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Miami connection helped put Victor Evans III in the thick of Nebraska cornerback battle

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L INCOLN — Last year, senior cornerback Victor Evans III was at a training session at a high school in Miami. Also there: Nebraska linebacker Vincent Shavers Jr., who Evans has known since they were kids.

Evans had recently entered the portal after playing three seasons at Florida International University. There, he played 29 games with eight starts, recording 59 tackles. He had six games with five or more tackles in his 2025 season.

“He was asking me what schools contacted me so far,” Evans said. “He asked me would I like to come to Nebraska, and I was like ‘Of course.’”

Shavers texted Matt Rhule on the spot.

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“I’m like, ‘I think we can use him,” Shavers said. “He’s going to listen to whatever you tell him to do. Great kid.”

That led to a phone call from cornerbacks coach Addison Williams. Williams was looking for playmaking ability, skillset and physicality.

“(I was) just talking to some of the coaches that I knew down there, some of the people in the Miami area that I really trust,” Williams said. “And he checked all the boxes.”

After a visit, Evans decided to make the move to Nebraska. He’s far from home, where he played at Miami Monsignor Pace High School, but with seven players from the Miami area, Evans has been able to find familiarity here.

“Everybody here is like a family, and everybody pushes people,” Evans said. “I feel like everybody’s got the same goals, same mindset, and everybody just makes everybody feel welcome. Like since I got here, I didn’t feel like an outsider.”

Now, Evans is competing with and alongside the likes of Jeremiah Charles, Danny Odem III, Amare Sanders, Larry Tarver Jr. and Andrew Marshall to be in Williams’ core group of cornerbacks. Evans knew coming here didn’t guarantee a starting role.

“Everybody’s gonna get each other better,” Evans said. “The coaches told me like, ‘We’re not just gonna give it to you.’”

Evans has been working hard to stand out at practice, and it hasn’t gone unnoticed by Williams.

“Vic is a lot faster than what I saw on tape, and I’ve dealt with guys like that before. I played with some guys in college like that,” Williams said. “He’s just so smooth with what he does. You can coach him hard, and his demeanor doesn’t change.”

It helps that Evan ran track in high school. He now can run 40 yards in 4.31 seconds, an impressive pace. That speed gives him an advantage when it comes to getting opportunities to start.

In order to secure those opportunities, Williams is looking for someone to stand out, which he sees becoming more evident once the season starts. He wants to see how the players can do under the pressure of the crowds. Although Evans hasn't played in front of the 80,000 person crowds the Huskers regularly encounter, he has experience playing in front of intense fans.

"It's crazy," Evans said of football in Florida. "All the adults are coming out to a Little League game like it's an NFL Super Bowl."

As for whether he'll be on the field for the first game, Williams isn't sure yet. But Evans has the pieces to be successful.

"Vic is a really smart football player," Williams said. "The competition has been really, really good in that room. It's going to be the physicality. It's going to be the grit. It's going to be the playmaking ability."

Photos: Nebraska football practice, Aug. 18, 2026