

## I-back Buckhalter might transfer

■ Coach Frank Solich is unsure of the third-stringer's whereabouts.

BY MATTHEW HANSEN  
Staff writer

Absent from practice Monday and Tuesday, junior I-Back Correll Buckhalter may transfer to another school, Nebraska Head Coach Frank Solich said.

Buckhalter, who started seven games and led the Cornhuskers with 822 rushing yards last season, is cur-

rently listed as the No. 3 I-back. According to Solich, this move down the depth chart may be a factor in Buckhalter's absence.

"I assume that Correll is dissatisfied with his playing time," Solich said. "His frustration is understandable - it has been difficult to get him playing time this year."

Solich said he had been trying unsuccessfully to get in touch with his missing running back for the last two days. Ruth Buckhalter, Correll's mother, was also unaware of her son's plans.

"I have no idea what is going on," Ruth Buckhalter told the Daily

Nebraskan Tuesday night. "I've been trying to find out myself. I heard about it an hour ago, and that was the first thing I heard."

The healthy return of juniors DeAngelo Evans and Dan Alexander from injury-plagued 1998 seasons may have hastened Buckhalter's depth chart slide. Last season Buckhalter began fall camp as the backup but ended up starting for much of the year after incumbent Evans and then Alexander went down with injuries.

This season, all three running backs entered fall camp as co-starters, but Evans won the starting job, and Alexander was selected as his backup.

"I have no idea what is going on. I've been trying to find out myself."

RUTH BUCKHALTER  
I-back's mother

Solich said redshirt freshman Dahrran Diedrick will move up to become the third-string I-back if Buckhalter does not return.

"Dahrran is a very tough football player," Solich said. "He had a good fall camp, so we feel comfortable with him stepping in there. However, we

would love to have Correll. He's a good player with a lot of experience. He gives us everything he has out there on the field."

Solich also said Josh Davis and Keyou Craver are the leading candidates to fill in at kick returner if Buckhalter does transfer.

## Kansas State aims for conference title

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

Editor's note: This is the ninth story of an 11-part series exploring Nebraska's opponents in the Big 12 Conference.

With only 15 minutes to play in the 1998 Big 12 Championship game, Kansas State had its eyes on the prize.

The Wildcats were out of the Nebraska shadow and appeared to be headed to the Fiesta Bowl for a shot at winning the national championship.

And then the bottom fell out. Texas A&M scored 15 points in the fourth quarter to tie the game and then won in double overtime.

There was to be no Fiesta Bowl - but the less-prestigious Alamo Bowl, which they lost to Purdue.

"It was difficult to deal with, but it is behind us," KSU Coach Bill Snyder said. "But that doesn't mean it will disappear. I see it as a motivational factor."

As Kansas State tries to motivate and rebuild its confidence from the end of last season, it is forced to do it without quarterback Michael Bishop. Filling Bishop's shoes is junior Jonathan Beasley.

Snyder said Beasley does not have the scrambling ability that Bishop brought to the table, but that does not mean full-scale changes for the offense.

"There are no intended changes," Snyder said. "We have a broad-based

"It was difficult to deal with, but it is behind us ... That doesn't mean it will disappear."

BILL SNYDER  
KSU head coach

offense, and we can just shift what's on our plate."

That plate includes only three returning starters on offense. Sophomore Aaron Lockett anchors the receiving corps, and two offensive linemen also return.

But none of last year's backfield, which accounted for 42 rushing touchdowns, returns this season.

The running back duo of juniors Frank Murphy and David Allen are expected to carry a lot of the load. Although Allen did not have many rushing attempts a year ago, he was on the All-Big 12 first team as a punt returner.

The flip side of K-State's experience coin is seven returning starters on defense. The Wildcats had the No. 1 total defense in the conference last season.

Please see CATS on 10

## Two quarterbacks lead inexperienced Bears

BY SAMUEL MCKEWIN  
Senior staff writer

In the most basic sense, California's quarterback situation mirrors Nebraska's in that both are using two to do the job of one.

The comparisons end right after that.

While NU boasts two experienced, talented players schooled in the option offense, the Golden Bears have two - and only two - quarterbacks who have just 29 pass attempts between them. One of them is true freshman Kyle Bolter. The other, sophomore Samuel Clemons.

"It's not the greatest situation to get into," Cal Head Coach Tom Holmoe said Tuesday. "But really, that's what we have to deal with."

