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*Husker tradition
will remain intact,
kick returners say*

By Erik Unger
Staff Reporter

Tyrone Hughes and Steve Carmer are working to continue a tradition within the tradition of Nebraska football -- the Cornhuskers' history of strong kick return teams.

"We have been stressing kick returns a lot more this year," redshirt sophomore Steve Carmer said. "It is an important part of the game that most people take for granted."

Sophomore Tyrone Hughes, the first-team punt returner for the Huskers, said it feels good to be following greats like Johnny Rodgers, Irving Fryar and Dana Brinson. He said he's sure of himself and the guys in front of him.

"You have to know a lot, but I'm confident enough to get the job done," Hughes said. "I have confidence in the special teams. We haven't lost many guys."

Last year Hughes won the Big Eight punt-return title and ranked No. 7 nationally, averaging 15.1 yards a return.

Carmer agreed that Nebraska's tradition of strong return units should continue.

"There is no reason the kick return team shouldn't be as good as it has in the past," Carmer said. "If everyone does their job and (the blocking wall) is set up right, anybody can run through it."

Carmer has been working with the first return team as a "personal protector," one of the deep backs in front of Hughes who return short kicks but whose main job is blocking.

He also is listed as the No. 2 free safety, but said he doesn't mind getting hit instead of doing the hitting.

"I have no fear of getting hit. I'm used to it," Carmer said. "I was a halfback in high school."

Hughes also carries double duty at wingback.

"My main job is running back kicks, but because of injuries (to first-team wingback Nate Turner) I'm doing more wingback."

Hughes is 5-foot-9 and weighs 175 pounds. Hughes ran a 4.57-second 40-yard dash last spring, the fifth-fastest time for the Huskers.

"My size bothers me in my blocking, but other than that not at all," he said. "I make up for it in quickness."

That's a lot like Brinson, another small and quick wingback/kick returner, who Hughes said is a good friend. But Hughes said Brinson told him not to try to copy his predecessors, even in such a traditionally strong spot.

PRACTICE roundup

Cross Country -- The team of 15 men and 13 women began workouts Wednesday with everyone in "fairly good shape," Coach Jay Dirksen said. ... Ivan van der Kolk's career at Nebraska is over. She returned to Holland for academic reasons. Her country would not recognize the type of business degree that she would have received from an American university. ... Dirksen said he is pleased with freshman-recruit David Iteffa from Fremont. The eighth-year coach said Iteffa could be the first freshman runner he's coached to make the top five. Another freshman, Theresa Stelling from Auburn has been running well for the women's team, he said. ... Junior Tom Banks from Elkhorn is slowed by an infected toe and redshirt freshman Todd Elwood from York has a sore arch.

JV Football -- Graduate assistant coach Turner Gill said scholarship recruits Todd Gragnano, quarterback, Donta Jones and Terry Connealy, linebackers, Calvin Jones, I-back, Sedric Collins, wingback and Ed Stewart, defensive back will redshirt. "We'll definitely miss them," Gill said. "Those guys were top-notch athletes. But the most important thing is that they develop. We'll be all right. We still have a lot of good talent. ... About the heat: "All the players are holding pretty well," Gill said. "We've been giving them breaks every 30 minutes. It's kind of rough on the offensive line. We're only one deep there."

Softball -- The team held its first practice Monday, running timed 40-yard dashes. Coach Ron Wolforth said the team does not look as speedy as last year. ... Wolforth said he hopes to sign two

pitchers by mid-semester. ... Amy Killman's knee rehabilitation is ahead of schedule, Wolforth said. But he said he will not push her, and expects her back by March. ... Khara Trenka is out after surgery to repair cartilage damage in her knee. She should be back in a week.

... The Thaller sisters, Angie and Rhonda, are no longer on the team. Rhonda got married and quit, while Angie transferred to Southeast Community College to pursue her interest in graphic design. ... The team picked up three walk-ons in Amy Trummer, Balinda Malik and Carrie Bice. Wolforth, who wants speed, urges any former track standouts with softball experience to tryout as a walk-on.

Volleyball -- The team practiced away from the sauna-like atmosphere of the NU Coliseum Monday, moving to a court in the campus recreation center. The Coliseum's floor is under repair to fix chips and splinters in the floor. ... Linda Barsness' knee is holding up well, assistant coach John Cook said, but Cris Hall, who has a bad back, is limited in activity. She may be kept out of hitting drills today. "We don't want to overuse her," Cook said. ... The team practiced better after a dismal scrimmage Saturday, both Cook and Coach Terry Pettit said. ... Both coaches said the trouble now is getting the team organized as a unit because there is so much talent and players are being shuffled to new positions. ... About starters: "Normally by now we know who our six starters are, but we got a lot of talent. We can play six to 10 players and not miss a beat."

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Fans storm field during game

Seoul, South Korea (AP) -- Hundreds of baseball fans stormed onto a field to protest their team's defeat Sunday night and hurled broken bottles, trash cans, rocks and burning chairs in a rampage that left nine people hospitalized.

The rampage began three hours into a game between two professional teams, the Haitai Tigers and the Lucky Group Twins. The Twins were leading 10-0 in the bottom of the seventh when the trouble started.

About 400 Tigers fans jumped over barricades surrounding the playing field and stampeded around the mound, witnesses said. Another 20,000 fans shouted and booed from their seats

Protesters hurled hundreds of broken bottles, metal trash cans, rocks and chairs which were set afire, witnesses and police said. The rampage lasted 50 minutes until police intervened.

One of the injured was hit in the abdomen by shards of glass and was hospitalized in serious condition, police said. Seven other spectators and one riot policeman also were hospitalized.

It was not clear what ignited the protest, but witnesses said supporters for the losing team felt they were being cheated.

The Twins went on to win the game 13-1.

Fullback ready for first game

By Benji Greenberg
Staff Reporter

Nebraska fullback Omar Soto will be in his third stage of football Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Soto who played prep football at Miami High School and junior college ball at Western Arizona, will be introduced to the major-college style of the game against Baylor.

Soto, who redshirted last season, rushed for nearly 600 yards in 1988, and he said he's ready for football at this level.

"I'm confident with the offensive system run here at Nebraska because it complemented our offense in junior college," he said. "And I feel comfortable and adjusted to it."

"I'm excited and anxious to start the 1990 season and I'm ready to contribute to the team," he said. "Division I football will be great experience for me and I'm sure I'll have some jitters before my first game."

Soto will need to recover from a hip injury he suffered in Friday's final scrimmage before Saturday's game. His hopes of playing remain high.

"I'll need some recovery time to see how it heals, but I won't hold myself out of the game unless it's necessary," he said.

Entering the final week of practice, Soto sits No. 2 on the depth chart behind redshirt sophomore Lance Lewis. Others battling for playing time at fullback include Tim Johnk, Andre McDuffy and junior college recruit Vince Hawkins.

Those five are vying to fill the vacancies left by 1989 seniors Bryan Carpenter and Sam Schmidt. Soto said he doesn't mind the competition.

"What the fullbacks lack in experience, they make up for in depth," Soto said.

He said he thinks Nebraska is ready for Baylor. The game originally was scheduled for Sept. 15, but was rescheduled to accommodate ESPN.

"We've been practicing hard every day and the whole team is dedicated to having a winning season and that starts Saturday night against Baylor," Soto said.

He said his performance was better during the summer.

"During the spring I put a lot of pressure on myself to do my best, but I found that didn't work," he said. "I want to play well for myself and for the team and I want to satisfy myself before the team because that's important."

"I want to go to the Orange Bowl so I can play in front of the home folks," he said.