

Major League Playoffs

## Braves even series behind ace Maddux

ATLANTA (AP) — Once Greg Maddux got into the groove, little else mattered. There was no way the St. Louis Cardinals were going to win.

Maddux put aside his past October struggles, pitching Atlanta into game seven of the National League championship series with a 3-1 victory Wednesday night at Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta.

Maddux left after 7 2/3 innings, having allowed six hits. Mark Wohlers relieved and threw a wild pitch that scored a run, but he retired Ron Gant on a routine fly to strand the tying run at second base.

Coming off the Braves' 14-0 rout in game five, Maddux evened his career postseason record at 5-5, and the defending World Series champions tied three games apiece.

For the Braves, this is another chance to enhance their reputation for playoff rallies. They won 1991 NLCS by pitching two consecutive shutouts to overcome Pittsburgh, then beat the Pirates the next year by scoring three runs in the bottom of the ninth of the final game.

For the Cardinals, this is a last chance to hold off the Braves, and their own history. Of the 47 teams to hold 3-1 leads, 40 have gone on to win the series. The Cardinals are the only club to blow that edge twice.

St. Louis Manager Tony LaRussa gambled by starting rookie Alan Benes in order to give his tired pitchers a break. Benes, a Creighton graduate, gave up only three hits over five innings.

Maddux walked none, struck out seven and did not permit a runner past first base until the seventh. He threw only 62 pitches over the first six innings, never going to a single three-ball count.

Tom Glavine, will pitch game seven tonight in Atlanta for the Braves against St. Louis' Donovan Osborne for the right to play the New York Yankees in the World Series.

## Hanspard: I'm just an average back

HANSPARD from page 12

play the game of football and be able to interact with athletics," Hanspard said. "Now he allows me to be a top-notch back. Playing football is just my platform to give God more glory."

The Nebraska game, which will be regionally televised, will also give the Red Raiders a chance to prove they are a legitimate contender for the Big 12's South Division championship, Hanspard said.

"It will be a good opportunity for us to prove we can play with the top-notch teams in the nation," Hanspard said. "We have excellent ability on our team, and God has blessed them to go out and play."

## UT's Sance forgets '95 title match

SANCE from page 12

Sance has also contributed on defense, once again leading the team with 3.5 digs per game. Sance has had double figures in both kills and digs in nine matches this season.

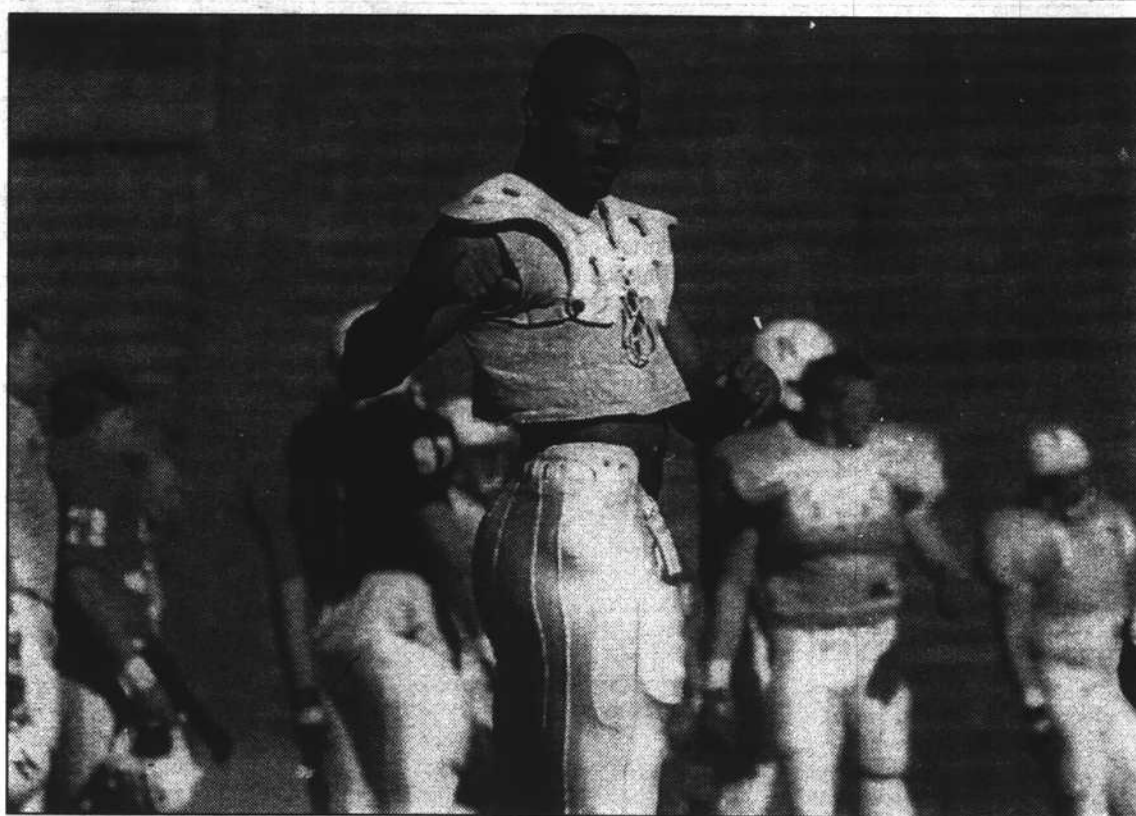
She needs only 11 total attacks in Friday's match against Colorado to eclipse the 2,000-mark in her brief career.

"Sance is to Texas like Reitsma is to us," NU Coach Terry Pettit said. "She's a great player, certainly one of the truly great players of the game."

"They have great athletes at every possible position. You can't afford to go in and give everything toward stopping Sance, because you may or may not stop her. And then the other people are successful."

