots.

Samuel said the biggest adjustment Thomas will have to make is learning how to compete against a multitude of players that possess high skill levels. He said that although Thomas faced good players throughout his college career, he did not consistently face the quality of competition he'll play against in the NFL.

"He will be having to adjust his ability so he can learn more tricks of the trade," Samuel said. "But his

youth, his aggressiveness and his desire to make plays is going to take him a long way."

Samuel said Thomas will have an advantage because Tampa Bay runs several defensive schemes similar to those used by the Huskers. He said Thomas' refusal to accept losing will also be an asset.

Tampa Bay finished with a 5-11 record last season under former Alabama coach Ray Perkins. The Buccaneers are led by quarterback Vinny Testaverde and wide receiver Kevin House.

Tampa Bay's roster also includes Jeff Smith, a former Nebraska I-back who spent last season in a reserve role.

Samuel said the only area where the 6-foot-4, 260-pound Thomas may need to improve is his strength. He said the rest of Thomas' attributes make him an ideal NFL prospect.

Thomas finished his Nebraska career ranked eighth on the Husker's career tackle chart with 242 stops. He was the runner-up to Derrick Thomas for this year's Butkus Award, which is presented annually to the nation's best collegiate linebacker. He was one of four finalists for the Lombardi award, which is given annually to the nation's best lineman. That award was won by Auburn defensive tackle Tracy Rucker.

Thomas also earned All-America status following his junior and senior seasons, and was a three-time All-Big Eight selection. He led Nebraska in total tackles, unassisted and assisted tackles, tackles for loss and sacks last season.

Samuel said Thomas has a bright future in the NFL.

"He will have to make an adjustment," Samuel said, "but he's got all the tools."



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Bryan Yueill of Sigma Alpha Mu lands a left jab on Jake McHugh, who is from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

## Fists fly at Sigma Chi's Fight Night

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Two opposing forces clashed when the Sigma Chi All-Greek Fight Night was staged on Friday night.

Craig Dirrim, a member of UNL's Sigma Chi fraternity and the event's co-chairman, said the competition included well-trained boxers who possessed a high skill level and some boxers who were "out to swing." He said that contrast created an interesting competition because it matched the two styles against each other.

Dirrim said it appeared that most of the boxers at this year's 12th annual competition were well-trained. He said this training prompted a number of exciting

bouts for a near-capacity crowd of approximately 2,300 that jammed the 4-H Hall on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds.

"We had some real good fights," Dirrim said. "We were real pleased."

Dirrim said the crowd did not present any problems even though only a few seats were left unfilled. He said the 4-H Hall's coliseum-style seating, which allowed all the fans to view the action because it is built on a vertical incline, prevented security problems.

Dirrim said the All-Greek Fight Night used to encounter security problems when it was staged in Agricultural Hall. He said the main disadvantage of Agricultural Hall was that all the seating was on folding chairs which were ar-

ranged on a flat surface. That created problems because fans had difficulty seeing the action, he said.

But no problems were reported this year, Dirrim said.

"This is the most well-behaved crowd we've ever had," he said.

Dirrim said preparations for next year's All-Greek Fight Night will begin as soon as a new chairman is selected. He said the chairman will be in charge of obtaining insurance, lining up sponsors and reserving a site.

"It's a lot of work," Dirrim said.

The results:  
● Gary McMickle, Chi Phi, over Eric Hauserman, Nebraska

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## Draft initially skips Knox, expects to be tapped today

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

An abundance of talent and a lack of playing time kept former Nebraska running back Tyreese Knox from being drafted in the first three rounds of the National Football League draft.

Knox said Sunday that it didn't surprise him that he wasn't selected among the draft's first 84 players because this year's crop of prospective professionals possesses an abundance of talent. He said a lack of playing time also prevented him from being selected.

Knox, who began his Nebraska career as a highly touted running back from Daly City, Calif., spent the majority of his five-year Cornhusker career in a reserve role. He said there are advantages and disadvantages to being a reserve.

"The scouts know you're not banged up," Knox said, "but they might not know how good you are because they haven't seen you play enough."

