

## Player gets high marks on field, in class

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska center Jake Young earns high marks on the football field, and carries them over to the classroom.

Young, an All-America selection who has a 3.38 grade point average in finance, said there is more to life than football. He said although he places football high on his list of priorities, grades are more important.

"That's the main reason you come to school," Young said, "academics and then football."



Young

Young said he likes to excel in the classroom. He said the stereotype of huge, moronic football players isn't a valid one.

Young cited former Husker safety Mark Blazek, who won the National Football Foundation/Hall of Fame post-graduate scholarship as a senior last season. He also cited quarterback Gerry Gdowski, who has a 3.7 grade point average in business administration.

"Most everybody does well in the classroom," Young said. "Being an athlete, you have to keep at least a 2.0 to play, so there's more pressure to do well."

Young's accomplishments don't end in the classroom. He could become the third center to play for Coach Tom Osborne to be a two-time

All-America selection, and is a legitimate candidate for the Lombardi award, which is presented annually to college football's best lineman.

Young said he isn't worried about individual honors.

"I just want the team to win the Big Eight," he said.

Young, who was recruited by the Huskers as an all-state offensive guard from Midland, Texas, has overcome obstacles en route to becoming one of the finest linemen in school history.

Less than a week after arriving on campus, he began practicing with the varsity. He saw playing time as a reserve guard during his first year and was the first true freshman offensive lineman to earn a letter since freshman eligibility was restored in 1972.

Young moved from guard to center in the spring of his freshman year, and faced the first in a line of injuries. He broke his leg and was forced to sit out most of spring practice.

After recovering, Young returned and earned second-team All-Big Eight honors. He became the first true sophomore to start on the line since two-time All-America selection Rik Bonness in 1973.

Young's junior year, he suffered a knee strain three days before the Kickoff Classic against Texas A&M, but took over the starting role in the Huskers' third game against UCLA.

Last year, Young became the ninth Nebraska center to earn All-America honors.

Young said he enjoys his life in the trenches.

"You kind of roll with the punches," he said.

"You have to do your job, and everyone else has to do their job, if the team is going to be successful."

Success for the team is what Young wants, not individual accolades.

Once the season ends, he would like to play professional football if he is given the chance, he said.

If the National Football League doesn't come calling after graduation, Young said, he plans on going on to law school and using his degree in finance as a basis to center on corporate law.

"Whatever comes," Young said. "If I have the opportunity (to play pro football), it'd be great. If not, I'll just continue from there."

## Emotionally charged Buffs to spoil Nebraska fans' fun

Nebraska's 1990 Orange Bowl hopes may have ended Saturday, Sept. 24. They may even have been out the window before that.

Late that night, after the Cornhuskers had disposed of Minnesota 48-0 in Minneapolis, former Colorado quarterback Sal Aunese died.



Chuck Green

His death was far from unexpected. Aunese was diagnosed last spring as having stomach cancer, which later spread to one of his lungs. He lived several months past what doctors originally had predicted.

Aunese's bout with cancer offered a lesson everyone can ponder. The 21-year-old was healthy, motivated and full of life. He was an All-America selection in high school and later earned honorable mention All-Big Eight honors as a sophomore quarterback for the Buffaloes.

The lesson is an obvious one: Cancer can strike anyone at any time.

But Aunese showed that motivation, determination and a little hope can extend lives.

In the world of college football, it also can win national championships.

Colorado, which is ranked No. 3 in the Associated Press poll this week, has 17 starters back this season from last year's team, which lost to Nebraska and Oklahoma by a total of 10 points. The Buffaloes are coached by Bill McCartney, the Big Eight miracle worker of the 1980s. He has done for Colorado's program what Bob Devaney did for Nebraska's in the early 1960s.

At this point, Colorado very well may be the best college team in the country. No lie.

Aunese's death, as unfortunate as it was, could be the one last boost Colorado needs for the "big time."

Two weeks ago, before the Washington game, Colorado's 60-man travel squad gathered at the middle of the field before kickoff. As more than 69,000 fans looked on, the Buffs knelt at the center of the field, bowed their heads and pointed their index fingers into the overcast sky, paying tribute to their fallen teammate.

