

Omahan Wants to Start 'New Era' as Irish Tri-Captain

By Matt Smolsky

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John Mosley wants to bring back Notre Dame's winning tradition.

Mosley, a cornerback from Omaha, last week was elected a tri-captain on the Irish football team. He shares the title with quarterback Blair Kiel and cornerback Stacey Toran.

He said being a tri-captain and a senior has given him a greater sense of duty to the school, and he's tired of seeing Notre Dame getting pushed around.

"Over the past few years, people have thought they could take advantage of Notre Dame," Mosley said in a phone interview from South Bend, Ind. "That's not the way it is. Our senior class would like to start a new era."

The Irish finished 5-6 and 6-4-1 the last two seasons under Coach Gerry Faust. They open the season Saturday at Purdue.

The team elected Kiel and Toran captains last spring. The players last week elected Mosley one of the team captains and captain of the specialty (kick) teams.



Mosley

Mosley attended Howard Kennedy and Minne Lusa elementary schools and played football for the Li'l Vikes team. He played high school football at Culver Military Academy in Indiana, where he scored 20 touchdowns as a senior.

A brother, Lloyd, who graduated from Omaha Ryan High, is a senior linebacker and nose guard at Ball State University. Another brother, Howard, who also attended Culver Academy, played running back at the University of Florida.

Their father, Howard Mosley Sr., is an electrician at the Western Electric Service Center in Omaha, and their mother, Pearline, is a Prudential insurance agent.

John said the Notre Dame records the last two seasons weren't surprising to team members, even considering Notre Dame's tradition. He said Faust warned the players when he arrived that the team would go through a rebuilding period.

"I believe in Coach Faust," Mosley said. "I think Coach Faust has surrounded himself with great coaches."

"With our alumni backing us, we can't go wrong. You wouldn't believe the Nebraska alumni we have."

Mosley said Notre Dame alums in Nebraska helped him get an internship with the First National Bank of Omaha during the summer of 1982.

This summer, Mosley had his own desk at another bank —

Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City. Last year he told The World-Herald one of his goals was to sit "behind a big desk in Manhattan."

But he still has goals to achieve. For the moment, the ones on the football field take precedence.

"Our goal is the national championship. At Notre Dame, you can't go for the Big 10 or Big Eight championship.

"Preseason doesn't mean anything. Numbers don't mean anything unless you have them. I enjoy the situation that Notre Dame is in right now. It allows us not to have so much pressure."

Notre Dame is ranked fifth by The Associated Press and eighth by United Press International.

Mosley, 6-foot and 190 pounds, doesn't know yet if he's a starter.

"It's a battle between Pat Ballate and myself," he said.

Mosley, who switched to cornerback from wingback last year, said playing defense is tougher than offense.

"On defense you're not allowed to make any mistakes. Especially in the defensive backfield. It's very hard playing defense.

"But it's exciting. You make things happen. You can make a big hit, interceptions. It can really turn the game around completely. John Mosley is looking for a good year in terms of making something happen."