

# Huskers, Rams have something to prove

Defense anxious to show what it can do

By Todd Cooper  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's defense wants to defend itself — against criticism, that is — Saturday against Colorado State.

"We're kind of anxious to get back on the field," strong safety Steve Carmer said. "We didn't play to our level last Saturday."

"We want to show people what we can do." The Cornhuskers will have to do that against a balanced Colorado State attack Saturday. Kickoff is at 1 p.m.

The Rams employ more than 40 offensive sets in their I-formation offense. The Rams will pass, but they'll run more than Utah State, Husker Coach Tom Osborne said.

"Overall, they've been moving the ball pretty successfully," Osborne said.

Colorado State, 1-1, averages 430 total yards per game, including 220 yards passing. They racked up 255 yards passing in a 31-26 loss to Air Force last week.

The Husker defense gave up 373 yards passing — the third highest passing output ever against Nebraska — in last week's 59-28 victory over Utah State. Utah State averaged 6.6

yards per play en route to its highest point production against Nebraska in the four-game series.

Carmer — who had his first career interception and two other pass breakups Saturday — said he wasn't making excuses for the defense.

"I credit (Utah State quarterback Ron) Lopez and the receivers for their performance," Carmer said. "With his three-step drops, the receivers were getting underneath the coverages."

"They just did what they needed to."

Carmer said the Utah State game will help the Husker defense in more than one way.

"(The Rams') quarterback is good," Carmer said. "He's tall just like Lopez, and he's good at spotting receivers."

Carmer said Colorado State has a couple of good receivers in Greg Primus and Mark Holmes, who have 155 and 141 total yards receiving, respectively.

"We're working on technique this week," Carmer said. "I think we relied too much on emotions Saturday."

"Technique will put you where you need to be."

Inside rushing will put Nebraska's offense where it needs to be Saturday, sophomore tight end Johnny Mitchell said.

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Familiar conqueror returning to Lincoln

By Chuck Green  
Senior Editor

Colorado State football coach Earle Bruce is no stranger to playing the Cornhuskers. Or beating them.

Bruce, now in his third season at Colorado State, coached at Iowa State from 1973 to 1978 and beat the Huskers in 1976 and 1977.

The second win was a 24-21 shocker at Memorial Stadium.

Bruce will be trying for his third career win against Nebraska on Saturday when Colorado State plays the Huskers in Memorial Stadium at 1 p.m.

But Bruce said upsetting Nebraska on Saturday, or any other day, isn't an easy task.

"(Nebraska) has a lot of firepower," Bruce said. "They have good backs and skill players, and good linemen, which you expect them to have. I can't imagine a Nebraska team without those types of players. They have it."

Bruce said he is especially impressed with Nebraska's size on the offensive line.

"They are big," he said. "It's obvious they can only put seven players on the line of

scrimmage. If they put eight, it could bulge the sidelines."

Bruce said Nebraska's top three quarterbacks — Keithen McCant, Mickey Joseph and Tom Haase — present a special problem for Colorado State's defense.

"Whoever is in there, he'll be fresh," Bruce said. "If not, they'll just put a new face in."

The Rams enter the game with a 1-1 record and are coming off a 31-26 loss to Air Force last week. Colorado State gave up a touchdown in the game's final moments.

Colorado State made several crucial errors in the game, including two turnovers that resulted in Air Force touchdowns. Bruce said the Rams have several improvements to make before Saturday's game.

"Obviously, you can't turn the ball over and expect to win," he said.

There were bright spots in the game, though, Bruce said, particularly the play of the Rams' special teams.

"We did not lose that football game on special teams," he said. "We blocked a punt, downed the ball inside their 10-yard line, three times kicked off out of the end zone. We covered well on kickoffs and punts."

