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St. Louis satisfies Phillips

By Mike Kluck
 Senior Reporter

The opportunity to play in the National Football League and move on with his life has made former Nebraska I-back Lawrence Phillips a happy man.

But until he receives a contract with the St. Louis Rams, he isn't excited.

The Rams' first-round pick and the sixth overall selection in the April 20 draft is expected to receive a signing bonus of \$7 million to \$8 million.

"I really haven't got too excited yet," Phillips said Friday in a teleconference interview from St. Louis. "Since I don't have the money, I'm not excited about it."

Phillips doesn't expect any problem in negotiating a contract with the Rams. Since the draft, Phillips has been in St. Louis working out with the Rams and learning their offense.

When he does receive his contract, Phillips said he planned to establish some boys' homes similar to the one in which he was raised in West Covina, Calif.

Although he was disappointed about not being drafted higher, Phillips said he was pleased to get the chance to play for the Rams.

The New York Jets, Jacksonville Jaguars, Arizona Cardinals, Baltimore Ravens and New York Giants had the first five selections in the draft, but all passed on Phillips, many because of his off-the-field problems.

Phillips was considered by most scouts to be the best player available in the draft. But his stock dropped when he was convicted of assaulting his ex-girlfriend in September.

Before the draft, Phillips said he thought he was going to be taken by Jacksonville, which held the second pick behind the Jets.

"I was pretty surprised when I wasn't drafted by them," Phillips said. "We play them next year, and I'll get to show them what they missed out on."

"I have talked to some of those teams, and most have said they were sorry or needed a linebacker or some other position more than a running back."

Martial finds gold at Drake Relays

Sports Wrap up



From Staff Reports

Nebraska's Nicola Martial won the university division triple jump with a leap of 42 feet, 8 3/4 inches Friday at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

Also on Friday, Nebraska's 4 x 800-meter relay team of Eric Mickelson, Jonah Kiptarus, Alex Lamme and Balazs Tolgyesi won with a time of 7 minutes, 22.68 seconds.

Two other Cornhusker athletes won titles at the relays, which drew a two-day crowd of more than 34,000. Takisha Lewis won the long jump with a jump of 20-11 3/4, and shot putter Paulette Mitchell's NCAA automatic qualifying throw of 55 feet was good for first place.

The 1,600-meter relay team of Charlene Plummer, LaTisha Croom, Kathy Miller and Jill Myatt placed second with a time of 3:36.17. Tressa Thompson was fourth in the discus with a throw of 159 feet 8 inches. Tom Fish finished fifth in the 100-meter dash at 10.65 seconds and fifth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.46 seconds.

Hammer thrower Greg Armitage was sixth with a throw of 193 feet 11 inches, and Benji Prebyl finished sixth in the triple jump with a leap of 49 feet, 9 1/4 inches.

At the Penn Relays this weekend in Philadelphia, Nebraska hurdler Miklos Roth recorded an NCAA provisional time of 50.51 seconds, earning second place in the 400-meter hurdles. Frank Mensah (51.77 seconds) placed seventh and Willie Hibler (51.96 seconds) took 11th place in the same event. In the 110-

meter high hurdles, Hibler's time of 13.81 seconds earned him fourth-place honors.

Nebraska's 4 x 110-meter shuttle-hurdle relay team of Hilber, Roth, Mensah and Charles Reid — which was hoping to set a world record — was disqualified.

Men's gym

Three members of the Nebraska men's gymnastics team earned All-American honors Saturday night in the individual events finals of the 1996 NCAA Championships at Maples Pavilion in Stanford, Calif.

Senior Jason Christie earned All-American recognition in two events. The Lincoln native placed fifth in the parallel bars with a 9.65 and sixth in the horizontal bar with a 9.775.

Christie also finished ninth in the floor exercise with a 9.25. Sophomore Don Kinison was 10th in the floor at 8.775.

In the still rings, junior Ted Harris came in third with a 9.8, the highest national finish in the rings for a Husker since 1983, when Scott Johnson was second. Blaine Wilson of Ohio State and William & Mary's Scott McCalland tied for first place at 9.825.

Husker freshman Marshall Nelson finished third in the pommel horse with a 9.825.

— Gregg Madsen

Tennis

The Nebraska men's and women's tennis teams were eliminated in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament Friday in Kansas City, Mo.

The Cornhusker men lasted 4 hours and 15 minutes, but fell to Oklahoma 4-3. Fredrik Riesbeck, Adrian Maizey and Dinko Verzi posted wins for Nebraska.

The Husker women also lost to Oklahoma. Lisa Hart was Nebraska's only winner in its 4-1 loss.

Olympics

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happens.

Sippel, an assistant coach on the Husker softball team, will be a pitcher on the Canadian Olympic team. This year is the first time softball has been an Olympic medal sport.

"I just have to be careful not to turn it into something bigger than it really is," Sippel said. "It gives me a chance to live out a dream."

Four Husker gymnasts also have a chance to make their dreams happen at the June 26-28 Olympic Trials in Boston.

Former Huskers Dennis Harrison, Jason Christie and Richard Grace, along with sophomore Jim Koziol will compete at the trials. Both Koziol and Grace have been hampered recently by injuries, but both expect to be ready for competition.

Four former wrestlers will be trying for a shot at the Olympics. Matt Demaray, who was a volunteer assistant with this year's team, and assistant coach Brad Penrith are wrestling in

freestyle events. Greco Roman wrestlers Rulon Gardner, who competed at Nebraska in 1991-93, and his teammate Matt Lindland also are in the hunt.

Nine current and former members of the track and field team may get the chance to compete. Nicola Martial, Paulette Mitchell, Merlene Ottey-Page, Tressa Thompson, Robert Thomas, Balazs Tolgyesi, Joe Laster, Petar Malesev and Shanelle Porter are all trying to reach Atlanta.

Mitchell, Thomas, Laster, Porter and Thompson will take a big step in their quest at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Atlanta, June 14-23.

One former Husker, Kevin Coleman, is trying to do the unprecedented. Coleman is trying to qualify as both a weightlifter and as a shot putter.

He competed in the weightlifting Olympic Trials Sunday night in St. Joseph, Mo. He also has been invited to the track and field trials in June.

"This is a great opportunity that doesn't happen to you all the time," Coleman said. "If I can get a chance to make it to the Games, I won't be too choosy."

Softball

Continued from Page 9

keeping her from a perfect game.

Husker coach Rhonda Revelle said Stafford had been working harder to get ahead of batters.

"When you're ahead in the count, you tend to be a little more successful," Revelle said, "because it puts hitters on their heels. That's really been a key."

Smith led the Huskers with six RBI and had five hits, including a home run, in seven at bats Saturday.

Revelle said she was pleased with the Huskers' performance, but was dis-

appointed they could not play Sunday.

The Huskers, who were sixth in the eight-team Big 12 entering the weekend, could have used another win to move into the upper half of the league.

The top four teams in the May 10-12 Big 12 Tournament play double elimination and the bottom four play single elimination.

"Another win could change our seeding," Revelle said, "and a win above .500 could be the difference."

The Huskers have a week off for final exams and will take the field Saturday in a doubleheader against Iowa State in Ames, Iowa.

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