

# SPORTS

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## I-back will feel right at home in UCLA's end zone

NU's Phillips will face his hometown team on his turf

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

The UCLA Bruins can't be too excited about seeing Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips Saturday.

Phillips, who saw his first extensive playing time in the Cornhuskers' 14-13 win at UCLA last year, will have just as much incentive tomorrow.

The sophomore from West Covina, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles, came off the bench last year because of Calvin Jones' injury to rush for 137 yards.

"I know about five or six players on the UCLA team that were on my Shrine Bowl team," Phillips said. "I'll be looking forward to seeing them and playing against them."

"UCLA recruited me some in the beginning, but then they quit once I told them I wasn't going there."

"I know a lot of people from back home will be watching so I just want to have a good game. It would be fun to have a good game against people I know."

The UCLA game last year marked the beginning of Phillips' freshman season, in which he racked up 508 yards on 92 carries.

Phillips said he was grateful he left California to go to college, especially after becoming a starter after a little more than a year at Nebraska.

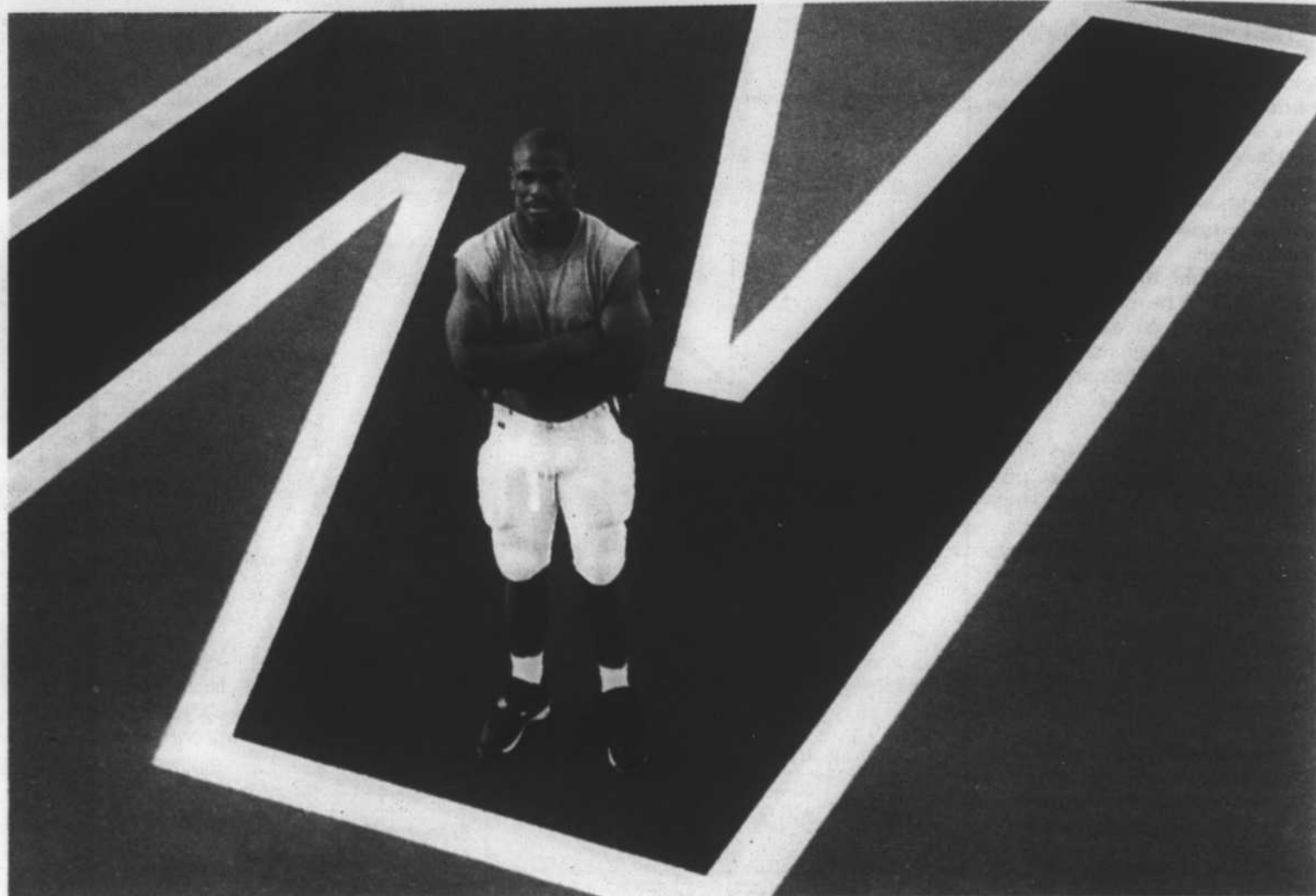
"When I first committed to Nebraska, (Derek) Brown and (Calvin) Jones were talking about staying so I already knew I was going to probably redshirt," he said. "Then all of the sudden Derek decided to go to the pros so I knew I had at least a chance last year to play at the No. 2 spot. Calvin leaving this year left the No. 1 spot open."

