

# Winning streak results in high hopes for division play

By Kevin Schnepf

Dedication and talent seem to be the answers for the UNL baseball team's nine-game winning streak, according to head coach Tony Sharpe.

Sharpe, coaching in his 33rd year, said every player has been working hard since last fall's practices.

"We have dedicated young men who have a lot of talent," Sharpe said. "We have more talent than in the past few years with some bench strength."

The Huskers, who last weekend boosted their record to 15-4, are off to their best start since 1955. UNL has won 14 of its last 15 games.

UNL swept Morningside College in a doubleheader Friday, 9-7 and 7-3, and shutout University of Nebraska

at Omaha (UNO) Saturday, 5-0 and 7-0. UNL lefthander Cliff Faust, 3-1 on the year, pitched a four-hitter in the first game followed by a one-hitter pitched by senior lefthander Kirk Eymann, who has a 2-1 record.

With its nine-game winning streak on the line, the Huskers played Creighton University Tuesday in Omaha in a doubleheader to open its 12-game road trip.

The Huskers travel to Columbia, Mo., Friday to face the defending Big 8 Champion, the University of Missouri Tigers. The Tigers return with every player except the catcher from last year's team.

The series, with a doubleheader on Friday and Saturday, will begin the Huskers division play. UNL, Missouri,

University of Kansas and Iowa State University make up one division while Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University, and the Universities of Oklahoma and Colorado are in the other division.

Sharpe said eight of the 12 division games the Huskers play are on the road. He said Iowa State is the only home series in division play.

The Huskers are injury free for the road trip, Sharpe said.

He said centerfielder Paul Haas, who did not travel to Texas with the team two weeks ago, still is bothered with a hamstring pull. Sharpe said there are no arm troubles with pitchers for the road trip.

The Huskers face UNO again Friday in Omaha in a doubleheader followed by a four game series with Kansas University in Lawrence, April 22 and 23.

The Huskers, led by the hitting of Haas with a .500 average, are hitting .272 as a team. Freshman left fielder Joe Scherger has five home runs and is batting .400.

"We'll be playing better competition against Missouri and Kansas," Sharpe said. "Kansas played decent down in Texas, losing two close ones against a good Texas A & M ball club."

"These games (winning streak) have been helping our confidence," he said. "Hopefully, we'll meet the challenge against the tougher competition."

Missouri won two of four games in a series with Big 8 contender Oklahoma State two weeks ago. The Tigers are batting .284 as a team through 23 games and are led by pitcher Rob Pietroburgo who has a 3-1 record.

## I-back, fullback spots are still open

By Mike McCarthy

Decisions, decisions, decisions—that is what Husker backfield coach Mike Corgan has to make.

After two weeks of Spring football practice, Corgan said a Husker has yet to claim an I-back or a fullback spot for next Fall.

"Nobody has got a spot wrapped up," he said. "And that's the way you want it."

It is not that UNL graduated last year's starters, but the players have similar abilities, Corgan said.

Last year's starting fullback, senior Dodie Donnell, is fighting for his spot with junior Keith Stewart.

Donnell failed to finish a required conditioning class before spring training began. Now that he has finished it, Donnell has started practicing with the team. His late appearance has limited him to one full-scale scrimmage.

The top five fullbacks are the same as last season, Donnell said.

"It's just a matter of timing and execution. I still have a lot to learn and should be in better shape," he said.

Corgan said, "I'm just not going to move Stewart out just because Donnell has returned."

Junior Rick Berns and senior Monte Anthony have been slowed by injuries after sharing the I-back slot last year.

"Monte is coming off two operations and Berns has a bruised thigh," Corgan said. "Monte is pretty anxious to get going."

Although Anthony will not play any spring football, Corgan said Berns should be running Wednesday and play in Saturday's scrimmage.

Corgan added that Anthony may be moved to fullback.

But while Anthony and Berns are away, junior Byron Stewart is ready to play. The Oxen Hill, Md., native is sharing first string I-back with Berns.

"There's a lot of competition," Stewart said. "There is so much pressure, you must be on your toes all the time."

"I hope to be number one," he added, "but with four guys, (I-backs) the competition is so great the coaches have to split up the playing time."

"Each player might get only 10 minutes to prove what he can do. If one I-back pulls off a long run, that means you have to, too."

## Husker racquetees shoot down Mavericks

By Kevin Schnepf

The Husker men's tennis squad boosted its season record to 14-7 as it netted victories in every match against the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Tuesday on the Men's Physical Education tennis courts.

