

Husker ground game suffers from injuries

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter

Power football is based on one aspect of the game — running the football.

Nebraska subscribes to that philosophy.

In order to accomplish this, a team needs running backs to carry the majority of the load. Nebraska has a number of strong backs; however, barely half of them are healthy.

"We certainly don't have a full allotment at I-back or fullback," NU assistant head and running backs coach Frank Solich said.

At I-back, Nebraska will have two experienced backs to start the season. Junior Ahman Green and senior Jay Sims will see most of the playing time for the early part of Nebraska's season. Last year Green rushed for 917 yards in 10 starts. As a true freshman, Green rushed for 1,086 yards, playing in all 13 games and averaging nearly 100 yards rushing per game in the regular season.

"He's really had a great winter and summer conditioning," Solich said. "Ahman is a very proven player, he'll be one of the

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Linebacker corps expects to reload

BY SAM MCKEON
Staff Reporter

Despite all new starters, it's business as usual for the Nebraska linebackers as they prepare for the opening game against Akron on Aug. 30.

"We're as good as we have been in the past," junior Mike linebacker Jay Foreman said. "We may have some new starters, but we've looked good in practice."

NU must replace three starters from last year, two of which shared the same position. Will linebackers Ryan Terwilliger and Terrell Farley are gone, as is Sam linebacker Jamel Williams.

But this year's generation of linebackers is not without experience. Foreman returns to anchor the middle of the defense and should contend for postseason honors. He was seventh on the team in tackles last year with 43, plus his 21-yard interception return for a touchdown against Colorado turned out to be a critical score.

Foreman said this could be his breakout season for the Huskers.

"I know that physically and mentally, I'm ready to be one of the best in the conference," Foreman said. "It's just a matter of making the big plays when I have to."

At Will linebacker, the wait is over for Octavious McFarlin.

The senior from Bishop, Texas,

Nebraska Preview Linebackers

Jay Foreman started every game at sam linebacker in 1995.

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Tackles	Sacks
Brian Shaw	6-1	215	So.	22	1.5
Jay Foreman	6-1	235	Jr.	43	.5
Octavious McFarlin	5-11	200	Sr.	24	0
Tony Ortiz	6-0	215	So.	10	1
Eric Johnson	6-0	200	Jr.	12	0

* Statistics are from the 1996 season



has completed the transition from the secondary to the front seven. McFarlin spent three years backing up the rover position, the last two for Mike Minter, but switched to Will linebacker for the Texas game. He finished last season with 24 tackles, including 1.5 sacks. Junior Eric Johnson will see significant playing time as well. Possibly the fastest of the NU linebackers, Johnson recorded 12 tackles and had one pass breakup in 1996.

There is an infusion of youth at the Sam, or strongside position. Sophomore Brian Shaw gets the nod over fellow sophomore Tony Ortiz and junior Quint Hogrefe, but all three are expected to see significant playing time. Shaw, a former walk-on, had 22 tackles last year backing up Williams, including a career-high

four tackles against Baylor. He also holds the school record for the pro agility run with a time of 3.71 seconds. Ortiz is a former high school All-American and had 10 tackles last year.

Foreman said he feels confident between two newcomers to the starting lineup.

"Brian and Octavious have both played in the big games and they know what they're doing out there," he said. "They'll be solid."

The real strength of the linebackers may not be the starters, but the depth that lies behind them. Returning lettermen go three deep at two of the positions, and the lone player who doesn't have a letter is

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Nebraska Preview Running backs

Green needs 997 rushing yards this season to surpass 3,000 yards for his career.

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Attps.	Yds.	TDs.
Ahman Green	6-0	215	Jr.	155	917	7
DeAngelo Evans	5-9	215	So.	148	776	14
Joel Makovicka	5-11	235	Jr.	23	119	0
Billy Legate	5-11	225	Jr.	3	8	0
Jay Sims	6-1	220	Sr.	46	213	1
Josh Cobb	5-11	230	Jr.	12	43	1

* Statistics are from the 1996 season



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