

sports

Husker injury status improves; fullback returns

By Bob Asmussen

The injury situation for Nebraska appeared to be improved Tuesday with a return of fullback Phil Bates to practice. The senior from Omaha injured his shoulder last week in practice and re-injured it in Saturday's game at Kansas State.

"Bates has been running all right," Coach Tom Osborne said. "The big question will be how he holds up in the game."

Other injuries that concern Osborne are a knee injury to Roger Craig and Jamie Williams' strained knee ligaments.

"I guess Craig and Williams would have to be the most questionable on Saturday's game," Osborne said. "They are both going to try and practice Wednesday. Williams' injury is the most severe."

Osborne said he knows the Tigers will be ready for Saturday's game. He said he has been impressed most by their defense.

"They play awfully hard on defense," Osborne said. "They have a good front line and they appear to be pretty good in the secondary."

Osborne said on offense he expected to see the ball put in the air. The Tigers have used the passing of Mike Hyde effectively this year.

"They've thrown the ball real well so far but they also moved the ball fairly well on the ground. I imagine they'll try to run and pass the ball about the same." "It's going to be important for us to mix it up on offense," Osborne said. "I hope we play hard. Anything less than a great effort won't be good enough to win. We're going to have to play really well on defense."

Osborne said that the fact that the game is on television won't have much effect on the team.

"Since the game is going to be played at 11:50 we'll have to get up a little earlier," Osborne said. "We'll have to move everything up. The TV thing helps out the athletic department. I'd like to see us get on maybe one more time. I guess it will all depend on how we do."

Sports Information Director Don Bryant said the game was what ABC calls a split national contest. The game counts as a national appearance.

"It's better than the regional game but not quite as good as a national game," Bryant said.

Bryant said the split national game paid \$511,000 to two teams. The Big Eight splits that into 10 shares, two of which will go to Nebraska.

Green team set for women's basketball roster

By Ward W. Triplett III

If you're going by last year's team, the Nebraska women's basketball team should be entering this season with nine returnees from a 18-13 team that qualified for AIAW regionals.

But a series of strange events happened before the Husker staff selected the final team last Thursday. First, one of the starters on that team, forward Donna Unwin, got married and moved to Arkansas. Then back-up freshman center Susie Wickham decided to attend a junior college.

With two unexpected vacancies to fill last spring, Coach Colleen Matsuhara pro-

ceeded with her first recruiting effort as a head coach, signing six players and getting commitment from one other. That same April, a member of the 1980 recruiting class informed Matsuhara that she, too, would try out this year. After Thursday, the team stood at 11 players, seven of them freshmen.

"We've got an almost brand new club here," Matsuhara said. "I was looking at the team picture from last year and it's sort of a shock."

The survivors from last year include starters Kelli Benson, a 5-7 sophomore from Grand Island; Kathy Hagerstrom, a 6-0 junior from DePere, Wis. (last year's

leading scorer); and Janet Smith, a 6-2 senior from Omaha who is the Nebraska career leading rebounder.

Leigh returning also

Also returning is Chris Leigh, a 5-9 junior from Springfield, Neb., who started as a freshman but played both guard and forward as a reserve last year.

Three-year starting guard Ami Beringer from Hastings and sophomore reserve Susan Keith didn't try out for the team this year. Molly Shanahan, who backed up Smith last year, failed to make the cut.

"We'll have seven new players this year, and how good we'll be depends on how quickly they get to know each other and play our type of ball," Matsuhara said.

Before practice began Monday, the only safe bets for starting positions were Hagerstrom and Smith. Benson and Leigh will contend with Crystal Coleman and Regina Searcy for the guard spots. Coleman, 5-7, was a *Street and Smith* all-American at Lincoln High of East St. Louis, Ill., and scored 2,700 points during her years there. Searcy, a teammate of Coleman at Lincoln is 5-9 and played forward, but Matsuhara plans on using her as a guard.

The fifth guard is Cathy Owen, a 5-6 product of Buena High in Ventura, Calif., who is also a solid starting contender. The forwards include the third Lincoln High Tigerette to sign with the Huskers, 5-10 Debra Powell. Powell earned honorable mention on *Street and Smith's* all-American team. Terri Parriott, 5-11, was a teammate of Owen at Buena, and Margie Ruetz, another 5-11 player, hails from Minnesota.

Ruetz opts for job

Ruetz was recruited last year, but opted

to concentrate on studies instead. Sonja Nelson, a 6-0 Kansas City native, is expected to take over Shanahan's role as Smith's back-up. Nelson had been playing AAU ball since graduating from Central High in 1979.

The seventh Husker recruit, Lincoln High all-stater Lisa Phipps, told Matsuhara at the start of the school year that she was going to stick with her full-time job, and thus not try out at all.

The Huskers main concern is to get the new players to learn Matsuhara's philosophy and work on pressure defense to compensate for the team's lack of height, the coach said.

"I believe we're going to be the smallest team in the Big Eight again. That means we're going to have to rely a tremendous amount on our transition games and defense," she said.

While Searcy, Powell and Coleman were at Lincoln High, the school amassed a 61-1 record the last two years. Buena was also a successful squad.

"We're very glad to have these five players coming from schools with winning traditions," Matsuhara said. "I'm hoping that they already have the fundamentals down firm so we can get to work from there."

One major difference between last year and this year is that all 11 players can get up and down the court in a hum, Matsuhara said. The Huskers will start installing a fast break right away, she said.

Nebraska, which has switched from the AIAW to NCAA for post-season action this year, begins its season Nov. 20 against Pacific Christian at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Women need slick shots to get to golf nationals

By Kevin Warneke

With the end of the fall season rapidly approaching, the UNL women's golf team will have to do some slick shooting if it is going to end the season on a strong note.