Sance admitted that she needs to play well this weekend for the Longhorns to win both of their matches. As for playing Reitsma, the Big 12's other premier player, Sance said she's excited.

"It's going to be a fun competition."



JAY CALDERON/DN

MIKE MINTER, a senior rover, leads the Nebraska defense with three interceptions this season.

## Faith drives NU's Minter

Senior rover returns to top form after knee injury

BY ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Editor

For Mike Minter, it all comes down to faith. Faith in his ability to play, faith in not getting injured again, and most of all, faith in God.

His faith is so strong that even his coaches notice it on the football field.

"On the field, he lives his faith," Nebraska Defensive Backs Coach George Darlington said. "He's a good man. I'm sorry he's finally graduating."

However, the senior from Lawton, Okla., has a great future ahead of him in the National Football League, Darlington said.

"The NFL is a tool to get me where I need to go," Minter said.

Because of his strong faith, Minter said, he looks up to players like Reggie White, who is a defen-

sive tackle for the Green Bay Packers and a minister.

"I'd like to go to a team without a string leader like that," said Minter, a 5-foot-10, 190-pound rover, "so I could stand up and shine."

On the field, Minter has shined this season, intercepting three passes, one of which proved Minter had recovered fully from his knee injury two years ago.

He took an 84-yard interception for a touchdown in NU's season opener against Michigan State.

"I feel good," he said, "no pain. And I'm a little faster than before the injury."

On Saturday, Minter returns to the same field on which he was injured two years ago, when he tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in Nebraska's 1994 win over Texas Tech.

Minter said he's not worried about another injury.

"I think about it," Minter said, "could this be a deja vu deal or what? Before I go on the field, I'm going to pray."

"With the power of God, I don't worry."


Darlington said Minter has become a better player since returning from his knee injury.

"He's learned to handle adversity," Darlington said.

Minter not only handles adversity, he runs it down and usually tackles it. This season, Minter has 18 tackles, and he's the third fastest player on the team, running a 4.41-second 40-yard dash, the sixth fastest time in Husker history.

It all comes back to one thing for Minter: faith.

"I give it all to God."



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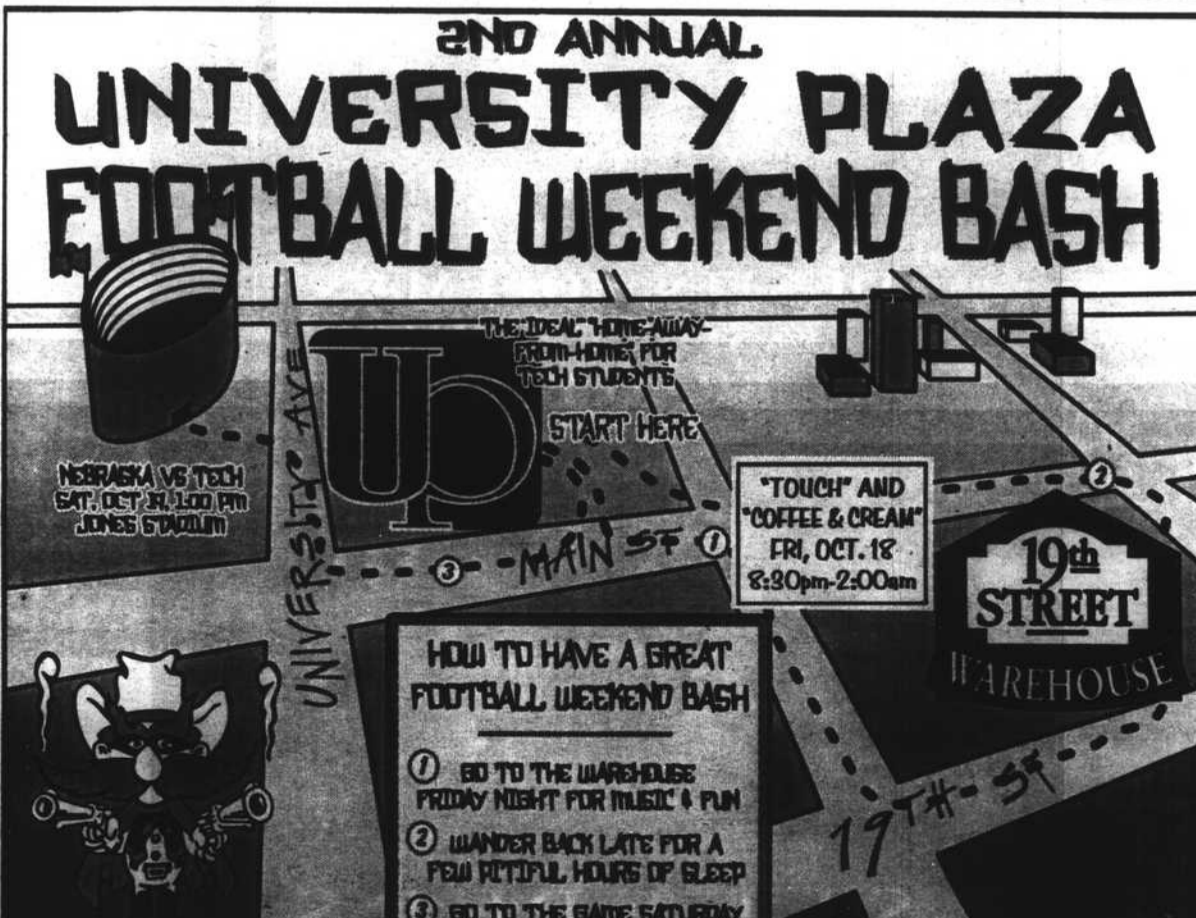
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