

# After Injury, Huskers' Pierson-El Shows Flashes Of Old Self

BY ERIC OLSON

AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — De'Mornay Pierson-El has played three games since coming back from a broken foot, and each outing has been better than the last.

Nebraska's dynamic receiver and return specialist took his greatest satisfaction in one play in this past week's 48-25 win at Minnesota. He got behind defenders Brieon Boddy-Calhoun and Antonio Johnson and tipped a jump ball to himself for a 14-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Calhoun was the player who stripped the ball from Pierson-El inside the Minnesota 5-yard line

late in last year's game in Lincoln to secure the Gophers' 28-24 win.

"I got revenge. Absolutely," Pierson-El said Monday. "I had a year's frustration saving up for that game, and it just so happened to be on the same guy. It was a big relief for me. I got my revenge, so I'm good."

That play and his 42-yard punt return in the first quarter were examples of what the Cornhuskers (3-4, 1-2 Big Ten) were missing when he was out the first four games.

"He's a big play waiting to happen," running back Terrell Newby said.

As a freshman last year, Pierson-El was second in the country in punt-return average and tied for the national lead with three punt

returns for touchdowns. On his first play back from injury, at Illinois on Oct. 3, he muffed a punt.

"Everybody makes mistakes," he said. "It showed me where I was and how far I had to go. I was thinking a lot about it and I jinxed myself, psyched myself out. I should have gotten in the offense (first) just to get the jitters out. Any chance I got, I was going to take it."

Pierson-El didn't get another opportunity to run back a punt until he broke the long one against the Gophers. He wasn't happy punter Peter Mortell chased him out of bounds.

"It felt good to get back there and get back to doing some of the things I like doing. Major confidence

builder, really," he said. "I was a little (mad) at myself, but I'll get one sooner or later. They had a very good cover team, and they did a good job of squeezing me to the sideline."

Pierson-El broke his right foot in a mid-August practice, and he's still not fully recovered. He said the injury affected his ability to cut and that his foot feels better some days than others. Coach Mike Riley said Pierson-El was on the field for about 18 plays against Minnesota, and that number needs to increase. Nebraska hosts Northwestern on Saturday.

Pierson-El has proved to be dangerous running jet sweeps and generating yards after catch. But

Riley said limits will be placed on Pierson-El until he gets a better grasp of the offense. He said it's one thing to watch practice while injured and quite another to go through the repetitions on the field.

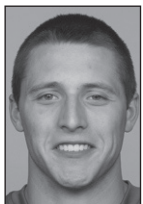
"It's a little more complicated than just throwing him back in there and throwing him the ball," Riley said. "But we do need to get him going more. We have things that are specifically good for him that we really have to focus on. If we do not play him every play, the things we have for him we need to accentuate and get him the football."

## Lions To Place Zenner On IR

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Detroit Lions running back Zach Zenner is going on injured reserve with cracked ribs and a partially collapsed lung.

Coach Jim Caldwell said Monday that Zenner was in the hospital after being injured in Sunday's overtime win over Chicago. Caldwell said Zenner would go on IR "at some point in time" but that his condition was improving.

Zenner has 60 yards on 17 carries this season. He im-



Zenner

pressed during preseason and has received some playing time in a backfield that's been hurt by Jolique Bell's injury problems and Ameer Abdullah's fumbling.

Theo Riddick made the most of his opportunities Sunday, running for 28 yards on seven carries and catching three passes for 50 yards.

## Jays Hold Off Royals 11-8

TORONTO (AP) — Troy Tulowitzki and Josh Donaldson each homered in a six-run third inning, and Toronto's bats broke out at home for an 11-8 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Monday night that trimmed the Blue Jays' deficit to 2-1 in the AL Championship Series.

Ryan Goins also connected and had a two-run single, one game after his misplayed pop fly set off Kansas City's winning rally Sunday.

Veteran knuckleballer R.A. Dickey will try to get the Blue Jays even in the best-of-seven

series Tuesday afternoon. He faces Kansas City's 6-foot-10 right-hander Chris Young in Game 4.

In the first ALCS game in Toronto since 1993, Tulowitzki connected for a three-run shot off Johnny Cueto, and Donaldson hit a two-run drive off Kris Medlen as the Blue Jays hit their first home runs of the series.

Cueto failed to retire a batter in the third inning, allowing eight runs and six hits in the worst postseason start of his career.

