



Nebraska left cornerback Barron Miles tries to block a field goal attempt by Colorado State kicker David Napler during the Cornhuskers' 48-13 win.

William Lauer/DN

Going the distance

Versatility offers Miles more on-field opportunities

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

If football had a position similar to baseball's utility infielder, Barron Miles would be the man for the job on the Nebraska football team.

Miles, a junior from Roselle, N.J., is in his first season as a starting cornerback for the Cornhuskers.

But Miles does much more for the Huskers than just cover opposing receivers.

Miles also can be found returning kick-offs and trying to block kicks on special teams. He also is the Huskers' third-string punt returner and a back-up punter.

Last season, Miles played free safety as well as cornerback. And he was a starting quarterback in high school.

Nebraska secondary coach George Darlington said Miles' ability to play many positions and his speed made him a valuable asset to the Huskers and a legitimate professional prospect after next year.

"Barron is probably the most versatile player we have," Darlington said. "He is

probably the quickest back we have and just a great athlete, so he'll definitely get looked at very seriously a year from now."

Despite his versatility, Miles has handled his No. 1 priority — covering opposing receivers — as well as anyone in the Husker secondary, Darlington said.

Miles, who drew UCLA wide receiver J.J. Stokes in coverage most of the day against the Bruins, limited him to six catches for 65 yards and no touchdowns.

"Barron was our player of the game in the secondary against UCLA," he said. "He was very instrumental in limiting J.J. Stokes to very little yardage. We saw what Stokes could do last week against San Diego State so it makes you appreciate even more what Barron did."

Against San Diego State on Sept. 30, Stokes victimized the Aztec secondary for 164 yards on five receptions while scoring three touchdowns.

Miles, a 5-foot-8, 160-pound junior, said he compensated for his size against taller receivers.

"Height-wise, it's not really difficult for

“Last year I knew I would get into the game, but I didn't know when.”

—Miles
NU cornerback

me," Miles said. "Most of the receivers are taller, but I think a smaller guy is harder to cover than a tall guy. Taller receivers have longer legs, and you can predict where they're going."

Darlington said Miles had played up to expectations in the secondary this season after a solid sophomore year.

Miles said the difference between this year and last year was the confidence he gained by earning the starting role.

"Last year I knew I would get into the game, but I didn't know when," Miles said. "This year I go into the game knowing that I'm the No. 1 guy."

Atlanta's tomahawk choppers won't be denied a third time

At least one of the unfortunate streaks in baseball will end with the World Series, because for the third straight season, the mighty warriors from the south, the Atlanta Braves, won the National League West.

But another sad streak will continue next season.

Barry Bonds has been the premiere player in baseball for three years. He has individual honors and two division titles to show for it, but the Braves have kept him from winning a world championship or even the National League Pennant.

I feel sorry for Bonds. But while he has played the part of the bridesmaid, so have the Braves.

Remember 1991: The race was decided in the final series with the Dodgers, and the unlikely hero was Sid Bream. Bonds and the Pirates fell victim to the then-new "Tomahawk Chop," and the Braves moved on to the World Series.

The Series with the Twins was arguably the greatest World Series ever played, but Kirby Puckett's dra-

matic homerun in Game Six proved too much for the "Chop" to overcome.

Remember 1992: Atlanta held off a charge in San Diego led by Fred McGriff and Gary Sheffield. Once again, Bonds was silent in the playoffs, and the Pirates were cut one series short by the "Chop" again.

In the World Series, Ed Sprague took Puckett's place in providing the big blow to the Braves' hopes for a world championship. For the second straight year, the Braves went back to Atlanta empty-handed.

During the offseason, talk swirled of Bonds joining his old nemesis in Atlanta. But he journeyed to San Francisco instead, hoping that he could beat the Braves before the playoffs even started.

The Braves opted for more pitching and acquired Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux. What had been the best starting rotation in baseball became one of the best rotations in baseball history. The season appeared to be a mere formality for the Braves

to capture a third-straight title.