"(Nebraska) was definitely a good choice. I'm starting for a team that's either No. 1 or 2 in all the polls. I think that probably proves it was a good decision."

That good decision should continue to pay dividends against UCLA, Phillips said.

Despite the big numbers Phillips put up against UCLA last year, the Bruins may be seeing much more of him this year.

"I think they'll definitely refer back to last year's film because that was the only game I played a lot in, and now I'm the starter," Phillips



Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips, who rushed for 137 yards against UCLA last season, hopes to spend a lot of time in the end zone this season. Phillips is the Cornhuskers' leading rusher this season. Michelle Paulman/DN

said. "But I think they're going to be more concerned with Tommie Frazier. He's been carrying the team a lot. Their first priority will be Frazier, not me."

Phillips said he felt the Husker running game was where it should be; now the Huskers needed to improve their passing.

"I think we got to the right level running-wise against Texas Tech, but I think we're going to have to step up our passing," he said. "I don't think we'll be able to run over every team. Personally, I think I just have to keep doing

what I'm doing. I think UCLA will be trying to press the run so we'll have to pass more."

Part of the passing responsibility lies on the shoulders of the Husker running backs, Phillips said.

He said screen passes to the I-backs may be a necessity against UCLA.

"I really like those (screen passes) because it kind of opens up the run a little bit," he said. "I think we're going to have to use that Saturday. The linebackers have to respect us going out to the flat. They (the passes) always count for

positive yardage, and it's almost a sure completion."

Even though Phillips is missing the chance for a another homecoming at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., he said he was glad the Bruins would be coming to Lincoln this season.

"I'd much rather be here," he said. "It will be nice to finally play a home game. The crowd will really be into it, and it's the kind of game where the crowd can really help. It's going to be a tough game, and we can use all the support we can get."

## Texas coach expresses fright, respect for NU

By Clay Short  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team heads down south for the Louisiana State Invitational this weekend.

Respect and fear from the competition will greet the Huskers as they arrive in Baton Rouge, La.

"I'm afraid to watch them," Texas Tech coach Mike Jones said. "They are one of the best teams in the country, and that is very frightening."

"We are just going to bring our crash helmets and chest protectors for them."

Texas Tech will face Nebraska tonight in a 5:30 p.m. match. The Red Raiders are 3-5 on the season, and Nebraska has never lost to them.

Louisiana State coach Scott Luster, whose team will face the Huskers Saturday at 7:30 p.m., shares Jones' view.

"I've thought since last year that this would be the year for Nebraska," Luster said. "They have been playing very consistent, and they are definitely towards the top of Division I."

The LSU Invitational consists of the Huskers, LSU, Texas Tech and Maryland. The Huskers' only other trip to the tournament was in 1983, when they won the invite. LSU is 3-3 on the season, and Maryland is 4-3.

