

Cornerbacks looking for more field action

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

They're not clones, but Nebraska's top two cornerbacks on each side may be as close in ability and talent as the Cornhuskers have ever had.

"They have differences, but they're not radical," Nebraska secondary coach George Darlington said. "They're all aggressive and they will all tackle you."

Led by 1989 All-Big Eight left cornerback Bruce Pickens, the corners are hoping more passes will be thrown their way.

"I'd much rather play a passing team," Pickens said. "Against running teams, it gets kinda boring; you don't get too much action."

With Reggie Cooper in control of things from his strong safety position, junior right cornerback Tyrone Legette, who split time with senior Tahaun Lewis, said more action will come the cornerbacks way.

"He (Cooper) makes receivers think twice... but I don't mind," Legette said. "Let them come my way."

"The secondary is probably the most talented we've had, so we have some things to look forward to."

Legette and Lewis probably will again share playing time.

"It's definitely gonna make us better," Legette said. "He's been playing well and making it tough for me, but it's best for the both of us."

Does the competition for a starting position produce any conflicts?

"I don't think so," Darlington said. "You really need to have that depth with so many balls being thrown. There's ample opportunity for them to play."

Senior cornerback Jon Crippen, a backup to Pickens, hopes the same holds true on the left side. Crippen surpassed Pickens as the top cornerback early during spring workouts, but fractured a finger after the second week.

"That was kind of disappointing," he said. "For a while I was on a roll, but coach (Darlington) said he was really happy with my performance during the first two weeks."

Pickens said it was good to be pushed during the spring and the extra work on his technique paid off.

"That turned out pretty good," he said. "I've done everything I can to prepare for this year. Now I'm ready to have some fun."

Darlington said he already could see a difference in Pickens' technique.

"He's been doing really well," he said. "I expect him to accomplish some great things. He's been working harder on his technique. He has the skills to be as good a corner as we've had."

Regardless of Pickens' skills, Darlington said, teams probably will pick on him.

"It's kinda funny," Darlington said. "Last year, after the Missouri game, the coaches said they wanted to throw at him all the time."

"Normally, unless there is a serious weakness, teams aren't trying to go after an individual."

Pickens said teams can pick on anyone in the Husker secondary all they want.

"I don't know if we'll see more throwing or not," he said. "They'll find out that we've been working hard."

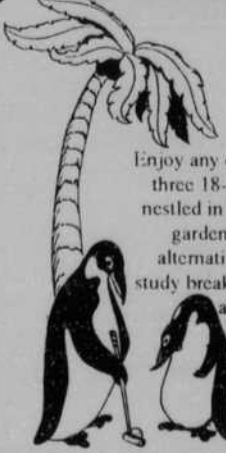
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From Staff Reports

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who ordered season football tickets can pick them up from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Aug. 31, at the South Stadium Ticket Office.

Students need to be registered full-time and will be verified with the Office of Registration and Records at the time of pickup. Students must bring their UNL student I.D.

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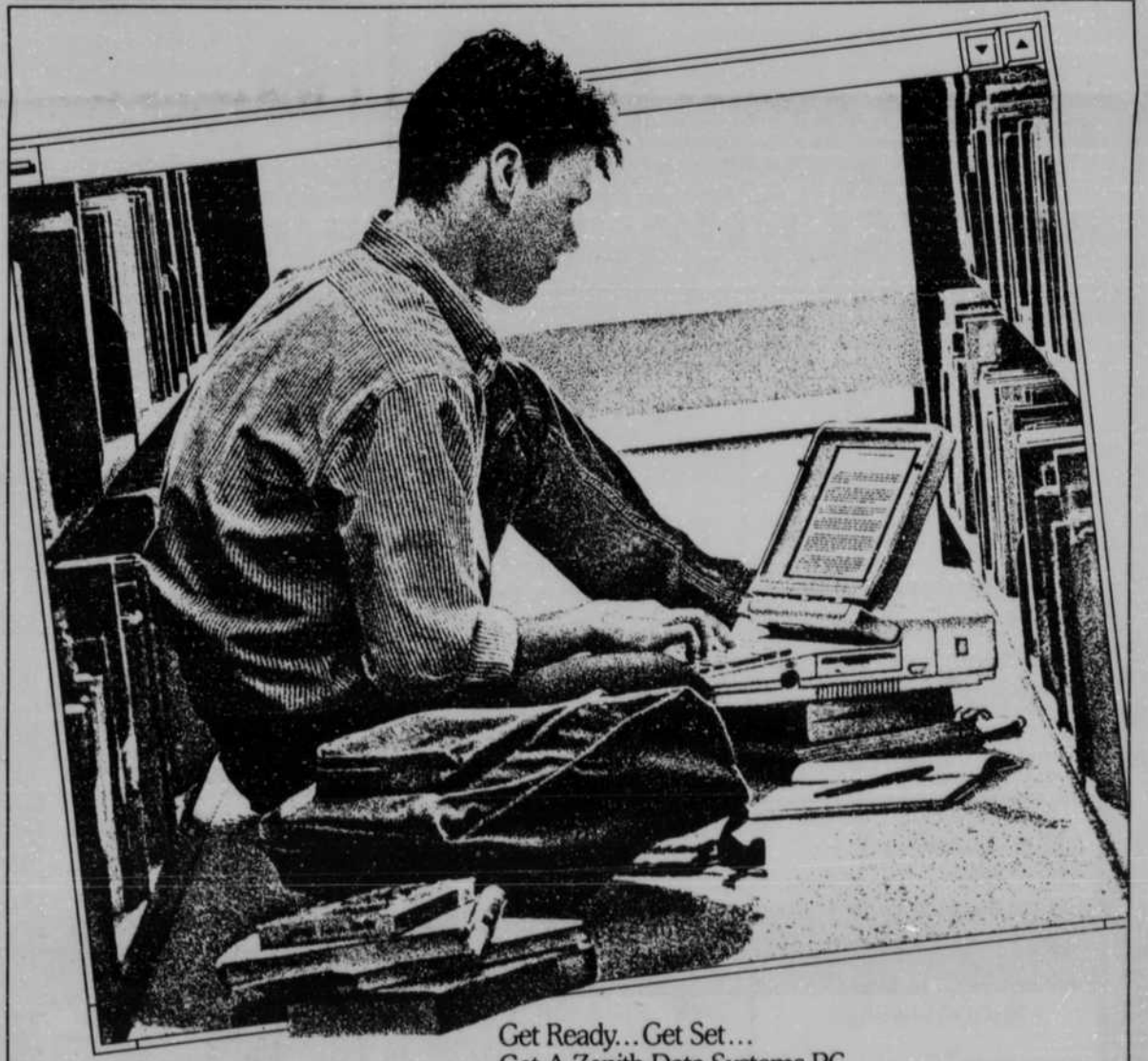
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