## Volleyball

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against Avon in volleyball action on Monday in Avon.

For the Rustler, Rachel Hawkins led all players in kills with 12 and aces with six. Ellie Kohn led with 20 assists, Karly Gustafson recorded six blocks, and Kailey Feiner led the team with 13 digs.

For the Lady Pirates, Kacie Mudder led the team with eight kills and five blocks. Hanna Powers had a team-high 11 assists. Karisa Markel led the game in digs with 18.

Ethan will return to play Tripp-Delmont/Armor on Oct 26, while Avon will remain home to host Corsica/Stickney on Tuesday.

Avon won the JV match 25-21, 25-14; and the c-match 25-20, 25-17.

ETHAN (14-8).....	17	28	25	25
AVON (6-12).....	25	26	22	22

**Andes Central-Dakota Christian 3, Bridgewater-Emery 0**

EMERY – Andes Central-Dakota Christian swept Bridgewater-Emery 25-16, 25-23, 25-12 on Monday in Emery in volleyball.

For ACDC, Kennedy Muckey and Abbi Ban Hoffman tied for a game-high nine kills. Lydia Hansum recorded 27 assists, while Maddie Gray led with nine digs and four aces.

For B-E, Kadra Kayser and Sydney Hoffman led with seven kills each, Joslyn Schrank had a game-high 10 digs, and Hannah Harberts led with 15 assists.

ACDC will host Mitchell Christian on Friday at Dakota Christian, while B-E will finish the regular season against Sanborn Central/Woonsocket in Bridgewater the same day.

ACDC won the JV match 2-0.

ANDES CENTRAL-DC (12-11).....	25	25	25
BRIDGEWATER-EMERY (9-14).....	16	23	12

**Hanson 3, Scotland 0**

SCOTLAND – The Hanson Beaverettes defeated the Scotland Lady Highlanders 25-16, 25-20, 25-16, earning their 18th win, in Scotland on Monday in high school volleyball action.

For Hanson, Ashley Moe led with 12 kills, while Kynedi Cheeseman added 11. Heather Kayser had a team-high 17 assists, and Tayah Waldera finished with 10. Hannah Marquardt had a game-high 17 digs.

For Scotland, Elyssa Walloch finished with a team-high seven kills, Taylor Bietz led Scotland with eight assists, while Alex Conrad

added seven assists. Shannon Fanning was the team leader in digs with 13.

Hanson will travel to play Freeman on Tuesday, while Scotland will play an unknown opponent in the South East South Dakota Tourney on Saturday in Platte.

HANSON (18-9).....	25	25	25
SCOTLAND (7-15).....	16	20	16

**Lincoln 3, Washington 2**

SIOUX FALLS – The Sioux Falls Lincoln Patriots won the final two sets of their 25-18, 28-25, 20-25, 25-23, 16-14 victory over the Sioux Falls Washington Warriors in high school volleyball action on Monday in Sioux Falls.

The Patriots were led in attack by Anezka Szabo with 10 kills, while Maddi Barness and Izzy Van Veldhuizen each added nine. Allie Engel had a team-high 34 assists. Szabo and Barness contributed 13 and 11 blocks, respectively. Anna Boyens and Van Veldhuizen had 25 and 24 digs, respectively.

The Warriors' Emily VanBockern led all players with 32 digs. Hailey Olson led all players with 37 assists. Jamie Kayl had a game-high 14 kills to go along with 14 digs. Kirsten Wiseman finished with 12 kills and a team-high seven blocks and Haley Nold led all players in aces with five.

Both teams will play Rapid City Central and Rapid City Stevens at Sioux Falls Washington on Friday.

Washington won the JV game 25-13, 25-18; Washington won the sophomore game 22-25, 25-13-25-8; Washington won the freshman A match 11-25, 25-15, 25-8; Lincoln won the freshman B match 20-25, 25-21, 25-11.

LINCOLN (12-13).....	25	16	20	25	16
WASHINGTON (13-15).....	23	25	25	23	14

**Colman-Egan 3, Flandreau Indian 0**

FLANDREAU – Colman-Egan swept Flandreau Indian 25-10, 25-14, 25-15 in high school volleyball action on Monday in Flandreau.

For Colman-Egan, Shelby Hiller led the way with seven kills. Sami Cebert was the team leader in assists with 23 and aces with four. Burgin Groos and Savannah Moore tied with a team-high five digs.

No stats were reported for Flandreau Indian.

