

# Arizona's Northcutt gets defensive duty

TUCSON, Ariz. — Dennis Northcutt, Arizona's career leader in catches and receiving yards, will continue to work overtime as a cornerback.

Coach Dick Tomey was im-

pressed with Northcutt's play against Southern Cal last week and said he will see spot duty in the secondary again this Saturday against Texas-El Paso.

"He is going to principally be

an offensive player, but he will be a situational player on defense," Tomey said Tuesday. "He really gives us a big lift."

Northcutt, who has 44 catches for 750 yards and six touchdowns this season, caught eight balls for 121 yards and a TD in Arizona's 31-24 upset of USC. He also virtually shut down the Trojans' R. Jay Soward, staying on the field about 90 plays.

Afterward, he cramped up in

an interview room and writhed on the floor in pain.

But Tomey said Northcutt is willing to play both ways again.

"We've been talking about him doing it since training camp," Tomey said. "He was very anxious to do it. It can do nothing but help him. At the next level, who is to say what his opportunities will be?"

Northcutt was moved from tailback to wide receiver to tail-

back to defensive back and back to receiver his first year in the program.

He even had two interceptions against Illinois as a freshman in 1996, returning one 63 yards for a touchdown. That, and his later accomplishments, made him the only player in Wildcats history to score four different ways — on a catch, run, punt return and interception return.

*The Associated Press*

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