

Third round is charm for Jones

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — No longer will Nebraska fans see Calvin Jones sporting the scarlet and cream of the Cornhuskers.

Jones made that abundantly clear when he and his entourage of family and friends walked into a press conference at the Ramada Inn proudly wearing silver and black.



Jones

Jones, who left Nebraska early to go pro, found out Monday morning that he was drafted by the Los Angeles Raiders in the third round.

He was one of five Nebraska players selected in the draft.

Linebacker Trev Alberts, the fifth pick of the draft, went to Indianapolis. The Los Angeles Rams selected Toby Wright in the second round with the 49th pick.

On the second day, Jones was the 80th pick. Safety John Reece was selected by the Arizona Cardinals on the 113th pick in the fourth round. And New Orleans made offensive tackle Lance Lundberg the 213th pick.

Jones said being selected by the Raiders made up for the disappointment of not being picked on the first day of the draft.

"They definitely need help in their

backfield," he said. "I hope I can go in and contribute as much as possible."

The Raiders didn't talk to Jones before the draft, but they did talk to Husker running backs coach Frank Solich on Friday.

"We had contacted several teams," Jones said. "The Raiders were a team that really didn't show their cards."

However, the Raiders have always been high on the list of teams for which Jones wanted to play.

"I looked at some of the running backs that got drafted ahead of me," he said. "They have guys ahead of them who will be there for a couple of years. That's not the situation I'm in."

"You couldn't ask for a better situation."

Jones said he thought the emphasis on defense in the first round — not his shoulder and knee injuries — led to him being drafted in the third round instead of the second.

Jones injured his shoulder in the Orange Bowl against Florida State on Jan. 1, but that shouldn't be a problem when next season rolls around, he said.

"I feel 100 percent," he said. "The shoulder's been healed for a couple months."

Jones left Nebraska as the Huskers' second-leading all-time rusher with 3,153 yards and 40 touchdowns.

Jones said he would always remember his years as a Husker.

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Photos by Jon Waller/DN

Above: Darin Erstad kicks during the Spring Game Saturday at Memorial Stadium. Right: Two hours later, Erstad hits in the baseball game against Kansas.



L.A. Ram phone call ends Wright's draft day trauma

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Finally, after one of the longest days of his life, former Nebraska defensive back Toby Wright received the phone call he had waited for his entire life.



Wright

Wright was chosen by the Los Angeles Rams as the 49th pick overall in Sunday's National Football League draft.

"I was just hoping they didn't forget about me," Wright said from his home in Phoenix, Ariz.

"It was one of the moments where you feel all alone. You talk about traumatic stress—I had it in the third degree."

And then after watching 48 picks—including teammate Trev Alberts (fifth pick overall)—throughout the afternoon, Wright missed seeing his name flash across the television.

"The phone rang and it wasn't near the TV," he said. "As soon as I

answered it a voice said 'How would you like to be a Ram?' At the same time, all my family in the other room started cheering when they saw that I was picked."

Wright had his work cut out for him after transferring to Nebraska from Phoenix Junior College, where he was a junior college All-American.

The 6-foot-1-inch Phoenix native said he knew he had to make an impact quickly, to make a name for himself.

"As far as my success goes at Nebraska, it was hard because I came from a junior college and I wasn't a big name here," he said. "I tried to use the big games to make a name for myself. I tried to play every game like it was our biggest of the season and just keep improving."

Wright, who had 13 tackles in both the UCLA and Colorado games last season, also helped get recognition by being one of the hardest hitters on the Husker defense.

"I always took pride in the way I hit," he said. "I also wanted to be a good fundamental defensive back. My

See WRIGHT on 8

'Superman' kept busy on 2 fields

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

Before the annual Red-White spring football game on Sunday, Darin Erstad stepped out of his personal phone booth in the Nebraska football locker room wearing football pants, a helmet, shoulder pads ...

And a red cape around his neck. Actually, it wasn't a red cape; it was a red jersey with a white No. 8 on it.

