

# Red-White game helps gauge players' abilities

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

If anybody thinks the Nebraska football team will be taking it easy in Saturday's annual Red-White game, think again.

"I've learned from the past that if you don't come out here and go hard, you're either going to get hurt or you're going to mess up," Cornhusker tight end Gerald Armstrong said. "Everybody perceives this as a game situation — unless you want your head knocked off, you had better come to play."

Armstrong and his Husker teammates will split up into two teams in

the game that has traditionally signaled the end of the four-week spring season.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said the two squads — which will be broken up with the first-string offense facing the No. 1 defense, the No. 2 offense going up against the second-string defense, and so on — would be going hard against each other.

"It should be an interesting game — we're going to pretty much turn them loose," Osborne said.

Osborne said the fans shouldn't expect to see an offensive explosion on Saturday.

"We're not going to limit the offense or defense much, which I think

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—Osborne  
NU football coach

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could be a lower-scoring game," he said. "Our defense is better; we don't want people coming in expecting to see us running up and down the field."

Osborne said another advantage to the Red-White game was that it was "an opportunity to find out a little bit more about some of our players."

One of those players is Armstrong, who replaces William Washington this season as the Huskers' starting

tight end.

The Ponca native will be a senior in the fall, and he is looking to improve on his numbers from last season that included eight receptions (seven of which were touchdowns) and 115 yards receiving.

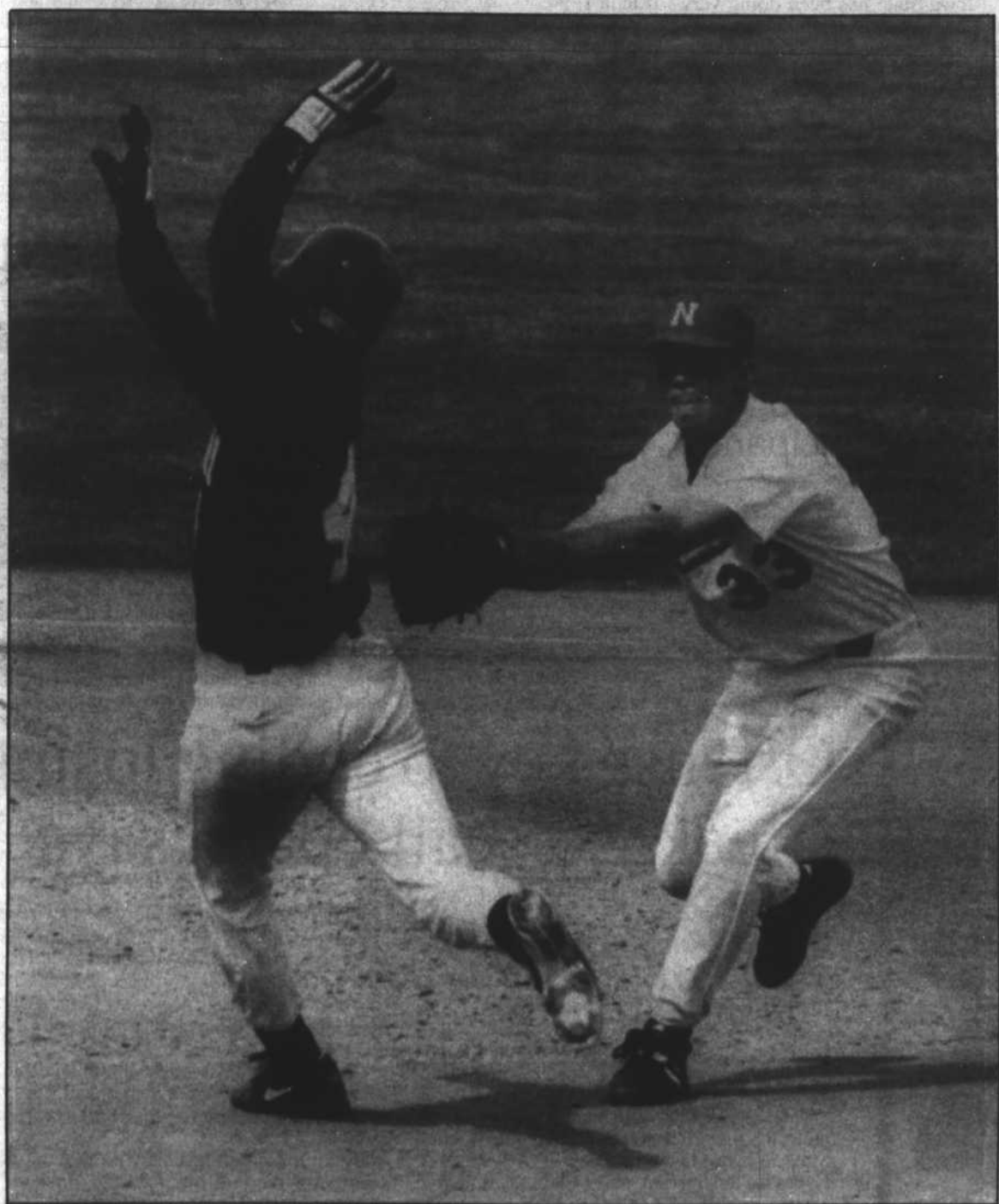
He said he was going to use the Red-White game to help him get used to his new starting role.

"It's kind of strange, because before this, I always came off the bench," Armstrong said. "There's a big difference; I kind of got used to coming off the bench, and I kind of enjoyed that."

