

Sports Letters

Fed up with 'Golden Throat'

How long must we suffer in listening to the "voice of the Huskers," Rick Schweiger? The noise that best resembles perpetual drowning has seeped its way onto TV and torments me every time I see those overplayed commercials.

I now regularly worship technology's gift of the mute button.

So cough up the egg yolk and proudly accept your new position as Campus Mime.

Andrew Gonka
senior
mechanical engineering

Grade inflation

Kansas' offense C+? Nebraska coaching B? These questions are in reference to the Big 12 Capsules (DN Aug. 28) in which not one team received a grade lower than a D+. Certainly a team will rank in the bottom 20 in some statistical category. K-State was given a C- for its schedule, despite having a "simply horrible non-conference schedule."

Since when has a grade of C- been synonymous with the word horrible? It's good to see that the Daily Nebraskan adheres to the same levels of grade inflation as the university does.

R. Tyler McClymont
senior
marketing

Wake up!

After attending my fifth game at Memorial Stadium, I have reached a conclusion. Husker fans are apathetic.

Saturday I witnessed a win and a decisive win at that.

But I also saw the "D" get stoked; it was reprehensible. But no, I don't blame the players or the coaches, I blame the fans.

The same fans who booed Scott Frost against Central Florida and berated Charlie McBride years ago. All 76,000 might as well have been at church; it seemed like church.

At Minnesota they struggle at football. Yet all 27 of our fans are actually awake when they're on "D." That's a Gopher defense that's bad all the time.

Husker fans have no idea where they would be without the brilliance of players and coaches past and present.

Listen to me, a student from a school who leads the all-time series against NU: Wake up.

Stop attending games unless you wake up, or else you will see NCAA records from your opponents every week as I do here.

Peter Knight
University of Minnesota
junior
business

We want your letters, your opinions and your thoughts about the Nebraska sports scene as a whole or about anything that runs in the Daily Nebraskan.

If you have something to say to the Sports Desk, please visit us in the basement of the Nebraska Union or e-mail us at:

emkilon@hotmail.com

Keep it short and concise. But keep the letters coming.

Miller now key threat at fullback

By **CHRISTOPHER HEINE**
Staff writer

Many believe senior Nebraska fullback Joel Makovicka is one of the best players at his position in the country.

The future of the position for the Cornhuskers, however, probably belongs to another Nebraska native, Willie Miller.

Miller, a 6-foot, 230-pound sophomore from Bellevue, appears to be preparing for that role.

"Right now, Mack is the man," Miller said. "I'm just out here trying to improve everything in my game."

Judging by the results of the Louisiana Tech game, the work seems to be paying off.

Miller rushed for 24 yards on just three carries including a tough, eight-yard touchdown run.

The second-stringer also threw a key and punishing block to help teammate Joe Walker return a kickoff 99 yards.

Running Backs Coach Dave Gillespie said Miller's work can be seen in his performance in all aspects of the game.

"I thought Willie made significant improvements from spring to fall this year," Gillespie said.

Miller said one area he needed to improve on was in the blocking department. He never had to work on it much in high school at Bellevue West.

Despite his size, Miller was the featured back in the Thunderbirds offense. His senior year, Miller rushed for 1,527 yards and had 18 touchdowns.

"In high school, we ran a single-back offense where I ran the ball more," Miller said.

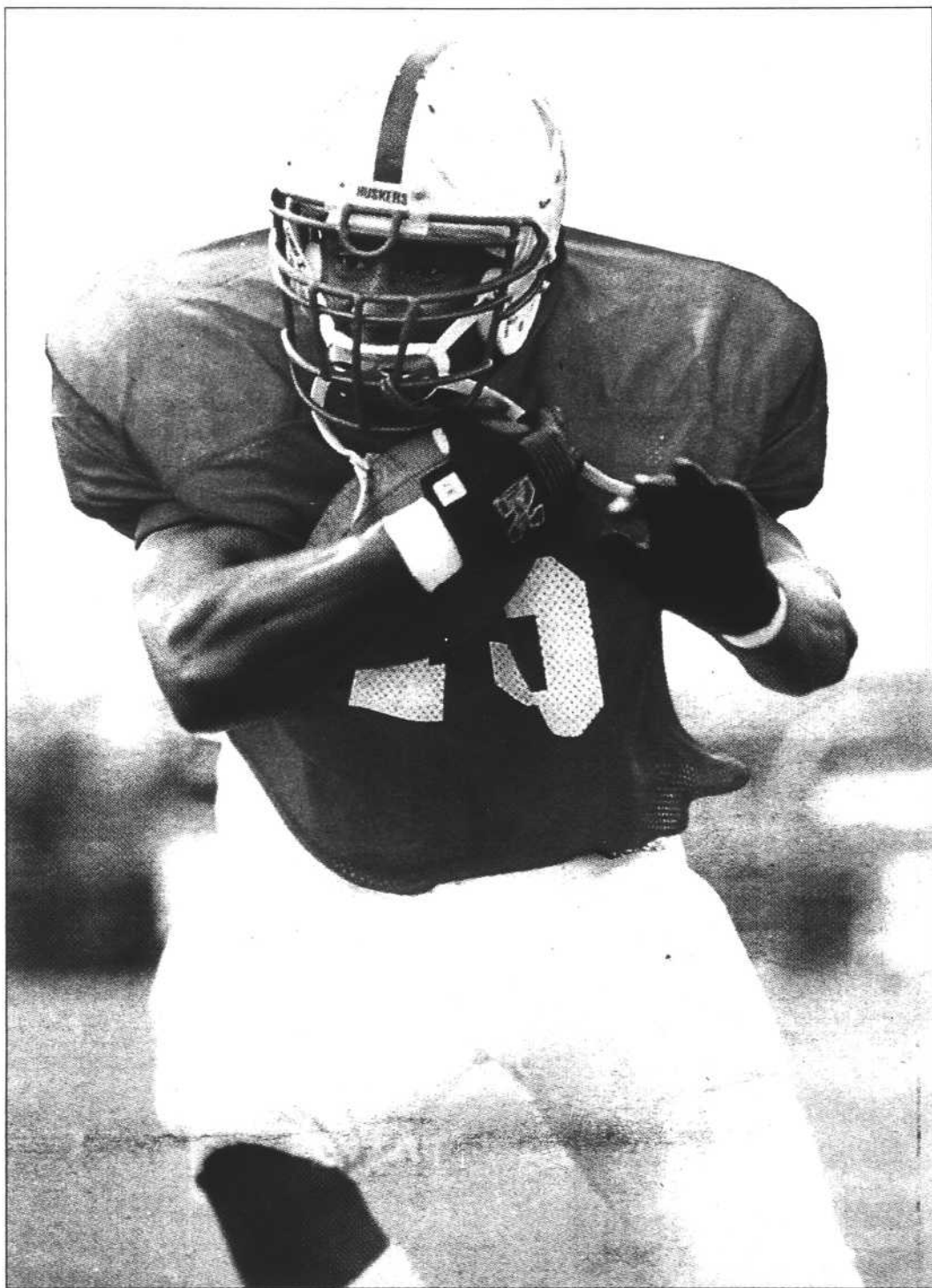
Last season, Miller had some spectacular runs in fall camps and scrimmages but saw little significant time. He recorded just 10 carries for 49 yards, including four carries for 22 yards against Oklahoma.

