

Former Husker breaks silence over drug test

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporters

Former Nebraska split-end J.R. Edwards, who was dismissed from the Cornhuskers for disciplinary reasons earlier this summer, told his side of the story at a press conference Wednesday.

Edwards said the first two times that he tested positive for marijuana, his parents were not notified, which broke a school policy. He also was not given a hearing and said Osborne broke promises.

Osborne, who was given a copy of

Edwards' statement, said Edwards' comments were not completely accurate.

Edwards said he had smoked marijuana in high school and his mother, Janet Banks, told NU Receivers Coach Ron Brown of the problem while Edwards was being recruited out of Lincoln Southeast High School in 1996.

"My mother suggested to Coach Brown that I be tested for marijuana," Edwards said. "Coach Brown ordered the test in April of 1996, when I was still a senior in high school. My mother was informed by a University official that the test was negative, howev-

er, I know that there is no way the test could have been negative. Coach Brown promised my mother that he would keep her advised of any problems that came up with me so that they could work on resolving them together."

Osborne said that on one occurrence a player had been tested before arriving on campus. The player's parents had given permission and the test was negative, Osborne said.

"If we had confirmed knowledge (of a drug problem) we would be really concerned about it and we would need to know an awful lot about it," Osborne said. "We certainly don't

make a practice of going out and recruiting players who are using drugs."

When he reported to practice as a freshman in August 1996, Edwards said, he tested positive for marijuana and was required to attend peer group counseling with other athletes who had tested positive. Edwards said he did not inform his parents because he assumed that the University would notify them.

"That's their job," Edwards said. "My job is to go there and play foot-

Please see EDWARDS on 4

Ambassador to address UNL grads

From Staff Reports

Franklin A. Sonn, South Africa's first black ambassador to the United States, will deliver the commencement address at UNL's graduation ceremonies Saturday afternoon.

Sonn, an education and business proponent in his native land, was appointed by South African President Nelson Mandela in 1995.

Before his appointment as ambassador, Sonn -- a trained teacher and former college president -- had been a significant figure in the country's move toward democracy while other high-profile black leaders were in jail or exiled. While Mandela was in jail, he acknowledged Sonn's political contributions in a letter praising Sonn's efforts in the movement.

Sonn stepped back from direct political involvement when South Africa broke with apartheid in 1990. He focused his work instead on community and business organizations. He joined the boards of major South Africa Investments Limited, an industrial holding company controlled by black shareholders.

