

Iteffa has leadership, experience for cross country team

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Since moving to the United States, David Iteffa has been making giant strides the best way he knows how.

Iteffa, a junior on the Nebraska cross country team, has seen his running steadily progress ever since moving to the United States from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Returning for the 1992 season, Iteffa is one of the undisputed leaders in the conference.

He finished in tenth place at the Big Eight conference meet last season, the highest of any Nebraska runner.

Nebraska cross country coach Jay Dirksen said Iteffa was a team leader in his own quiet way.

"Dave is the best runner on our squad," Dirksen said. "But for taking charge; he does that by example."

Iteffa's worldwide experience includes time spent growing up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He moved to Dubuque, Iowa, as a freshman and finally to Fremont, where he became a star cross country runner in high school.

Iteffa said he was first inspired to run by his freshman coach in Iowa,

because he wanted to stay in line with a great tradition of African runners.

He said he used running as a method to relax for upcoming tests or homework.

Even though Iteffa had offers from Iowa State and Minnesota, he said he had no doubt that he wanted to stay and run at Nebraska.

"I like the program and coach Dirksen," he said. "That's why I chose UNL."

After his freshman season, Iteffa finally came into his own last year, a season when he was continually bothered with a strained muscle.

Dirksen nominated Iteffa as the Big Eight Runner-of-the-Month for September, after he set a meet record at the Nebraska Invitational with a time of 24:54. The time was the fourth-best ever on the men's course.

"Dave should be a definite contender for this season's national cross country meet."

Along with senior Kevin Clark, Iteffa leads a young men's team made up of 10 underclassmen. But Dirksen said Iteffa's confidence and leadership will not only put him in the running for individual awards, but it will also help the team.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska junior runner David Iteffa practices at Pioneer's Park on Tuesday afternoon.

4 Huskers survive ax of pro clubs

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

Four of seven Cornhusker football players chosen in last spring's National Football League draft were still with their teams as of Tuesday.

Tuesday, known as "cut day" in the NFL, was the day all teams were required to trim their rosters to 60 players. Teams are allowed a final roster of 47 players.

Tight end Johnny Mitchell, the fifteenth pick overall by the New York Jets, has seen extensive playing time in the preseason.

Mitchell was the Cornhuskers' leading receiver last season, catching 31 passes for 534 yards. His seven receptions and 137 yards in Nebraska's 19-14 win over Oklahoma were both school records.

Tyrone Legette, a third-round pick at cornerback by the New Orleans Saints, was still with the team Tuesday. The Saints announced their first cuts late Tuesday afternoon and Legette was among the 60 players kept by New Orleans. The Saints will announce their last cut Monday.

Legette was a two-year starter at Nebraska, with four interceptions and 81 total tackles in his career. He was also Nebraska's MVP in the 1992 Orange Bowl.

The Buffalo Bills drafted Nate Turner as a tight end in the sixth round. Turner, a former wingback who started his last two years at Nebraska, also made it to the 60-man roster.

Turner, from Chicago, was Nebraska's fourth-leading receiver last season, catching 12 passes for 121 yards. He also gained 31 yards rushing.

Curtis Cotton, picked by the Los Angeles Raiders as a cornerback in the seventh round, has survived the team's first two cuts. The final cut will be made Monday.

Last season, Cotton was Nebraska's starting strong safety and racked up 42 tackles.

Split end Jon Bostick, a seventh-round draftee by the Denver Broncos, was released Monday.

Bostick was Nebraska's second-leading receiver last season, catching 24 passes for 419 yards and five touchdowns.

Mike Petko, an 11th-round pick of the New England Patriots was released July 25 after failing his physical.

The Cleveland Browns released All Big-Eight quarterback Keithen McCant in July. The Browns drafted McCant in the 12th round.

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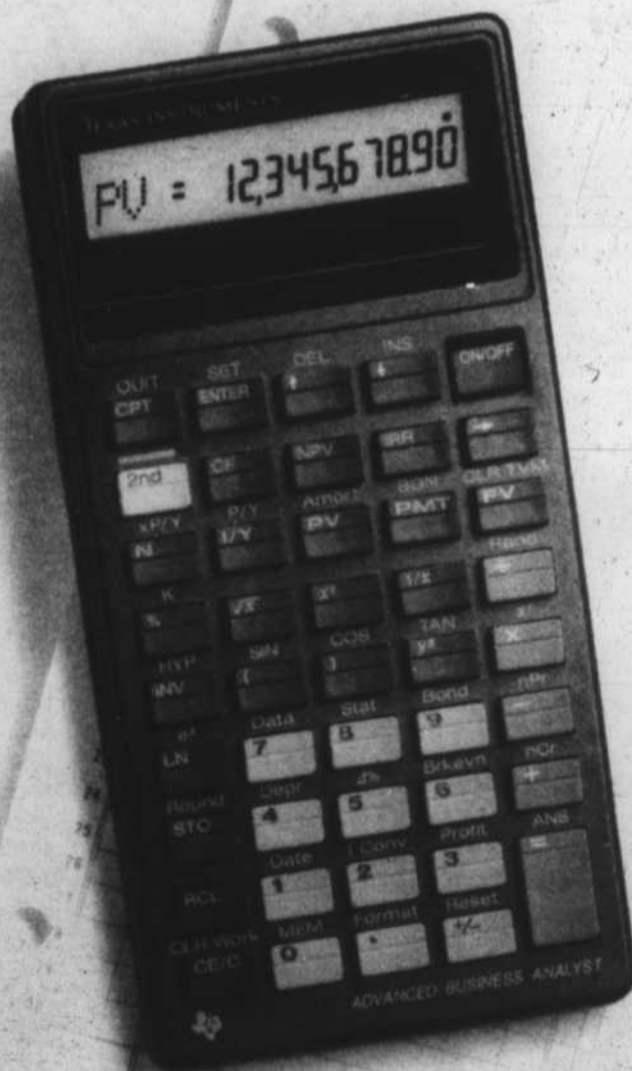
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