See GREEN on 8

## Team attempts to maintain momentum built this year

Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team has reached a critical stage in its season.

Nebraska assistant coach John Cook said the next two weeks are important toward maintaining the momentum that the Cornhuskers have built in their first 12 matches.

Nebraska, which is unbeaten and ranked fifth in both national polls, plays five matches in the next two weeks. The Huskers will face Kansas, Colorado, Hawaii and Iowa State. Nebraska will play top-ranked Hawaii in a pair of single matches Oct. 20 and 21 at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska plays Big Eight foe Kansas tonight at 7 p.m. in Lawrence, Kan.

Cook said Nebraska should defeat Kansas.

"I think our feeling right now is if we just take care of our side of the net, we'll be fine," he said. "I think our preparations will be more for our team."

Nebraska has won all 40 matches against the Jayhawks, who finished last season with a 5-24 record.

Cook said Nebraska's practices have been focused on eliminating service errors and on the Huskers' defensive ball control. Nebraska has committed 158 serving errors this season.

Cook said Nebraska also is working on cutting back its receiving errors. The Huskers have had 69 receiving errors this year.

"We're trying to get our serve-receiving patterns worked out and sometimes when you start working on something you first take a step back instead of a step forward," he said.

Nebraska, which only has been stretched to a fifth game twice this season, is hitting .312 and averaging 17.84 kills per match.

Freshman Eifteen Shannon leads the Huskers with 193 kills for a .318 hitting percentage. Janet Kruse has 192 kills, hitting .347. Cris Hall has 109 kills, hitting .223.

Setter Val Novak has 628 assists and leads the team in service aces with 31.

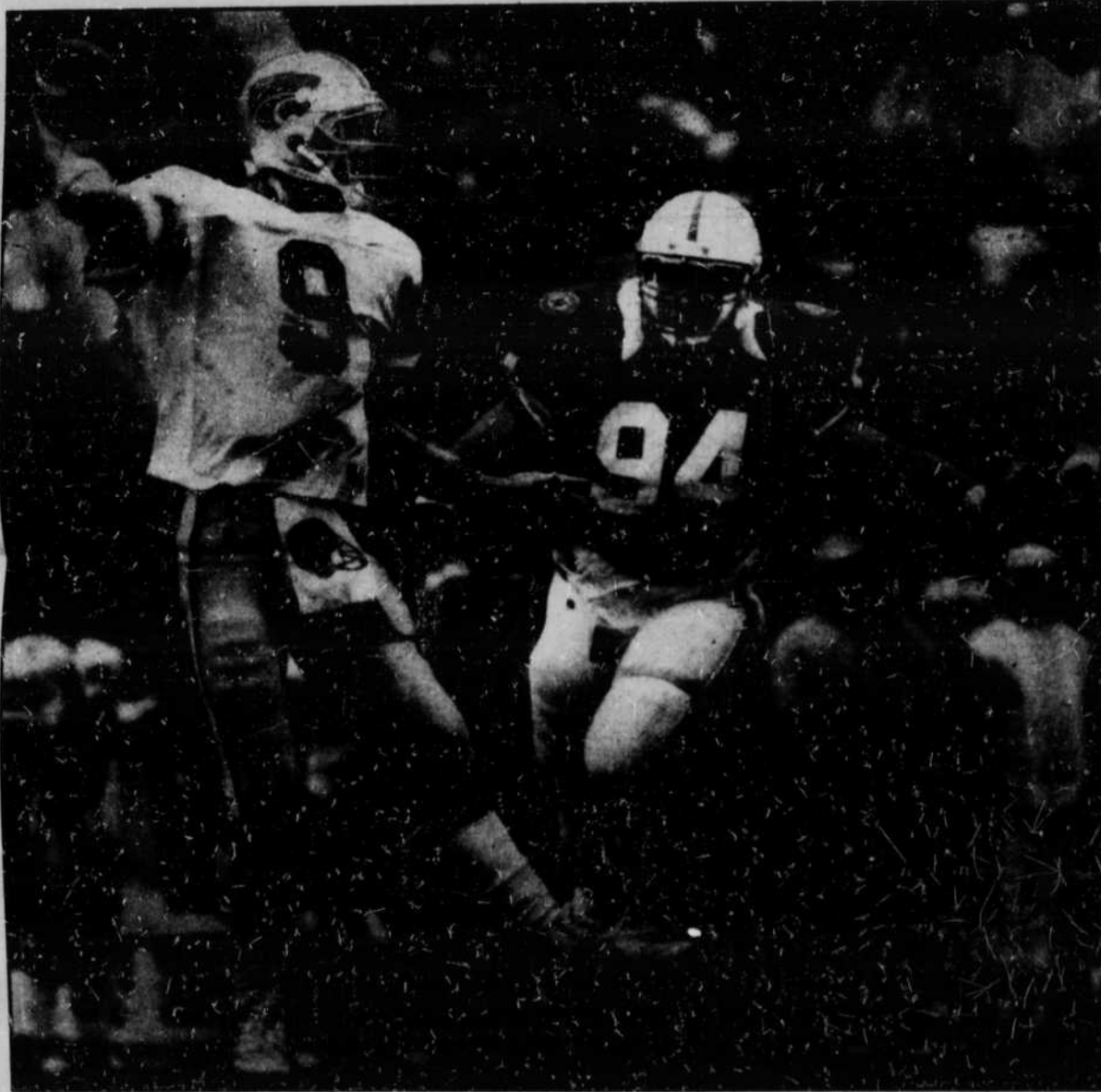
After Kansas, Nebraska will return home for a match Saturday with Colorado, and then have four days to prepare for Hawaii.