Holmoe and the Bears will enter

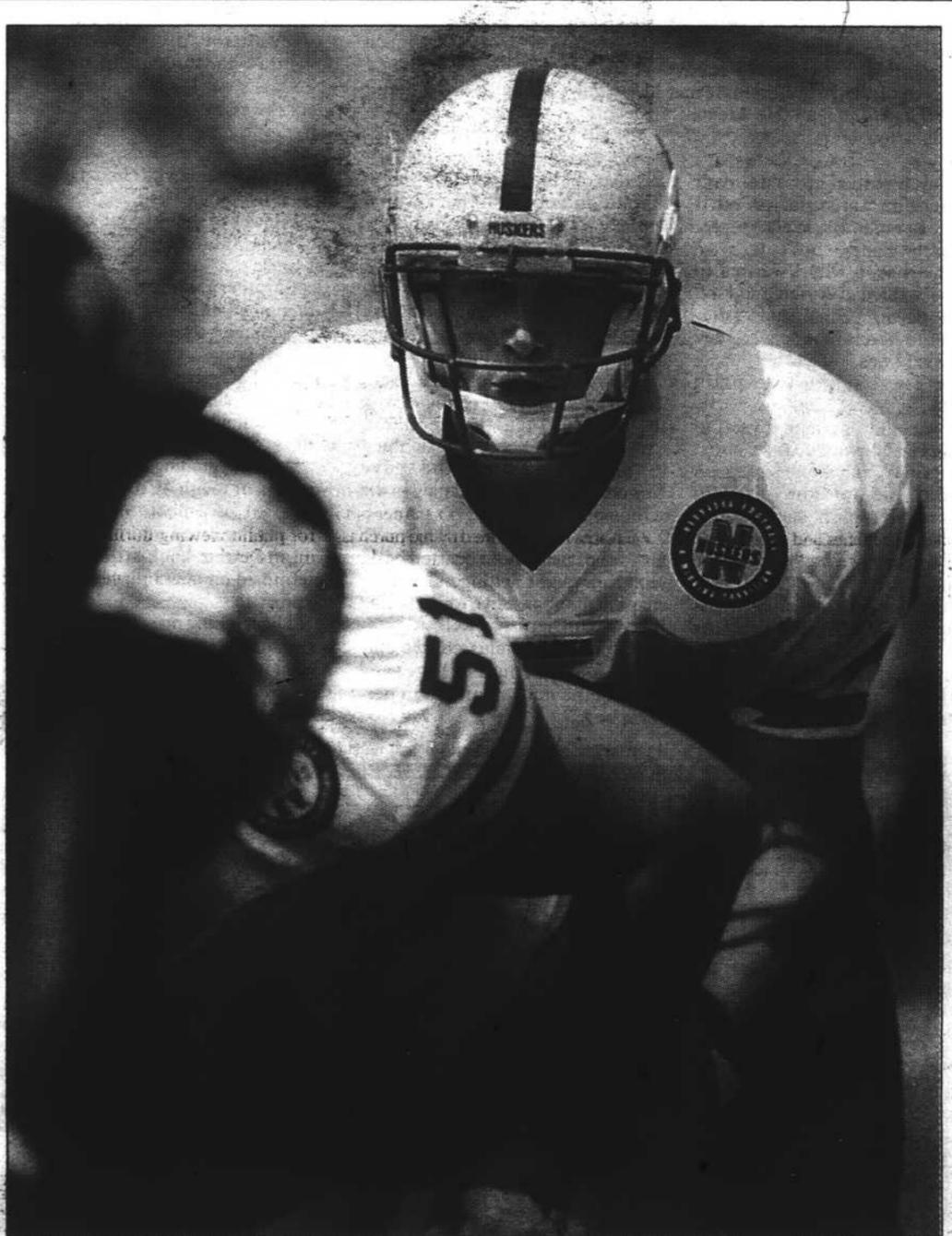
Memorial Stadium on Saturday having won 21-7 last week over Rutgers, a lightly regarded team that actually out-gained California 287 yards to 265 yards. Cal's defense, considered one of the best in the Pacific 10 Conference, broke the game open when cornerback Deltha O'Neal returned an interception 75 yards for a touchdown.

It was not a pretty performance, Holmoe said, and much of that reflects back on the offense, which was the worst in its conference last season, and, if the game against the Scarlet Knights is any indication, hasn't improved much.

"I think it's a little better," Holmoe said. "We're young on offense. I think we can be better somewhere in the season if we continue to improve."

Cal has its most inexperience at the

Please see CAL on 10



MATT MILLER/DN

NU QUARTERBACK ERIC CROUCH spoke Tuesday to the media for the first time since Coach Frank Solich announced that Bobby Newcombe would be the Huskers' starter.

## Crouch breaks silence

BY SAMUEL MCKEWIN  
Senior staff writer

Eric Crouch cleared the air Tuesday about his situation at quarterback by saying there wasn't much to clear up.

The backup, who propelled Nebraska to a 42-7 win over Iowa on Saturday, set a few things straight at the Cornhuskers' weekly press conference, touching on several issues in more than 20 minutes.

The key point, Crouch said, was

that contrary to popular rumor, he never quit the team after Bobby Newcombe was named the starter last week.

"I think a lot of people have asked me that - if I've considered quitting or if I talked to Coach (Frank) Solich at any time about quitting," Crouch said. "I never did."

"There was never a time when I went up to Coach Solich or gave him a call or a message or left any type of notification with anyone that I was leaving this team."

But Crouch did go home and

did visit his old high school, Millard North, after Solich announced the decision Aug. 27 - something he does pretty much every weekend, Crouch said, both to "feel good about myself" and relax.

"I was a little disappointed," Crouch said. "I think I have the right to be. I worked very hard. I worked in the summer, the spring and the winter."

"I tried my best. I tried to better

Please see CROUCH on 10