The squad will participate in the Kansas University Invitational Thursday and Friday. Coach Jerry Fisher lists Missouri and Stephens College as tough teams standing in the way of Nebraska's quest for the No. 1 spot.

"Missouri just defeated us in their own invite and now have defeated us two times to our one," Fisher said. "We played even with teams on two of the three rounds of the invite, but on that other round, they defeated us by 15 strokes."

Fisher said it would have been difficult for anyone in the NCAA to have beaten Missouri on the day of its good round when it defeated Nebraska by 15 strokes.

But, he said, Missouri is not unbeatable. "If we are able to shoot at 315 or under team-wise, we should be able to win it," Fisher said. "Anytime a team wants to win they have to have one golfer play outstanding and the others shoot around 80's." One aspect in the team's game that

Fisher is worried about is its inability to hit greens in regulation.

By not hitting the greens in regulations, the golfers are often faced with the situation where they have to chip and one-putt for pars, which can be extremely hard to do, Fisher said.

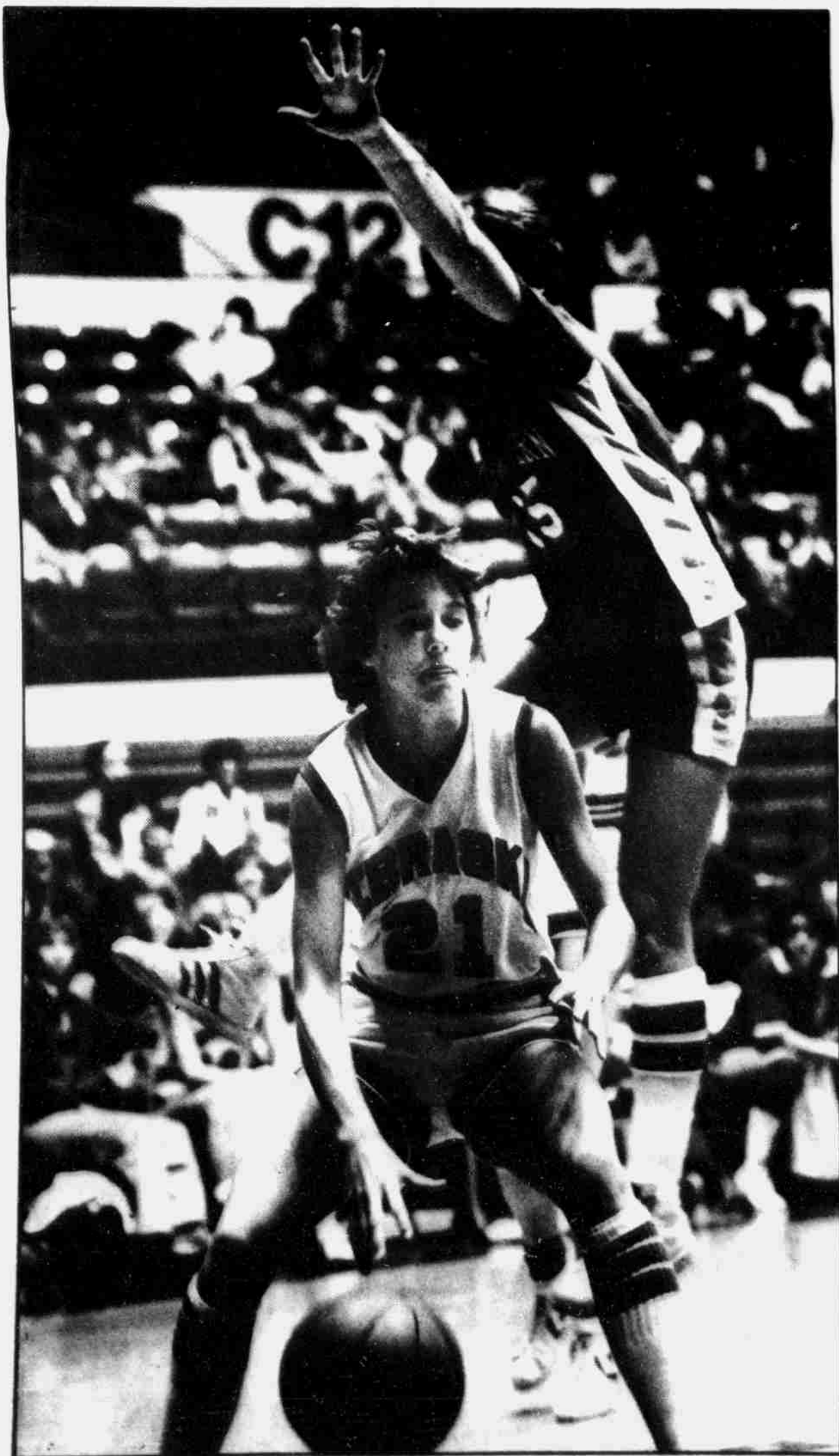
The top five spots on the team will have a different look this week as Jan Stanard has moved up to the No. 1 spot, followed by Robin Scherer at the No. 2 spot and Shelly Godeken at No. 3. Cathy Nelson and Carin Roberts will be battling to retain their varsity spots as they will be qualifying with Kim Davis and Lori Miller for the No. 4 and 5 spots during the week.

"Competition for spots on the team is one of our strong points," Fisher said. "We don't have one golfer that stands out ahead of the rest."

Fisher said the ultimate goal for the team will be to make it to nationals.

"The way we are playing now, we won't make it," Fisher said. "We need each player to improve one and a half to two strokes per match up until then."

The squad ends its fall season Nov. 10 at the Oklahoma Invitational which is in Mexico.



Daily Nebraskan photo

Nebraska's Kelli Benson (21) drives toward the basket in last year's game against Northwestern in the Husker Invitational.