"Nebraska is the favorite, obviously, but I also believe that LSU could be some competition for them,"

*"I'm afraid to watch them. They are one of the best teams in the country, and that is very frightening."*

**MIKE JONES**

Texas Tech coach

Jones said. "I just hope that we put forth our best effort against them."

Luster also considers the Huskers the clear favorite, even though his team will be playing at home.

"They will not only be the favorite for our tournament, but along with Stanford, Penn State, Ohio State and Florida, they will be in the hunt for the national title," he said.

The Tigers are looking to grow from the experience of playing the No. 2 Huskers, Luster said.

"We look at it this way, our schedule has us playing seven of the top nine teams in the nation, and that is going to help us in the long run," he said. "Definitely competition like Nebraska is good for our team. It is important to make a good showing against them, and it is exciting because you are playing the best."

## LSU Invitational

Baton Rouge, La.

Nebraska will play Texas Tech Friday at 5:30 p.m., Maryland Saturday at noon, and LSU at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

### Nebraska

|    |                 |      |     |
|----|-----------------|------|-----|
| S  | Christy Johnson | 5-8  | Jr. |
| OH | Billie Winsett  | 5-11 | Jr. |
| OH | Kelly Aspegren  | 5-11 | Sr. |
| OH | Maria Hedbeck   | 5-10 | So. |
| MB | Allison Weston  | 6-0  | Jr. |
| MB | Jen McFadden    | 6-2  | So. |

### Texas Tech

|    |                 |     |     |
|----|-----------------|-----|-----|
| S  | Ginger Carter   | 5-7 | Sr. |
| OH | Diane Owens     | 5-9 | Jr. |
| OH | Lacy Nye        | 5-7 | So. |
| OH | Cristine Martin | 6-0 | So. |
| MB | Jennifer Cohn   | 6-0 | Jr. |
| MB | Jill Slapper    | 6-0 | Jr. |

Nebraska went 3-0 against LSU last season and has never lost to the Tigers in four career meetings.

Nebraska is 4-0 against Texas Tech.

Maryland is coached by Janice Kruger, a former Nebraska letterwinner from 1975-76. The Huskers are 1-0 against the Terrapins.

DN graphic

## Lady Huskers to face LSU

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Reporter

The 6-0 Nebraska volleyball team puts its perfect record on the line this weekend in Baton Rouge, La., at the Tiger Classic, hosted by Louisiana State.

Nebraska will play Texas Tech, 3-5, at 5:30 p.m. on Friday night. On Saturday, the Cornhuskers take on Maryland, 4-3, at noon, and play LSU, 3-3, at 7:30 p.m.

The Huskers, ranked third by Volleyball Monthly and second in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, have won 18 of 19 games in six matches this season. Their lone loss came in the third game of last Saturday's win over No. 8 Arizona State.

Coach Terry Pettit said the team is placing little emphasis on individual games this season. In fact, Pettit said the team isn't even concerned about focusing on each match.

"We are not focusing on how easy we win games," he said. "We have spent three days of practice this week on ourselves. We normally will take a day and spend it on preparation. We have spent the week working on things from last week that have to do with goals for the season."

Pettit said LSU is the most talented team the Huskers will see this weekend. But the Tigers, he said, may have communication problems on the court.

"LSU has a lot of athletic talent from a lot of different countries," he

*"Obviously we have to win our matches along the way, but ultimately we are dealing with the big picture, not preparing for the next opponent."*

**TERRY PETTIT**

Nebraska volleyball coach

said. "Some of them are from Brazil. Some of them are from Central America, but they are athletically a superior team. They sometimes take a while to get going."

Last weekend, LSU lost to No. 2 UCLA and No. 4 Penn State at the Volleyball Monthly Invitational. The Tigers, who won the National Invitation Volleyball Championship last year, advanced to the NCAA Tournament semifinals in 1990 and 1991.

Pettit said he did not know much about Texas Tech or Maryland.

"Texas Tech has been one of the best teams in the Southwest Conference for the last few years," Pettit said. Maryland is coached by former Nebraska player Janice Kruger.

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