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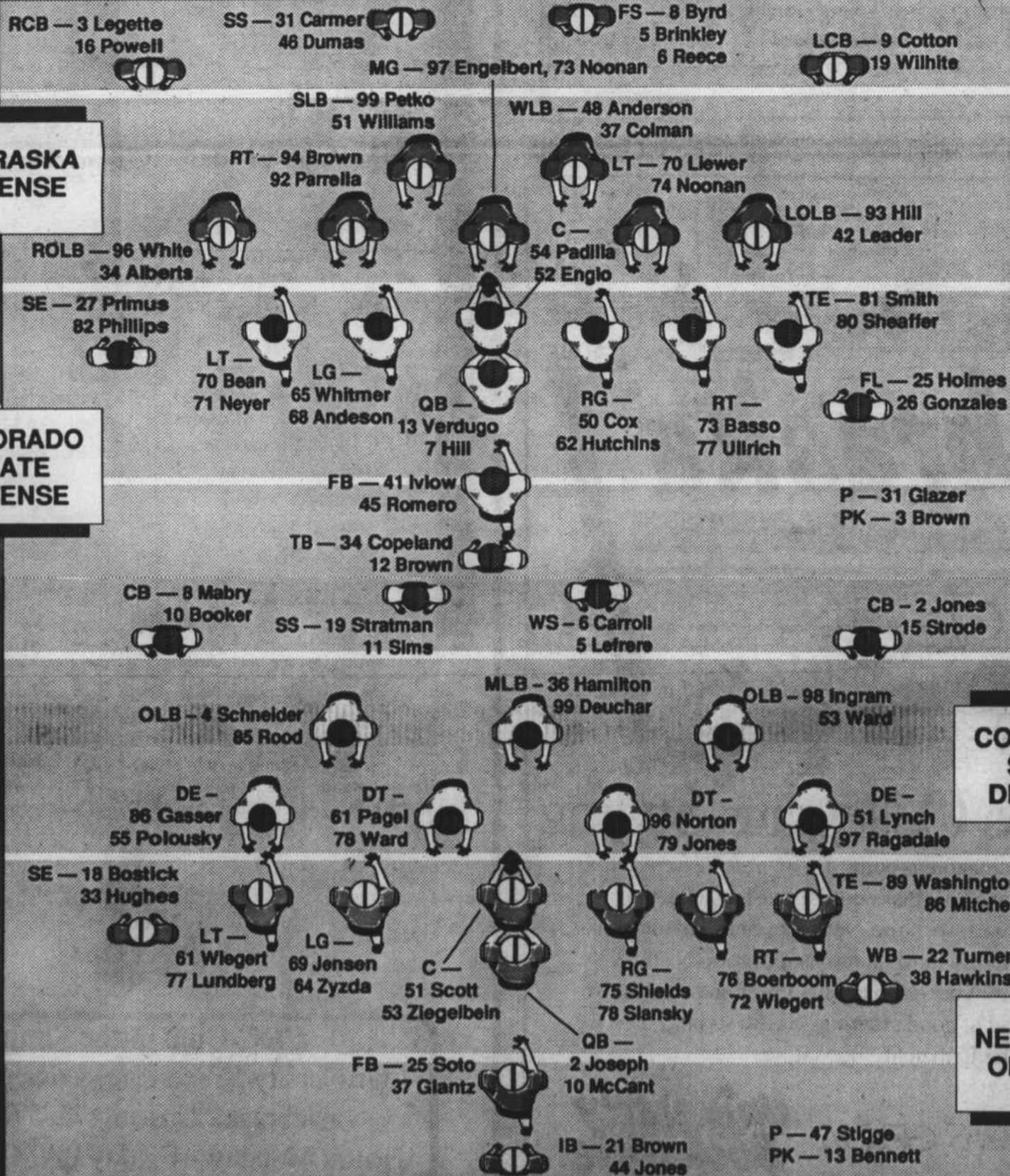
## CORNHUSKERS

### NEBRASKA DEFENSE

### COLORADO STATE OFFENSE

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### NEBRASKA OFFENSE



## RAMS