Beginning in the spring, however, Miller again turned heads. His running was still good, and his blocking improved. His play got the attention of NU Coach Frank Solich, who relayed to former NU Coach Tom Osborne after one practice how well Miller was coming along.

For his part, Miller said he just wants to become a complete player.

"Now I'm just trying to work on all phases of the game," Miller said. "Nobody's perfect."

Working behind a proven fullback like Makovicka can't hurt the learning process. The senior from Brainard said his understudy is performing just fine.



SCOTT MCCLURG/DN
SOPHOMORE FULLBACK WILLIE MILLER participates in drills during practice Wednesday afternoon. Miller had three carries for 24 yards in Nebraska's 56-27 win over Louisiana Tech.

"He's going to be a great player," Makovicka said. "I just try to help him with questions whenever he asks."

Miller, the only current NU fullback offered a scholarship by the Huskers out of high school, said he's content with his role as a backup for this season.

He, along with senior Billy Legate, come in to spell Makovicka. Miller's touchdown came in the first half.

"Hey, I just expect to give a 110 percent every day, and if I play that's great," Miller said. "If Mack is out there doing well, that's great, too."

Gillespie said while he doesn't expect Miller's playing time to increase significantly with a healthy Makovicka available, it doesn't mean the sophomore doesn't have the tools to play now.

"Willie is probably as talented as many starting fullbacks around the country," Gillespie said.

NU eager to face Stanford rematch

By **JAMES NICAS**
Staff writer

Volleyball

No. 5 Nebraska (1-0) at No. 21 San Diego Tonight 7:00 p.m.
No. 5 Nebraska vs No. 4 Stanford Friday 9:30 p.m.
No. 5 Nebraska vs San Diego State Saturday 4:00 p.m.



After having an easy time with Creighton on Tuesday, the Nebraska volleyball team is looking to play some tough competition.

Beginning tonight, the fifth-ranked Cornhuskers will no longer have to wait to have their wishes met.

NU will begin a stretch of three matches in three days when they play No. 21 San Diego tonight at the San Diego State Tournament in San Diego.

Before a Saturday match against San Diego State, the Huskers will face a bigger challenge on Friday. Two-time defending national champion and fourth-ranked Stanford will face NU in a match that will pit two of the top teams in the country against each other.

Senior setter Fiona Nepo said Nebraska is ready to face the California trio.

"We are really pumped to play them," Nepo said. "It's a good thing for us to play good teams early and get ready for the Big 12."

Last season, San Diego finished 24-6 and made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament. San Diego State finished 18-11 and did not qualify for the NCAA tournament for the first time in four years.

Although both the Toreros and Aztecs are quality competition, NU knows the Stanford match will be the highlight of the weekend.

Stanford was 33-2 last season, and this year is led by junior two-time All-American Kerri Walsh. However, the Cardinals lost five starters from last year's team, including national player-of-the-year Kristin Folk.

Walsh said Nebraska, like every team, will be out to take down the defending national champions.

"I expect every game to be a challenge because everybody guns for us because we're Stanford," Walsh said.

Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit knows his team cannot take the Cardinals lightly.

"The top programs have a mindset," Pettit said. "In 1995, we lost three All-Americans, but we go out each year like we can win the national championship, and that is the same for Stanford."

The match with Stanford also will be a rematch a 1996 Final Four match, which the Cardinals won in four sets. However, Nepo said, that match will not be motivation for Friday's contest.

"The loss two years ago is out the window," Nepo said. "The motivation comes from within our team to work hard."

Often teams can go into non-conference games with the idea to prepare for the conference season. Coach Pettit said that is not entirely the case for

"If we can beat Stanford early, it will help us get a regional at the end of the year."

TONIA TAUKE
middle blocker

Nebraska.

"It would be nice to say, 'Well, it's early in the season, and these games don't mean much,' but that is not true," Pettit said. "The truth is you need to do well, and you need to win."

Junior middle blocker Tonia Tauke agreed with Pettit but said the match could help NU at the end of the year.

"This weekend will help show us where we are at," Tauke said. "If we can beat Stanford early, it will help us get a regional at the end of the year."