

Quick start Nebraska goal, Husker says



By Todd Cooper
Senior Reporter

When Nebraska plays Iowa State on Saturday at Memorial Stadium, the Cornhuskers will be trying to avoid another wild finish with a good, early start.

The Huskers, 7-1-1, have fallen behind early against Kansas State, Missouri, Colorado and Kansas early in the first half of each game en route to a 4-0-1 record in the Big Eight.

Last week, Nebraska had its worst start, outside linebacker Trev Alberts said. The Huskers fell behind Kansas' 17-0 in the first quarter before rallying for a 59-23 victory.

"It was a wake-up call," Alberts said. "We just realized we can't take anyone lightly. Basically the question was, 'Do you want to win the Big Eight?'"

Alberts said that would be answered with a quick start Saturday.

"We're going to be coming out hard," he said. "You don't want to sound overconfident, but this (Big Eight) title is in our hands."

Tight end William Washington said some answers might be found in the team's attitude.

"With Kansas last week, I think it opened our eyes that we have to start out quick," he said. "We need to be consistent and focused and come out like a wrecking machine."

Should they do that, the Huskers will be wrecking an injury-riddled Cyclone team. Iowa State doesn't have enough players to fill its 60-man travel squad because of injuries and scholarship limitations. Of the players who will make the trip, eight will play injured.

That has led Iowa State coach Jim Walden to debate whether his 3-5-1 team should even have to play Nebraska.

Nebraska — which will have seven injured players absent on Saturday — isn't listening to Walden's complaints, Alberts said.

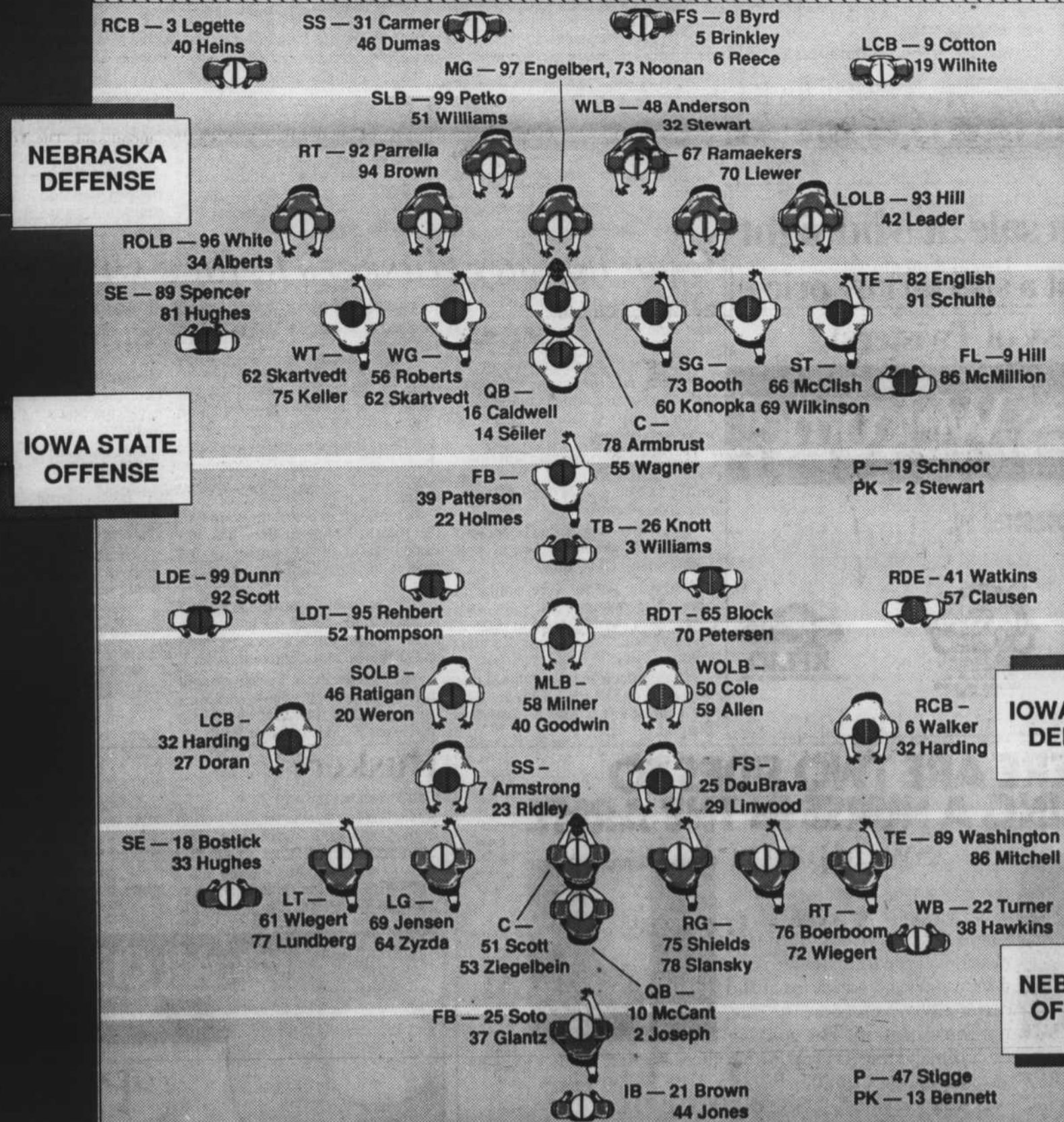
"Their coach is saying how bad they are, and that he didn't know why they should have to come to Lincoln," he said. "But we're not buying that — you sit down and watch film on them, and you see they're not that bad."

Alberts said he especially is impressed with Iowa State quarterback

Nebraska quarterback Keithen McCant tries to break loose from Kansas' Jim Rahto during last weekend's Cornhusker win.

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