

SPORTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

PAGE 9

Evans waits for decision from coaches

“It's just smart for us to do it like this. It's almost like I'm the president.”

EARNESTINE EVANS
I-back's mother

By **SAMUEL MCKEWON**
Senior staff writer

As of Thursday night, there had been no change in DeAngelo Evans' status with the Nebraska football team – as in Evans is still not on the team.

Earnestine Evans, DeAngelo's mother, said her son reached their home in Wichita, Kan., about 9 p.m. Thursday.

He would not make any comments to reporters, and Earnestine would not elaborate on rumors that DeAngelo wants to re-join the team.

“We're kind of base two in this thing,” Earnestine said. “Coach (Frank) Solich and his



Evans

staff is base one. Until they do something, I don't want to say what we're going to do, and DeAngelo doesn't want to speak.

“We've been waiting on a decision from them. It's not like we're twiddling our thumbs or anything, or putting our lives on hold, but we'll wait until then.”

When asked why DeAngelo was at home, Earnestine answered, “Why do you go home? What does home mean to you? You relax, you think about things.”

Solich said he has not spoken to DeAngelo in the last two days – since Tuesday night when they met.

In that time, DeAngelo hasn't answered phone calls at his home and, according to Earnestine, has not spoken to the media.

Solich said he would make no further decisions until he and the other coaches spoke to DeAngelo.

“DeAngelo has made a decision,” Solich said. “We're not in any category right now than doing anything other than talking.”

Earnestine would not confirm nor deny that

Please see **EVANS** on 10

The Believer
Alexander turns deaf ear to critics and emerges as NU's No. 1 I-back

Story by Samuel McKewon
Photos by Mike Warren

For so long, Dan Alexander believed those who sought to keep him down. He believed them in high school when coaches moved him from I-back to fullback because they said he couldn't catch. And he kept on believing them. All the way through his recruitment to Nebraska, he believed them. Through his first 2½ seasons at NU, he believed them.

He heard those who said he wasn't good enough to play Nebraska, guys like former Missouri quarterback Corby Jones. He heard people who said he'd be better off at fullback in college, not I-back where he was far from prototypical.

And then, somewhere around the middle of last season, the 6-foot, 245-pounder knew he was wrong. Because finally, he knew that they – every single one of his critics – were wrong.

“The middle of last year, I finally came to the conclusion I could be an I-back,” Alexander said. “In high school, everybody told me I had bad hands. I couldn't catch. So I couldn't catch. It's that negative reinforcement that keeps people down.”

Please see **ALEXANDER** on 10

Solich: Eagles will be NU's toughest challenge yet

By **SAMUEL MCKEWON**
Senior staff writer

So Eric Crouch is quarterback. Bobby Newcombe's wingback. DeAngelo Evans is a no-back.

Oh yeah, and the Nebraska football team plays a game on Saturday against Southern Mississippi.

For the fans, lost amid the position changes, depth chart shake-ups and the “will-he or won't-he” saga of Evans, is the fact the Cornhuskers still have to play against a Golden Eagle team with a history of big upsets and gimmick defenses.

That wasn't lost on NU Head Coach Frank Solich as he addressed the media

on Tuesday. Since then, he has attempted to steer clear of the personnel changes in favor of a close look at the 12:30 p.m. game with USM, a team that poses a more serious threat than either Iowa or California did in the first two games.

“I think Southern Miss will be the best football team we have faced up to this point,” Solich said. “They have excellent quickness on both sides of the football. They're very, very talented.”

The No. 4 Huskers (2-0) hope to counter the Eagles' attack with a revamped offense where Crouch takes over at quarterback and Newcombe moves to the wingback slot. The switch, made in hopes of getting the two best athletes on the field at the same time,

should bolster NU's offensive game plan.

“It definitely gives a lot to this offense,” Crouch said. “I've never had a chance to throw to him before, but it's something that's going to be very good to this team.”

The Huskers could use a shot in the arm in terms of rushing offense. After pounding out 301 yards rushing against Iowa – more than half in the second half – NU gained only 114 yards against a stiff California defense.

USM's defense isn't much easier, as the Eagles shift repeatedly before the snap, and where they stop is impossible to tell.

“I think their defense can make you look bad at times,” Solich said.

“Turmoil shows on Saturdays. I don't see where that showed for us on either Saturday. I like where we're at. We're 2-0 and moving on to the third game to see what happens.”

FRANK SOLICH
NU head coach

Hopefully, things that we'll call will give us a good chance to make big plays. I have a lot of respect for their coaching staff and team.”

Southern Mississippi also brings a multiple offense to the table. Often, the

Please see **EAGLES** on 10