Colman-Egan will travel to play Arlington on Tuesday, while Flandreau Indian will remain home to face Lower Brule Thursday.

COLMAN-EGAN (11-11).....	25	25	25
FLANDREAU INDIAN (2-10).....	10	14	15

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## Local PPK Winners Crowned



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Winners were crowned in five divisions at the local competition of the NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Competition, hosted by the Yankton Sertoma Youth Football Program on Sept. 13. Yankton winners were recognized at the Bucks game on Oct. 16. Pictured are (front) Liam Villanueva (1st place, boys' 8-9), Cooper Larsen (1st place, boys' 6-7), Tegan LaCroix (2nd place, boys' 6-7), (back) Francis Int'veld (3rd place, boys' 8-9), Joshua Sheldon (3rd place, boys' 10-11), Braylen Bietz (2nd place, boys' 10-11), Trevor Paulsen (1st place, boys' 10-11), and Keaton List (2nd place, boys' 12-13), all of Yankton. Not pictured are Nathan Quatier (1st place, boys' 12-13) of Mission Hill, Madisyn Bietz (1st place, girls' 12-13) of Yankton, Spencer Karstens (2nd place, boys' 8-9) of Gayville and Preston Karstens (3rd place, boys' 6-7) of Gayville. First place finishers advanced to the state sectional competition, which was held Oct. 17 in Avon.

## Rookie Diggs Emerges As Threat For Vikings Passing Game

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — On the biggest play of the game, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Teddy Bridgewater dropped back to pass in the fourth quarter, the Kansas City Chiefs pass rush breathing down his neck on a third-and-15.

Bridgewater moved in the pocket to buy some time, keeping his head downfield in hopes that someone could get open. As he let the throw go, it sailed not toward Mike Wallace, the big-money veteran receiver acquired from Miami in the offseason.

It didn't go toward Cordarrelle Patterson, the first-round pick of three years ago who hasn't been able to break into the regular receiving rotation.

And it didn't go to Kyle Rudolph, the talented tight end who signed a lucrative contract extension last year.

It went straight toward Stephon Diggs, a rookie drafted in the fifth round who struggled

with injuries at Maryland and has played in two games in his NFL career. Diggs was the one who found the hole in the defense, came back toward Bridgewater and made the catch for a 30-yard gain.

The play of the day set up a field goal and helped stave off some of the momentum the Chiefs were building, allowing the Vikings (3-2) to hold on for a much-needed 16-10 victory.

Wallace has been telling anyone who will listen that Diggs reminds him of Antonio Brown, Wallace's former teammate with the Steelers and a sixth-round pick who has blossomed into one of the best receivers in the league. After Diggs' seven-catch, 129-yard day against the Chiefs, maybe some of those skeptics will start to take him seriously.

"He's a game changer, to me," Vikings running back Adrian Peterson said. "He's a talented young guy. He plays extremely hard, and you're go-

ing to get his best effort."

Diggs got his chance before the bye when Charles Johnson missed the Denver game with a rib injury. His first career game included six catches for 87 yards and quickly earned him Bridgewater's trust.

"I mean we all knew he could ball the whole time," Wallace said. "It was never a question of that, it was just a matter of opportunity. Every time I do an interview I say I think we have guys that can play on any roster in the NFL. So I think he's a great player. Humble kid, and he's going to keep working, I know it."

While Patterson is a bigger, stronger prospect, he played only one season at Tennessee before entering the draft and has had difficulty mastering the nuances of route-running and the coverage reading demanded of receivers. That has left him relegated to kick returns and the spot duty on a run play here or there.

## Jays Claim Switch-Pitcher Venditte

TORONTO (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays have claimed switch-pitcher Pat Venditte off waivers from the Oakland Athletics.

The Blue Jays made the move Monday. Toronto is playing in the AL Championship Series, but Venditte is not eligible.

The 30-year-old Venditte made his major league debut this season, throwing as a left-hander and as a righty. The ambidextrous pitcher was 2-2 with a 4.40 ERA in 26 games.

Toronto also said infielder Darwin Barney was designated for assignment.

In another move, Oakland righty Cody Martin was claimed off waivers by Seattle. He made his big league debut this year and was 2-5 with a 7.92 ERA in 25 games for Atlanta and the A's.

The A's also released outfielder Jason Pridie so he could play in Japan and outrighted catcher Bryan Anderson to Triple-A Nashville.



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