On Saturday afternoon, Erstad tried to do his best impersonation of Superman—or in the least, two-sport man—as he switched from the football field to left field in a matter of two hours.

After successfully kicking two extra points and knocking one punt out of bounds inside the 20-yard

line at Nebraska's Spring Game at 1 p.m., Erstad changed into his baseball uniform and prepared to prowl the outfield at Buck Beltzer Field.

Erstad made a couple of sparkling defensive plays during the baseball team's 9-7 loss to Kansas, but he managed only one hit in five at-bats.

"I never felt really mentally into the game," Erstad said. "I usually do a certain pattern of things before a game, and I think maybe I was thrown out of that normal rhythm today."

"My body just didn't know how to react."

After performing double duty on Saturday, Erstad said he needed a chance to catch his breath.

Erstad didn't get home until just a few minutes before midnight on

Friday night, after Nebraska's opener with Kansas lasted 13 innings.

Erstad was the one responsible for sending the game into extra innings with a game-tying homer in the bottom of the ninth.

After a short night's rest, Erstad headed to Memorial Stadium to begin his football day just before 11 a.m.

As the nearly 29,000 fans filed into the stadium, Erstad said he began to feel some unexpected tension.

"I was a lot more nervous than I thought I would be," he said. "I am sure that was by far the biggest crowd I have ever played anything in front of, and I felt like there was

See ERSTAD on 8

NFL draft game deals 'Sorry Charlie' card to Ward

Charlie Ward won the Heisman Trophy.

Ward also won the national championship, leading Florida State to an 18-16 victory over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

Along with being No. 1 on the football field, Ward also ran the No. 1 point guard spot on the Florida State basketball team.

During the heart of the football season, some people, including his unofficial agent, ABC's Keith "Oooooohhhhh Charlie, er, uh, Nellie" Jackson, were touting Ward as the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft and a first round pick in the NBA draft.

But after a disappointing senior season of basketball, it looked like Ward's NBA status was, at best, un-

certain, and he would have to settle for looking forward to a football career.

But as draft day approached, Ward's stock continued to fall in the eyes of the NFL scouts and the "draft expert"—ESPN's Mel Kiper.

The pros started calling in their numbers early Sunday afternoon, but Ward's number was never called.

Sorry, Charlie. The Bengals used their No. 1 pick to select the giant defensive tackle, Dan Wilkinson, from Ohio State.

The Redskins used the No. 3 pick to select Tennessee's Heath Shuler as the first quarterback. And after Indianapolis traded with the Rams to get Trev Alberts with the No. 5 pick, Trent Dilfer became the second quarter-

back chosen.



Jeff Griesch

No other quarterbacks were chosen on Sunday as the NFL owners and general managers drafted defense first.

So after pick No. 65 on Sunday, it looked like Ward would have to wait until Monday to learn which team would take the rights to the Heisman Trophy winner.

But as the picks kept rolling by on Monday, Ward was neither present nor accounted for.

The last two picks came down to the Buffalo Bills and the New England Patriots.

If ever two teams were in need of a winner, it was these two teams. But Ward's name was not called.

Sorry, Charlie. Somehow the NFL scouts decided that the dozen or so quarterbacks chosen had more talent and potential than the 1993 Heisman Trophy winner.

These same scouts decided it was worth the risk to take chances on two unproven players from Wayne State College, a Division II school in Nebraska, but didn't think Ward was worthy of one of the 222 picks in the draft.

How did Ward and the media mag-

net that is Florida State pull the wool over the eyes of the millions of college football analysts and fans?

After two seasons of drooling over the Randall Cunningham-like skills of Charlie Ward, how did Ward's potential fall to such dismal levels?

Doesn't winning the Heisman Trophy mean anything?

Ward beat the Heisman jinx that plagued Mike Rozier, Gino Torretta, Vinny Testaverde and Herschel Walker in national championship games, but he started a jinx all his own by not being drafted.

Sorry, Charlie. Griesch is a junior news-editorial major and is the Daily Nebraskan assistant sports editor.