

NU's young receiving group is solid, talented, coach says

By Matt Herek
Staff Reporter

Nebraska receivers coach Ron Brown said he thinks this year's receiving corps is sound.

The 1990 group is "very talented and young," Brown said.

"When you look at the group as a whole, it's a talented group," he said.

The tight end position should be a strong point on the offensive line, both in receiving and blocking.

Last season, Brown, who is in his fourth year at Nebraska, said tight end Monte Kratzstein was the pure receiver at that position. This year, William Washington, who earned second-team All-Big Eight honors from United Press International last year without catching a pass, will alternate at the position with Chris Garrett.

Washington is an excellent run blocker, but this season, Brown said, he expects Washington to be "more well-rounded" and to catch more passes.

Garrett, the other half of this year's tight end duo, caught five passes for 96 yards last year, four of them for touchdowns.

Brown said the two will be used interchangeably "as the team needs them."

The split end position will be occupied by last year's touchdown reception leader, Jon Bostick, a junior who came off a redshirt year four games into the 1989 season.

Brown said he expects Bostick to play well along with his backup, junior Mark Dowse.

Dowse has been a "pleasant surprise," Brown said, since he moved from wingback to split end in the spring.

"He (Dowse) and Jon make a good pair," Brown said.

With the projected junior starting wingback Nate Turner probably out for three games with a broken collar-

bone, Brown said sophomore Tyrone Hughes will assume the No. 1 spot on the depth chart.

Hughes and Turner are different kinds of players, Brown said.

Turner is bigger and leans more toward blocking, while Hughes is more of a finesse player who is a strong receiver, Brown said.

Brown said Hughes and senior Brad Devall will split at wingback until Turner returns.

Wingback eyes bigger role

From Staff Reports

Tyrone Hughes said he did not feel any more pressure at wingback after teammate Nate Turner was sidelined for at least the first three games.

Things are basically the same, Hughes said, except that the depth chart had changed.

The Cornhusker football team will run the same offense while Turner, who was No. 1 on the depth chart, is on the disabled list with the broken collarbone he suffered the second day of practice, Hughes said.

The only thing Hughes said he was uncertain about is his blocking ability.

Hughes said Turner had a better blocking physique. Turner, a jun-

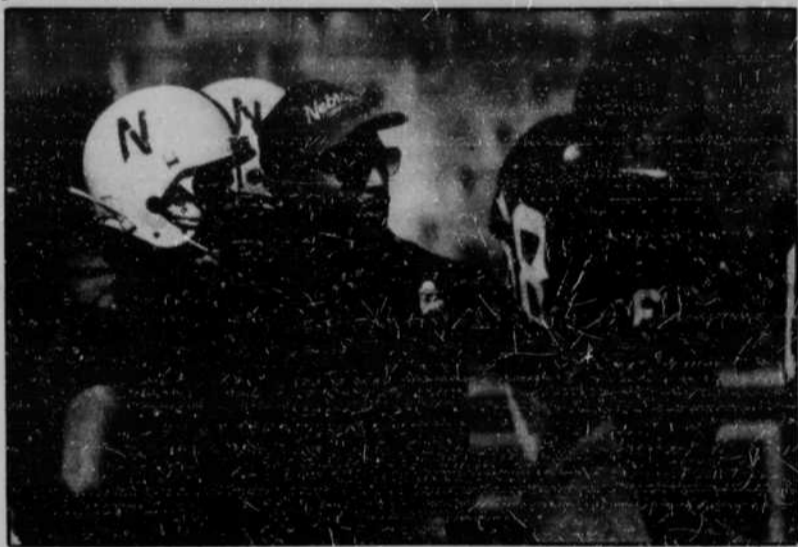
ior, is 6-foot-2 and 225 pounds, while Hughes is 5-9 and said he weighs about 168 pounds.

He said his weight was a problem and that he would like to get back up to 175 pounds, at which he is listed on the roster. He said he was doing the best he could to get back to "blocking" weight.

The sophomore from New Orleans said he is comfortable with the other responsibilities of the position.

Hughes said he would like to lead the Big Eight in punt returns for the second year in a row. In 1989, he averaged 15.3 yards a return. He also averaged 19.8 yards on kickoff returns.

He caught five passes for 72 yards last season, two of them for touchdowns.



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Receivers coach Ron Brown directs players during practice.

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