

Too much KU

The Nebraska women blew a 12-point lead to lose to No. 12 KU 67-59 Sunday. The NU men lost to the No. 1 Jayhawks 82-77 Saturday. **PAGE 8**

Big draw

The Friday re-release of "Star Wars" had some fans standing in line all day for tickets, but most agreed the film was worth the wait. **PAGE 7**

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GROUNDHOG IN NEED OF GLASSES?

Cloudy, high 40. Rain or snow later, low 24.

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'It's a relief off my shoulders. I can say that much.'

RILEY WASHINGTON
former NU wingback



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

FORMER NU FOOTBALL player Riley Washington leaves the Lancaster County public defender's office Friday after the jury acquitted him of attempted second-degree murder.

Washington to focus on son, classes following acquittal

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Riley Washington is a winner.

His athletic acclaims loom large: one football national championship as a wingback, two school track records as a sprinter — one in the 55-meter indoor, one in the 100-meter dash.

But on Friday, Washington won a different kind of contest, where the winner goes free, and the loser goes to prison. Acquitted of second-degree attempted murder and weapons charges, he walked out of court a happy and free man.

It took an eight-man, four-woman jury exactly three hours to announce the not guilty verdict. When the verdicts were read, Chief

Public Defender Scott Helvie hugged Washington.

"It feels good," Washington said to reporters Friday as he walked out of Helvie's office. "That's all I can say right now."

Since Aug. 2, 1995, the day he turned himself in to the Lincoln Police Department for the shooting of Jermaine Cole at 27th and W streets, Washington's name was almost always mentioned in the same sentence as the charges.

As the delays in his trial mounted, so did bad press for a football program eyed by the national media microscope.

During his life under the cloud of felony charges, Washington told the Daily Nebraskan, he tried to keep himself busy and keep his mind off the case.

In August 1996, he graduated with a

bachelor's degree in communications studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He had a job set up for September, but, because of the trial, he could not take it.

Washington had no job and an infant son to support. He told jurors when he took the stand Thursday that he had to sell his football jersey, his national championship ring, his bowl-game watches and his football jacket to get by.

"It was kind of disappointing, but I don't really regret it," he said Saturday. "With the money that I got for it, I took care of my son."

Washington said his 1-year-old son, whom he fathered with former girlfriend Darcy Roloff, is more important to him than his foot-

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Literacy policy to incorporate UNL students

BY KIMBERLY SWARTZ
Staff Reporter

Imagine not being able to read the label on a medicine bottle, write a letter to a friend, or fill out a job application.

For 23 million Americans, illiteracy is an everyday reality.

But University of Nebraska-Lincoln work-study students may stop a new generation of illiteracy through a \$2.75-billion program proposed by President Bill Clinton last August.

The five-year program called America Reads is a national, bipartisan effort to ensure that all children can read well and independently by the end of the third grade.

Clinton announced the reading initiative after the 1994 statistics in the nation's Reading Report Card showed 41 percent of fourth-graders were reading below grade level, as were 31 percent of eighth-graders and 25 percent of high school seniors.

Clinton also proposed to offer federal funds to local, state and national programs to teach parents and volunteers to help children read. He will challenge 1 million Americans to volunteer to tutor young children in reading.

The program also would finance individual tutoring for children in kindergarten through third grade.

Many of the volunteer tutors will be college students involved in the federal work-study program to finance their education.

America Reads is not mandated by statute or regulation, so universities are not forced to participate, although many institutions have already shown their support.

John Beacon, director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, said that UNL will likely participate if the program passes.

"America Reads is a program that the community really needs," Beacon said. "It would help a lot of people, and is a worthwhile community service."

Twenty-three work-study students at UNL will be selected as tutors for America Reads. Each student will have to commit 10 to 15 hours a week reading to children at local preschools and elementary schools.

Beacon said Congress appropriates \$830 million to the federal work-study program for 1997-98, which is a 35-percent increase over last year. He said Clinton's goal was to have that increase go toward the America Reads program.

UNL received a 10-percent increase in federal work-study funds, Beacon said, which means the university could dedicate \$46,390 to

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UNL professors to teach new science techniques

BY SARAH BAKER
Staff Reporter

Nebraska elementary and high school science teachers are bound for summer school at UNL this year.

Thanks to recent grants, chemistry and physics professors at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will help teachers learn interactive classroom techniques to improve science curriculums.

The Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education gave the grants to the departments last month. The commission governs programs and funds at all Nebraska public colleges.

Paul Kelter, associate chemistry professor, is in charge of Operation Chemistry Program, a week-long summer workshop for 50 teachers.

"We bring in award-winning teachers and middle-level teachers to teach lower-level teachers," Kelter said.

Treating the teachers as professionals is a

critical part of the workshop, Kelter said.

"We respect the intelligence and experience of the teachers and treat them with dignity," Kelter said.

"It creates leadership with the participants as well as leadership within the UNL chemistry department."

The physics department also sponsors a program for teachers called Physics Infomall. Physics and astronomy professor Robert Fuller said the program is the first of its kind.

The Infomall is a complete physics resource, including 19 books with 35,000 pages of physics information, Fuller said.

The workshop will teach teachers how to use this information in their physics classes.

This new concept was developed at UNL with help from Kansas State University.

"The workshop is a training event," Fuller said, "and it is a great experience for isolated community teachers to have use of this tremendous resource."