The Giants were supposed to be a curious sideshow, not a serious contender. But Bonds was determined to spoil the Braves' quest for a ring and carried the Giants to a 10-game lead until September.

On Sunday, Sid Bream sat on the bench while McGriff, the "Crime Dog," helped the Braves end Bonds' season for the third straight time.

Bonds will have to wait at least one more year to end the Braves' hex on him.

But the Braves still have a chance to put an end to their disappointment caused by American League teams in the World Series.

First, the Braves must get by the



Jeff
Griesch

Phillies, which will be no small order. But with Terry Pendleton in search of the title that has eluded him, with the arms of Tom Glavine, Maddux, John Smoltz and Steve Avery, and the bats of Ron Gant, David Justice and McGriff, the Braves will win their third straight National League Pennant.

To add to the plot, the Toronto Blue Jays will win the American League crown to give the Braves a chance for some sweet revenge.

The Braves are too good of a team to go to three straight Series and not come away with one title.

And Terry Pendleton has meant too much to Atlanta to not get at least one World Series ring.

Pendleton has been the leader of the Braves for three seasons, making big play after big play in crunch time.

This Braves' team, or one that closely resembles it, will be around for a long time. So, the organization doesn't feel any sense of urgency to win a championship now.

Huskers excited by TV exposure of ESPN game

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

This week, the Nebraska football team will do something it has never done before — play a nationally televised regular season game on a Thursday night.

Husker players and coaches said they were excited to perform in front of nationwide crowd on ESPN.

"I think it's beautiful," outside linebacker Trev Alberts said. "I love it. I know when I get done with practice on Thursday, I run home to see who's on the Thursday night game on ESPN."

"Everybody will be watching us. This is national TV. No one else will be on, so if you like football, you'll be watching our game. Hopefully we'll play our best game of the season on both sides of the ball."

Oklahoma State may not be as excited as the Huskers to play on a Thursday. The Cowboys are coming off a hard fought 27-22 victory over Texas Christian Saturday, while the Huskers have had since Sept. 25 to prepare for the game.

"On paper, you'd think it would be to our advantage, but it doesn't always work out that way," coach Tom Osborne said.

Nebraska receivers coach Ron Brown said the televised game should help the Huskers in other aspects besides just on the field.

"I think it's good for our program to be on national TV and be the primetime game — the only game in town," Brown said. "The recruiting exposure is unparalleled."

Dating back to 1953, the Huskers have played 120 games on television, but the team has never played on a Thursday night. The game will be called by announcers Brad Nessler, Mike Gottfried and "Dr." Jerry Punch.

The Huskers, who fell one spot to seventh in the Associated Press poll this week, hope to take advantage of the national exposure.

Rover Toby Wright said the game will give the Huskers a chance to make an impression on the nationwide audience.

"It's the only game being played on Thursday," Wright said. "I don't know what episodes are on Thursday but most likely everybody will be tuned in. If you really want to make your mark as a team, you look for dates like this. You take advantage of it."

NOTES:

●Cornerback Kareem Moss sprained his ankle during Tuesday night's practice. Osborne said. Osborne said Moss was questionable for Thursday night's game.

●Quarterback Tommie Frazier said he felt like he was fully recovered from the ankle sprain he suffered against North Texas.

"I don't feel limited," Frazier said. "I'm moving like I was at the beginning of the season."

The Braves are too good of a team to go to three straight Series and not come away with one title.

But Pendleton is not getting any younger. He needs his World Series ring soon. The Twins prevented him from the title twice, once as a Cardinal in 1987 and as a Brave in 1992.

Pendleton won't let the Blue Jays beat him twice.

Pendleton and the Braves will finally capture the World Series title this year. Then we can turn our attention to rooting for Barry Bonds to spoil the Braves' season in 1994.

Griesch is a junior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.