

SPORTS

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Huskers use two for No. 1 at tight end

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND
Staff writer

One might say the cupboard is full in the future of the Nebraska tight ends.

The departure of second-team All-American Sheldon Jackson left some seemingly large shoes to fill, but the NU coaching staff isn't worried. The Husker staff had to look no further than last year's backups to fill the void — and feel comfortable about it.

Senior T.J. DeBates and sophomore Tracey Wistrom step into the role as the No. 1 tight ends. Both saw extensive action last year and complement each other well.

DeBates is known for his blocking skills — the ability to switch into offensive lineman mode and put a defender on his back.

"Being a good blocker, it gives me a chance to get on the field to fill a niche," DeBates said. "It is the most enjoyable part of the game for me, and I give 110 percent while doing it."

Wistrom, on the other hand, is known for his pass-catching skills. As a redshirt freshman last season, Tracey

Awaiting Iowa **11** days and counting

served as the No. 3 tight end and played an important role on the team, Receivers Coach Ron Brown said.

"Tracey is an excellent athlete with great speed and soft hands," Brown said. "He is very lean, but deceptively strong — a guy that is heady and courageous when he is on the field."

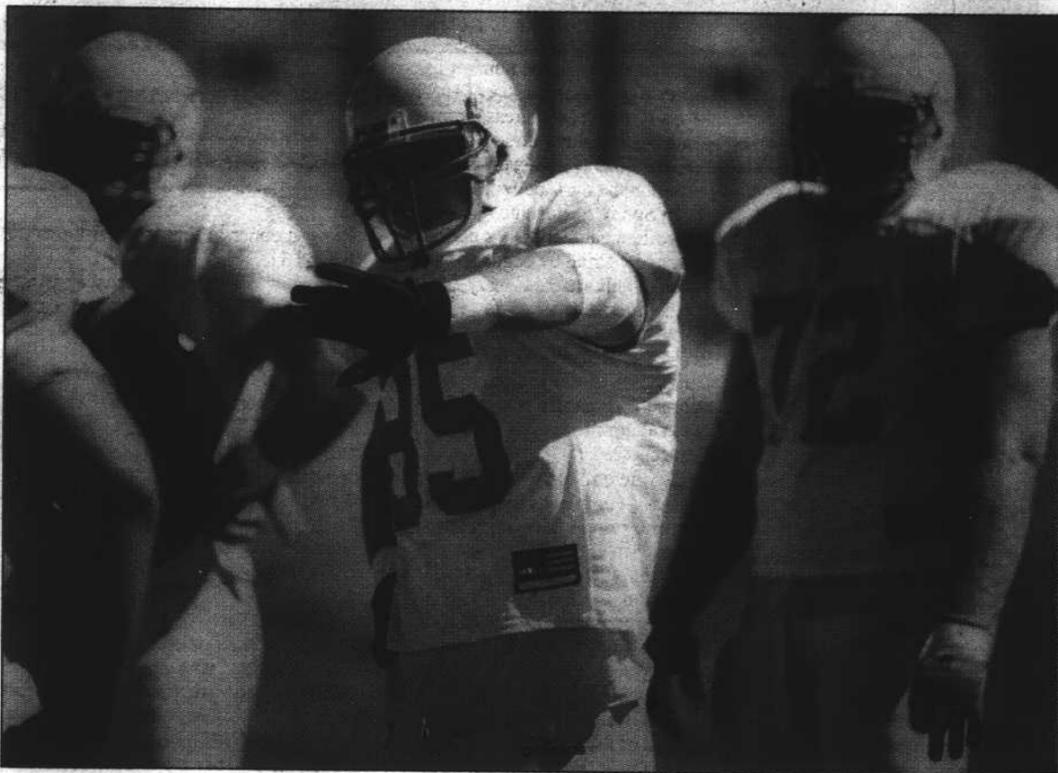
Behind DeBates and Wistrom lies a plethora of young talent, Brown said. Damien Bauman is a senior listed as the No. 2 tight end along with Aaron Golliday. Bauman has just one year of competition under his belt, but is a good fit into the Husker offense, Brown said.

"Damien is a strong guy who just needs to work on his technique a little bit," Brown said.

And Bauman is ready to work.

"I prefer the blocking aspect of the game even though most of the glory goes along with receiving," Bauman said. "My job is to pretty much make sure that those rush ends don't make it through the holes."

Brown also sees a bright future ahead of Aaron Golliday, a player he



NEBRASKA TIGHT END T.J. DeBates points to the line of scrimmage Monday afternoon on the grass practice field behind the Cook Pavilion. DeBates and sophomore Tracy Wistrom will share time at the tight end position this year, with DeBates filling the blocking role for the Huskers.

JOSHUA EICKMEIER/DN

says has "tremendous ability."

"Aaron just needs to work on his confidence and intensity," Brown said. "He seems to turn it up in scrimmage situations, but we need to see that effort all the time."

Golliday did step up in the scrimmage Saturday, catching a touchdown pass from third-string quarterback Jay Runty.