Nebraska beat Colorado earlier this season by scores of 15-13, 15-4 and 15-10. Colorado employs an offensive style that is patterned after the U.S. men's Olympic team.

Cook said the Lady Buffs gave Nebraska a few problems in the two teams' first meeting.

"We will not take Colorado

See JAYHAWKS on 8



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska defensive tackle Brian Brown prepares to crunch Kansas State quarterback Chris Cobb.

## Coach: NU is unbeaten, untested

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

After five games, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne still is having trouble assessing his football team.

The Cornhuskers, ranked No. 4 in The Associated Press poll this week, are undefeated but untested, he said.

"It's hard to say how good of a football team we are at this point, because we haven't faced a great football team yet," Osborne said at his weekly media luncheon. "We've played some teams that have been better than what we were giving them credit for being, but nobody we've faced is near top-20 caliber."

Because of Nebraska's non-conference schedule and its first Big Eight game, a 58-7 win against Kansas State last Saturday, Osborne said the Huskers are "still a bit in the potential stage."

Nebraska's statistics, which include a No. 2 national ranking in total rushing, behind Air Force, may or may not be indicative of Nebraska's talent this season, Osborne said.

"It's hard to compare our statis-

tics with other teams, because again, you have to look at the schedule," he said.

One weakness the Huskers must overcome, Osborne said, is the kicking game, particularly the kickoff return statistics.

"That's the big disparity between us and Colorado, and some of the better teams in the country," he said.

But defensively, he said, Nebraska is in "good shape," especially in the outside linebacker corps.

"We have one of the quicker teams we've ever had," Osborne said. "(Mike) Croel is playing great football, David White and Travis Hill are playing pretty well. We'll be in especially good shape if Jeff Mills comes back this weekend."

Mills suffered a lower back strain against Kansas State last weekend. Osborne said the duration of that type of injury is hard to predict, and that it could last for "two or three days, or two or three weeks."

"It's just a 'wait and see' type of deal," Osborne said.

Offensively, Osborne said, the line "has more punch" this season

than last year, and other players have played well.

"Bryan Carpenter is playing as well as any fullback we've had in years," he said, "and Jon Bostick has given us a shot in the arm at split end."

Nebraska's injury situation is improving, Osborne said. Wingback Nate Turner and center Jake Young were expected to practice Tuesday, he said, and I-back Ken Clark, who has been slowed by a strained knee "is healthier than he's been all year."

Notes:  
● Osborne said the Big Eight Conference teams seem to be at a stronger level this season than in years past. But, he said, the surge in talent is "no different than any other league" in the country.

"I can't think of any conference that is strong from top to bottom," he said. "But at the end of the year, the Big Eight could theoretically have three teams in the top 10, or close to

See OSBORNE on 7