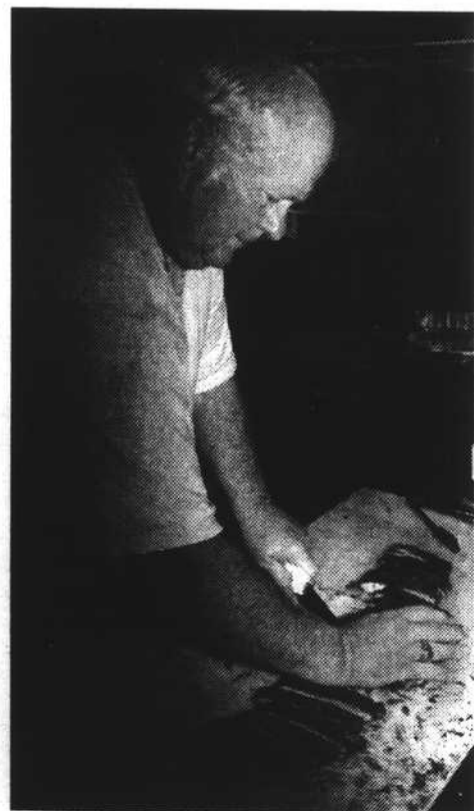
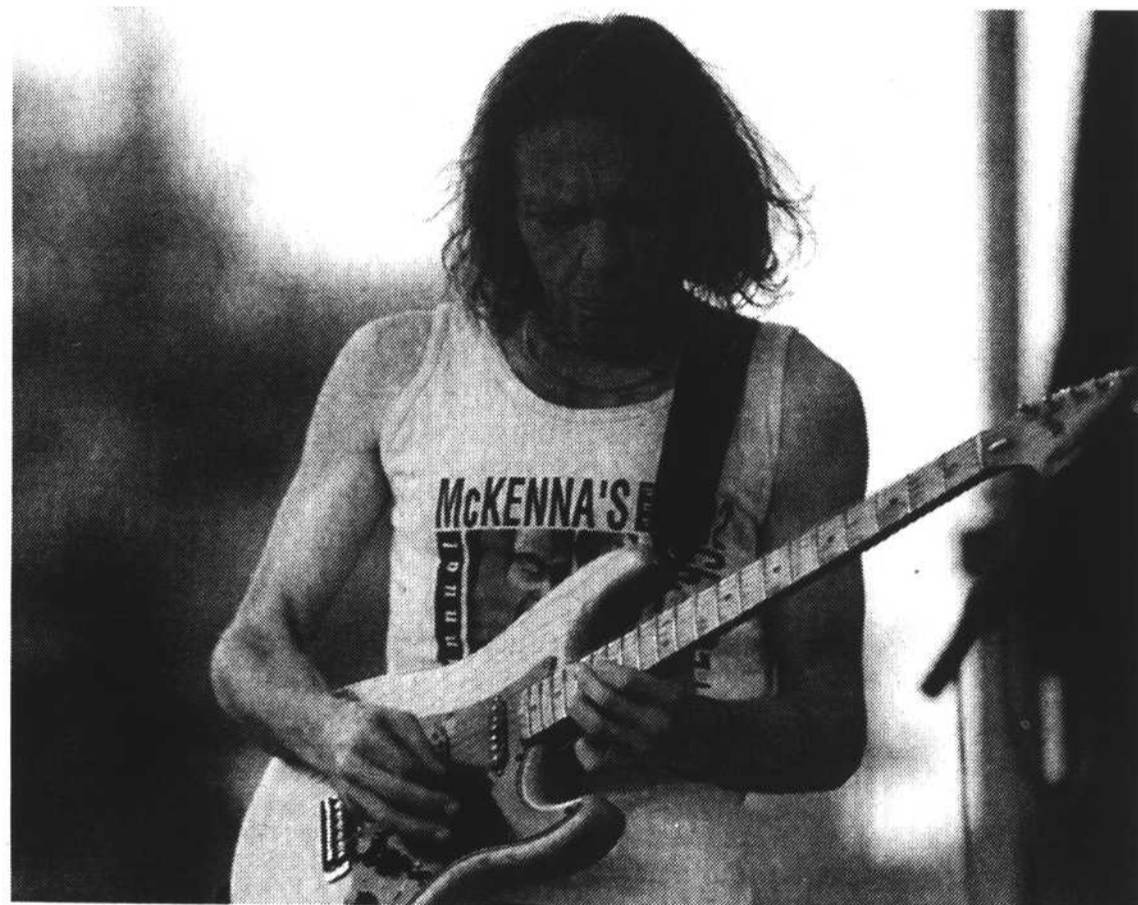
Sonn has keen interest in education and business promotion and will meet with various businesspeople and government officials, including Lt. Gov. Kim Roabk, during his visit.

UNL professor gets award

From Staff Reports

Fred Luthans, George Holmes Distinguished Professor of Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, received the Distinguished Management Educator Award for 1997 from the Academy of Management Tuesday at an academy meetin in Boston. The award is presented annually to one outstanding educator by the academy, the professional association of management professors with more than 10,000 members worldwide.

A good ribbing



Photos
by
Michael Warren/DN

Above: LARRY BOEHMER, guitarist for the band Not All There, performs at Lincoln's first-ever RibFest Saturday evening. Not All There is best-known in Lincoln as the house band for the Zoo Bar, which Boehmer owns.

Left: FRED FLEMINGS (or as he says, "better known as Fat Fred") practices the craft that has made him famous. Flemings' ribs won the Great American Rib Cookoff in Cleveland, Ohio, earning the title of "Best Ribs in America."

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