The Huskers, who won three of four meets last weekend in Colorado, played without Phil Woog and Dan Sloboth who are the number one and two players.

Head coach Jim Porter said Woog was out with a sore shoulder and Sloboth had a sore elbow but he said neither injury was serious.

Porter said he was pleased with the squad's sweep of UNO, noting the play of freshman Larry Rugg and sophomore Kevin McDermott who filled in the vacancies caused by the absence of Woog and Sloboth.

Rugg and McDermott defeated UNO's Tom Wulff and Bob Johnson in a doubles match, 6-1, 6-1. Rugg defeated Wulff in singles, 6-2, 6-1, while McDermott defeated Johnson 6-1, 6-1.

"The entire squad is playing good," Porter said. "We have some depth this year in case of any injuries."

"We're really starting to come around. We have a winning attitude for a change and everyone is playing serious tennis."

"By the time the Big 8 meet comes around, we'll be in top form," Porter said.

The Big 8 Championships will be May 19 and 20 at Oklahoma City, Okla. But before the Huskers have to compete in the Big 8, they must play in seven matches and two tournaments.

UNL travels to Topeka, Kan., Thursday for a match against Washburn University followed by Saturday's match in Maryville, Mo., against Northwest Missouri State University.

In the singles matches, number three man Jeff Schmahl defeated UNO's Kerry Sutton, 6-3, 6-3. The Huskers number four man, Chris Wilcox, defeated Tim Noon 6-2, 6-0, and number five man Russ Wiltse defeated Paul Green, 6-3, 6-2.

Wiltse, a freshman from Lincoln, said he thought he played fairly well Tuesday. Wiltse also teamed up with Bill Jackson to win a doubles match against UNO's Sutton and Bob Slezar, 6-3, 7-5.

In other doubles action, Wilcox teamed up with Dag Weaver to defeat Noon and Green, 6-3, 6-2. Weaver also won his singles match defeating Slezar, 6-2, 6-2.

Stewart said the backs help each other out, but "when there are three or four guys fighting for the spot, the conclusion is one guy gets it."

Corgan said junior I-back Isiah Hipp also is vying for the starting role.

Corgan said Hipp's bid for a starting spot was no surprise.

Sophomore fullback Chris Juehring from Davenport, Iowa, also has been looking strong at fullback, Corgan said. Juehring is now listed third on the depth charts behind Stewart and Donnell, who share the number one position.

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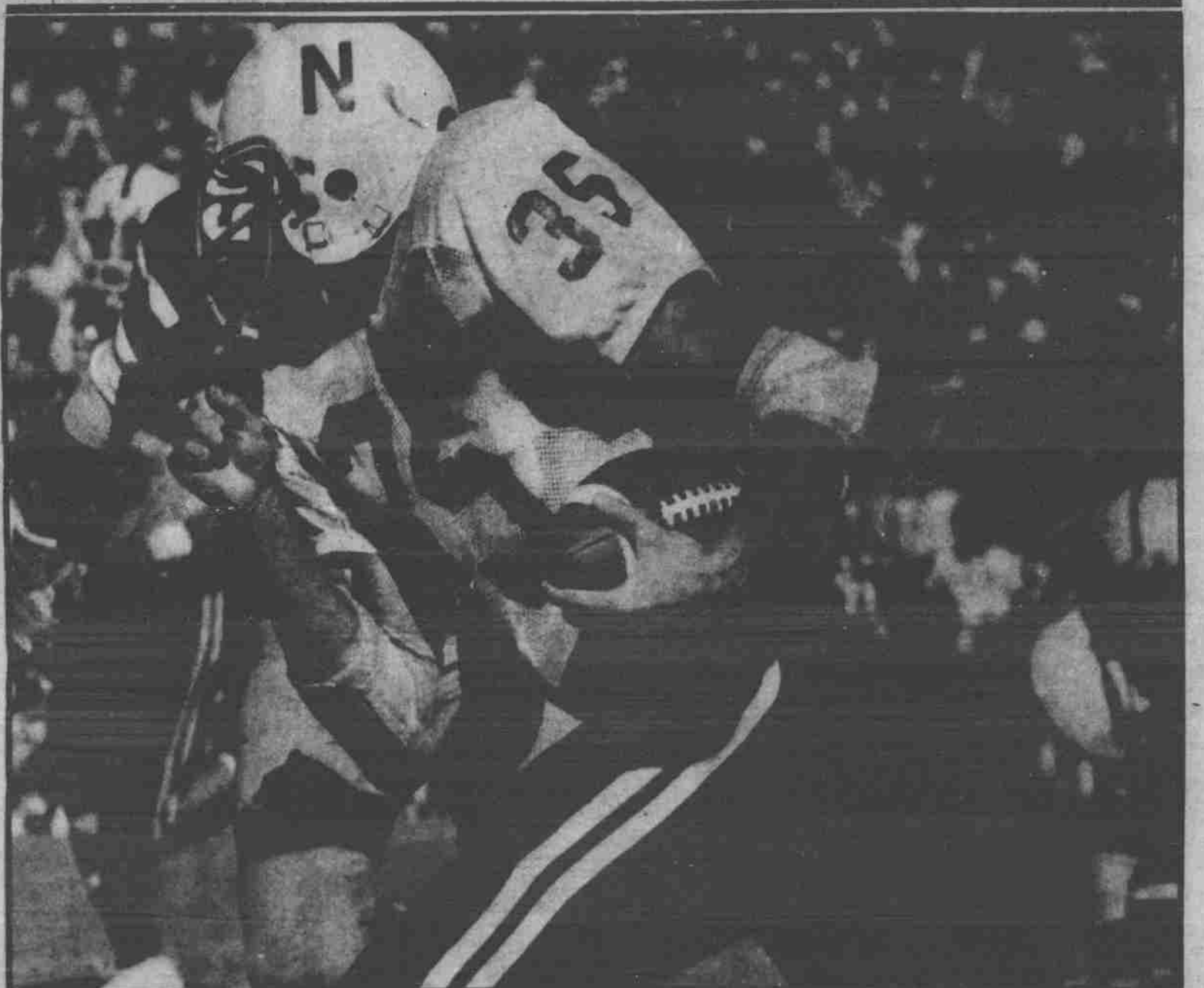


