

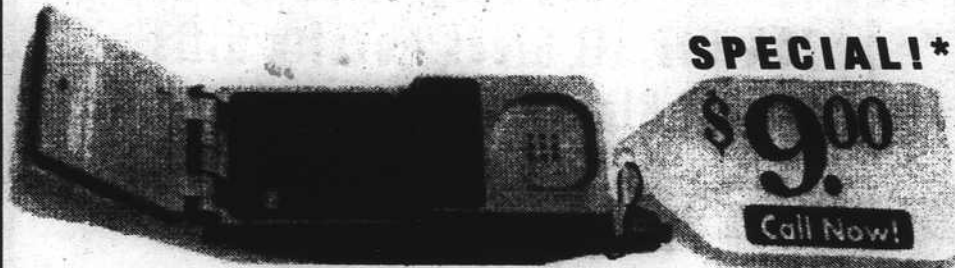
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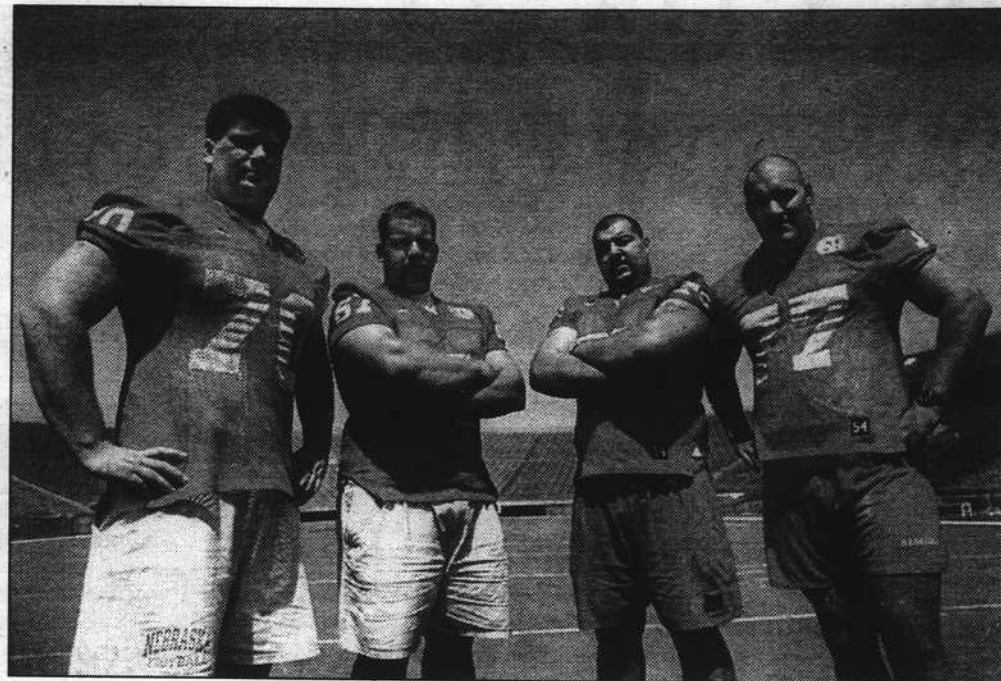
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TANNA KINNAMAN/DN

NEBRASKA'S NO. 1 offensive line, from left: Eric Anderson, Aaron Taylor, Chris Dishman and Adam Treu. Jon Zatechka is not pictured.

Line aims to flatten NU foes Taylor, Dishman direct experienced group

BY DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

Despite the loss of All-American center Aaron Graham and guard Steve Ott, the 1996 Nebraska offensive line returns three starters and 1,505 pounds of confidence this fall.



Zatechka

The Cornhusker offensive line did not allow a sack in 1995 and led NU to its 12th NCAA rushing title.

Taylor will move from left guard to center and senior Chris Dishman, who started every game at left tackle last season, will start at left guard this fall.

Senior Adam Treu is slated to start at left tackle and senior Jon Zatechka will fill the hole

left by Ott at right guard. Treu and Zatechka played in every game last season. "We have three starters returning and two guys filling in that were swing people; they're like starters," Nebraska Offensive Line Coach Milt Tenopir said. "We're a little thin on depth right now, but things should fall into place." Taylor, who played center in the spring game, said he was more comfortable at his new position than he was at guard. "Being an offensive lineman, you have to know everybody's plays in order to know where you go," Taylor said. "Switching positions didn't really hinder me. I got everything lined out this spring, and I feel really good about this fall." Tenopir said he was confident the linemen's play would improve before NU's Sept. 7 season opener against Michigan State. "It went all right in the spring," Tenopir said, "but it's got to get smoother before we play a ballgame."

Behind the starters, each of the backups — Fred Pollack, Matt Hoskinson, Josh Heskew, Mike Van Cleave and Kory Mikos — saw action in at least four games last season.

"We've got a chance to do something that no other team has been able to do — win three straight," Anderson said. "I think that's our ultimate motivation this year."

"We will be a strong defensive front this year." Sophomore Jason Wiltz and senior Scott Saltsman will back up Peter and Ogard.

But Osborne said the strongest point of the defense was at the rush end positions, where the Huskers return junior Grant Wistrom and senior Jared Tomich.

Wistrom and Tomich — who will be relieved by sophomores Mike Rucker and Chad Kelsay — are the best pair of rush ends Osborne has coached, he said. Both rush ends are Outland and Lombardi Award candidates this fall.

Playing with the two All-America candidates — Tomich was a first-team selection and Wistrom made the third team last year — makes Peter's job easier, he said.

Peter, Ogard, rush ends to anchor Husker defense

BY MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

With only one spot to fill and three All-America candidates returning, the Nebraska defensive front four appears solid.

But that doesn't make Cornhusker Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride, who also coaches the line, rest any easier. Both McBride and Coach Tom Osborne said they were concerned with the depth on the defensive line.

McBride said he would like to have at least five available defensive tackles, which might mean listing a freshman near the top of the depth chart.

However, McBride is comfortable with the two players scheduled to start at defensive tackle, junior Jason Peter, a returning starter, and senior Jeff Ogard.

Peter started all 12 games last season, and Ogard backed up Peter's brother, all-conference tackle Christian Peter, whose eligibility has expired.

"Jeff will really step up," McBride said. "This is his senior year, and he's been sitting and waiting for a couple of years. I feel comfortable with him playing a lot."

Although he will miss playing next to his brother, Peter said he had no doubt Ogard would play well.

"Jeff is going to be a hell of a player," Peter said. "The entire defensive line is going to be real strong. Hopefully with this preseason camp, some young guys will step up and take advantage of this opportunity."

Ogard, who is from St. Paul, said he was thrilled to earn a starting spot. A year ago, he played in every game.

"When you're from Nebraska and you're the starter, there's just an honor in that," Ogard said.

Defensive line

Jason Peter returns to start at defensive tackle



Name	Ht.	Wt.	Tackles	Sacks
Jason Peter	6-4	285	30	-
Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	7	-
Jared Tomich	6-2	260	27	10
Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	44	4
Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	20	2