Knox said he is confident he will be one of the 252 players selected today, when the draft's final nine rounds are staged. He said he is looking forward to the final portion of the draft because he has a realistic chance of being selected.

"I'm confident I will get picked up by somebody," Knox said. "I know I could help somebody out."

A multitude of former Nebraska players will also be looking forward to today's selections, as they will be waiting to see if and when they are drafted.

The former Nebraska players who will join Knox as draft candidates include wingback Dana Brinson, linebacker LeRoy Etienne, tight end

Todd Millikan, offensive lineman Bob Sledge, outside linebacker Jon Marco, defensive tackle Willie Griffin, middle guard Lawrence Pete and defensive backs Tim Jackson, Lorenzo Hicks and Charles Fryar.

Knox said he was surprised that only one Nebraska player was selected on Sunday. The lone Husker taken was All-America selection Broderick Thomas, who was selected by Tampa Bay in the first round.

Thomas was the sixth player selected in the draft. The first was former UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman, who was taken by the Dallas Cowboys.

Knox said he thought Etienne and Brinson would be drafted on Sunday. Etienne was projected as a fourth-to-seventh round pick, while Brinson was projected to be taken in the third-to-fifth round.

"We only had one player drafted, and that one was expected," Knox said. "It's kind of a surprise because it's a situation where everybody has high expectations."

Knox said he felt anxious as he watched Sunday's portion of the draft on ESPN. He said the anxiety built as his telephone rang almost non stop.

Knox said the anxiety and the constant ringing of his phone caused this year's draft to be different than any he had watched before.

"It was really different," Knox said. "My phone rang a thousand times and it was never the person I wanted it to be. I was kind of nervous."

Knox said he will not be devastated if he is not selected in today's portion of the draft.

"If it wasn't meant to be, life goes on," he said. "I'd still have a chance, so I really couldn't sit around and dwell on it."

## Missouri coach wants to swap schedules

By Nick Hodge  
Senior Reporter

New Missouri football coach Bob Stull said he would like to trade schedules with Nebraska.



Miami and Arizona State before opening Big Eight play against Colorado and Nebraska.

"I think that next year we have one of the toughest schedules in the country," said Stull, who coached at Texas-El Paso last year. "Indiana's coming off a great year. Miami has to be considered one of the top two teams, if not the best team in the country."

"Arizona State will be good. And, of course, Colorado and Nebraska are both fine teams."

Nebraska opens its 1989-90 season against Northern Illinois. The Cornhuskers will then face Utah, Minnesota, Oregon State and Kansas State before traveling to Columbia, Mo., to play Missouri.

Stull said he hopes the Tigers took advantage of their 20 days of spring practice because Missouri will have to be ready next fall.

"Our first six games are pretty stout," Stull said. "Five of them are potential bowl people."

Stull, who guided UTEP to a 10-3 record last season, said the Tigers can't worry about who they play.

"I would choose some other teams to play if I could, but we have to play with it," Stull said. "We play Miami to get ready for Nebraska, while Nebraska plays Utah. I'd much rather have their schedule."

Stull said he likes what he has seen so far. The Tigers concluded their spring workouts Saturday with an intrasquad game.

Stull said the usual early confusion between players and coaches concerning new terminology and philosophies has lingered through Tiger practices. But he said he has been encouraged by the progress Missouri has shown.

"We have identified who our top 44 players will be, but there's still competition going on for the first team," Stull said. "We needed to grasp as much as possible in 20 practices and I think we have, both offensively and defensively."

With 15 returning starters, Stull said he feels optimistic about his team's chances when practices resume in August. He said that because Missouri was a run-oriented team last year, the Tigers are short on wide receivers and drop-back quarterbacks.

Senior running backs Smiley Elmore and Tommie Stowers both started last year and are leading contenders to head the Tigers' ground game this season, Stull said.

Based on performances last year and this spring, Stull said, the defense has the edge over the offense as Missouri's strength.

"We look real strong in the defensive line," Stull said. "With (defensive tackles) Kevin White and Lee Johnson and (nose guard) Chris Russell, we look strong at down linemen. Those guys are real solid players. (Cornerback) Adrian Jones is an excellent player, too."

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