Photo by Ted Kirk  
Junior I-back Richard Berns, shown here when he was the Huskers leading rusher last season, has been hampered by injuries during spring football practice.

## Dakota cowboys round up top spots

Dakota schools dominated the University of Nebraska Rodeo Association's (UNRA) tenth annual intercollegiate rodeo Friday and Saturday at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum.

The National College of Business (NCB) in Rapid City, S.D. recaptured the men's team title they lost a year ago by scoring 362 points in the two-day competition. NCB teams had also won the championship in 1974 and 1975.

Dickinson State College of Dickinson, N.D. finished second with 305 points, followed by South Dakota State University (SDSU), 244, Chadron State College, 120 and Bismarck Community College (BCC) of Bismarck, N.D. with 110.

The UNRA men's team finished back in the pack with 40 points.

SDSU, last year's men's winners, won the women's team championship this year. Three cowgirls of the Brookings, S.D. school tallied 300 points to win the women's competition.

The UNRA women's team fared better than the men's finishing fifth with 40 points. Second through fourth place went to Black Hills State College (BHSC) in Spearfish, S.D. with 205 points, the University of Wisconsin at River Falls with 145 points and North Platte Community College with 80 points.

A record crowd of 2,850 showed up for the Saturday night finals.

Junior Clint Johnson of SDSU won the men's all-

around title with the help of a first place finish in saddle bronc riding and a second in bareback bronc riding. He scored 184 points.

The women's all-around winner was a familiar face to followers of the UNRA event. Shelly Haskins Mueller of Wisconsin-River Falls won the all-around for the fourth straight year. She won the barrel racing event and took fourth in breakaway roping to finish with an individual total of 145 points.

Other individual winners were Monty Carson of BHSC in bareback bronc riding, first-day leader Rex Payne of NCB in calf roping, a three-way tie for the saddle bronc riding title between Johnson, Mark Hughes of NCB and Mark Melvin of BHSC, and Dean Churchill and Kelvin Sharp of Chadron State in team roping.

Other winners included Bruz Luger of BCC in steer wrestling, Billy Zurcher of NCB in bull riding, Mueller in barrel racing, Charlotte Johnson of SDSU in breakaway roping and Amy Logan of SDSU in goat tying.

Top finishers for UNRA members were a fourth place finish in team roping by Bill Peterson and Mike Unterseher and a third place for Carol Drake in barrel racing.

The rodeo had 313 entries from 18 colleges in the Great Plains Rodeo Association.

Freshman Lori Shane of Atkinson was crowned the 1977 Nebraska rodeo queen during the opening ceremonies Friday night.