"I've got to adjust to that role as No. 1, and when we come out Saturday, I think that's what I'm going to try to accomplish."

Armstrong said that wasn't the only reason why he was excited for the scrimmage.

"I am looking forward to it," he said. "Spring practices are kind of tough on everyone because there is no game to look forward to; it's a lot harder than during the season when you have a game about every week."



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska's Darin Petersen tries to tag a Missouri runner in a game earlier this season. The Huskers, 16-18 on the season, will play a three-game series at Iowa State this weekend.

## NU baseball coach says team needs consistent pitching, hitting

### Long injury list big concern also

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

John Sanders will take good hitting, pitching and fielding from his team under one condition only.

It has to be all in the same game. "It's just one of those things," Sanders, the Nebraska baseball coach, said. "We want to pitch well and hit well at the same time."

The Cornhuskers, who dropped their last two games against Kansas, couldn't seem to combine good offense with good pitching.

During Tuesday's game against Kansas, the Huskers recorded 15

hits, but their pitchers allowed 29 men to reach base. During Wednesday's game, the pitching was solid, but they were held to only four hits and two runs.

The Huskers, who are 16-18 on the season and 6-9 in the Big Eight, are coming close to being in a must-win situation, Sanders said.

So he hopes his team can regain some momentum that it had built before the series with Kansas.

"Every game is really important now," he said.

Another concern of Sanders is the long list of injuries his team has suffered.

Sophomore center fielder Jed Dalton, who strained his shoulder early in Tuesday's game, is questionable for the weekend, Sanders said.

Sophomore relievers Derek

Mickelson and Jason Pflughaupt recently joined the injured reserve list. Mickelson is out with a sore arm, while Pflughaupt was hit in the face by a teammate's bat.

Iowa State, who is 8-17 overall, 3-10 in league play, and last in the Big Eight, split a two-game series with the Huskers earlier this season at Buck Beltzer.

When the two teams played in Lincoln, Troy Brohawn pitched and won the first game 5-1. Steve Boyd was the losing pitcher in the second game, which the Huskers lost 15-3.

"They are a very competitive ball club," he said. "We're expecting a challenge."

Sanders said he expected Brohawn and right-hander Alvie Shepherd to start two of the games, but the coach said he was uncertain who would start the third.

## No worries about draft, Huskers say

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

For hundreds of former college football players, Sunday's NFL draft will bring tension, but former Cornhuskers William Washington and Mike Stigge could either take it or leave it.

Both said they wouldn't really care one way or the other.

Washington, who missed the NFL combines because of a broken bone in his foot, said he thought his injury scared away a lot of professional scouts.

The broken bone will heal completely, Washington said, but the time frame for his recovery is still in doubt.

"If I was a team, I probably wouldn't take me either because of the injury," he said. "If I'm not drafted on draft day, someone will bring me in as a free agent."

Stigge feels the same way.

"I don't really think I will get drafted," he said. "I won't be bummed out if I don't get drafted; it isn't like I'm banking on it or anything."

"For someone to draft a punter, it's almost like wasting a draft choice."

The fact is, Stigge's already surprised himself by making it this far.

"When I came out of high school, I said I'd like to play college football, so I gave Nebraska a shot and tried to punt here," he said. "Now, maybe having a chance to play pro, it's nothing I planned or expected to happen."

Both are trying to be realists. Washington said if he did get drafted, he knew it wouldn't be until the later rounds.

"I'd be happy to get drafted by somebody," Washington said. "Whoever drafts me is going to get a good

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*I'd be happy to get drafted by somebody. Whoever drafts me is going to get a good player at a very low price.*

—Washington  
former NU tight end

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player at a very low price."

But free agency still seems to be the more attractive option for both players.

Stigge said he had received positive feedback from Cincinnati, Cleveland and Minnesota.

Washington said Kansas City had practically guaranteed him a spot on its roster.

Chiefs coaches have told Washington he fits into their system very well, Washington said.

"I'm in a better situation than a lot of people," he said. "Here's a team that will tell me they will wait for me."

"I would rather become a free agent than a sixth-round draft pick," Washington said.

Stigge said that by becoming a free agent, he could get bargaining power that he wouldn't have if he was drafted.

But Stigge, who recently got accepted to Kansas State's veterinarian school, said all he really cared about was getting a chance to play somewhere.

"Just being able to play ... that would be good enough for me," Stigge said.

## Despite rumors, Boone says he'll stay at NU

From Staff Reports

Jaron Boone said he doesn't know where, how, when or why the rumors started, but he does know he's staying at Nebraska.

Published reports earlier this week said Andre Woolridge's announcement that he was transferring to Iowa caused a ripple effect on the other freshmen on the Nebraska men's basketball team. The reports said Boone, Erick Strickland and Terrance Badgett also were considering transferring.

Boone, who is Woolridge's roommate and longtime friend, said the first time he learned of the rumors was when he read about them in the newspapers.

Boone said the thought of transferring to another school had never even

crossed his mind.

The rumors have made it all the way to his hometown, Salt Lake City, where people have been questioning his parents about the rumors, Boone said.

"They're not concerned," he said. "They know I'm staying."

Boone said Cornhusker coach Danny Nee also had heard the rumors and had spoken to him about them.

But Boone said there was no need to worry.

"They're just rumors," Boone said. "I'm staying here."

Boone played in all 31 games for Nebraska last season and started in eight. He averaged 6.9 points, 2.3 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game and was named to the Big Eight All-Freshman Team last season.