Freshman Jon Bowling, listed

third on the depth chart, is another young player showing promise for the Huskers, Brown said. He and Golliday redshirted together last season, and both had an excellent spring, Brown said.

"Jon is a Sheldon-like receiver," Brown said. "He just needs to work on his strength and mass, but the tools to be successful are all there."

Trevor Johnson, a true freshman

from Lincoln Northeast, is also on the roster, but is probably headed for a redshirt season, given the Huskers' depth at tight end, Brown said.

"This is a potentially great position for us this year," Brown said. "We have a lot of skills that we can utilize, and the depth enables the competition to stay high. The depth chart is very close at this point, and a slip-up could mean a lot on the chart."

Big 12 lacks top backs

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND
Staff writer

In its fourth year, the Big 12 Conference is faced with a situation it is not used to — a lack of proven running backs in the league.

With only three returning 1,000-yard rushers, many teams are still searching for a mainstay in the ground attack.

Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado and Kansas State are all looking to replace solid performers from a season ago. Baylor, Oklahoma State, Kansas and Nebraska return backs who are potential all-conference run-

ners. Texas A&M, Iowa State and Texas Tech return All-American candidates.

Then, there is Texas.

The loss of Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams has crippled the Longhorn running game. Last season, Williams was provided a frame for the UT offense. This season, Coach Mack Brown will have to rely on Hodges Mitchell and Ricky Brown to carry the load. Mitchell is the top returning runner with 111 yards on 23 carries a year ago.

Texas Tech, on the other hand, carries the most promising ground attack with the return of junior Ricky Williams. The Heisman Trophy can-

didate, who bears the same name as last year's winner, has gained about five pounds of muscle, according to Coach Spike Dykes, and is ready for the season to begin.

"Ricky is a little stronger, a little older and has another year under his belt," Dykes said. "His work ethic has made him look better than ever. However, we did lose three offensive linemen from a year ago, so we will see how good our blocking develops."

Colorado features a Doak-Walker-Award candidate in senior Dwayne Cherrington — despite los-

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New NU players report; Fullback Miller sits out

From staff reports

Monday's football practice on the grass behind the Cook Pavilion marked the addition of 40 to 50 players, who will serve primarily as Cornhusker scout team members, Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said.

Though they weren't among the first 105 to report to fall camp, Solich said, each athlete in the Husker system serves as a necessary piece to the squad's puzzle.

"Everyone really plays a role in what we get done," Solich said. "There is no player that is not important."

Monday's full-padded practice was "sluggish," Solich said, but that's to be expected after a weekend scrimmage.

"I think they pushed and got something out of it," Solich said. "Overall, it was a good practice."

Injury update:

No. 1 fullback Willie Miller sat out of practice Monday with an ankle sprain.

Solich said he expects Miller to return within a couple days.

Linebacker Julius Jackson also missed practice Monday because of a knee injury.

Sports Opinion

New coaches are target of latest DN Sports Quiz



John Gaskins

Greetings, oh fellow Nebraskans and sports geeks. Hope your summer was eventful and that you might even remember some of it. I know I don't remember mine, so it's time to look ahead.

For those of you young pup freshmen, or those new to the DN sports section, I like to strain your sports brains with a quiz — a little thing I have so

creatively called the "DN Sports Quiz."

And, because you are probably reading this in class — as opposed to listening to your instructor — I thought maybe you should at least educate yourself. Today's topic: football (how original).

1. Lou Holtz and John Robinson, the former head coaches at famed football shrines Notre Dame and USC, proved to the world (when they decided to take over the programs at sad-sack South Carolina and UNLV) that they both:

- Enjoy the challenge of rebuilding programs.
- Just love the game of football too much to retire from coaching.
- Maybe need to start considering assisted living.

2. The indelible strengths that former Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel will bring to Washington's

football program are:

- Sweater vests.
- Penalties and blowing late fourth-quarter leads.
- Coors Light parties.

3. What disgruntled and heavily overrated quarterback Ryan Leaf really yelled to that heckler at the Chargers' training camp was:

- "I said, 'Do you have any Grey Poupon!'"
- "Stressed? Stressed? Let's see how you'd handle your surly butler!"
- "Of all people, you could be just a little more supportive, Dad!"

4. Kansas State Coach Bill Snyder will try to deal with the loss of Heisman Trophy runner-up quarterback Michael Bishop by relying on:

- Jonathan Beasley (Bishop's likely replacement).

- Ron Hudson (the new offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach).
- Jack Daniels.

5. What the Missouri ticket office really meant to say when it sold all those tickets to Nebraska fans before it took them back was:

- "We'll sell you tickets if you promise not to show up at the game wearing red."
- "We'll sell you the tickets if you promise not to show up at the game cheering for Nebraska."
- "We'll sell you the tickets if you promise not to show up at the game."

That's it. And guess what? You all fail! That's how we do things down here. Have a nice day!

John Gaskins is a junior broadcasting major and Daily Nebraskan staff writer.