

Sports Opinion



Darren Ivy

NU freshmen face changes, new lifestyle

Last year at this time, freshmen athletes were anxiously awaiting the end of the first quarter of high school.

This year, they are taking midterms and getting acclimated to a new coach and a new system.

Getting adjusted to college can be a difficult task for a normal student, but being an athlete makes it that much more difficult.

Student athletes have to balance school, practice, travel, competitions and social life. It is basically a full-time job. I know because I was there last year as a freshman cross country and track and field runner.

Freshman grow up fast though, especially if they are thrown into the fire.

Freshman who compete in football, volleyball, soccer and cross country don't have much time to adjust to Division I athletics since they begin practicing as soon as they arrive to start classes.

Many of them had to use the summer to prepare themselves. The freshmen who worked hard are being rewarded with playing time. The others are finding out what it takes to play in college.

Freshmen who play in the winter or spring have an advantage because they can use the fall to adjust to the new life.

This fall, freshmen on the softball team were forced into action because of injuries. NU assistant coach Lori Sippel said they used fall to develop younger players.

"Players can't swim until they are in the water," Sippel said.

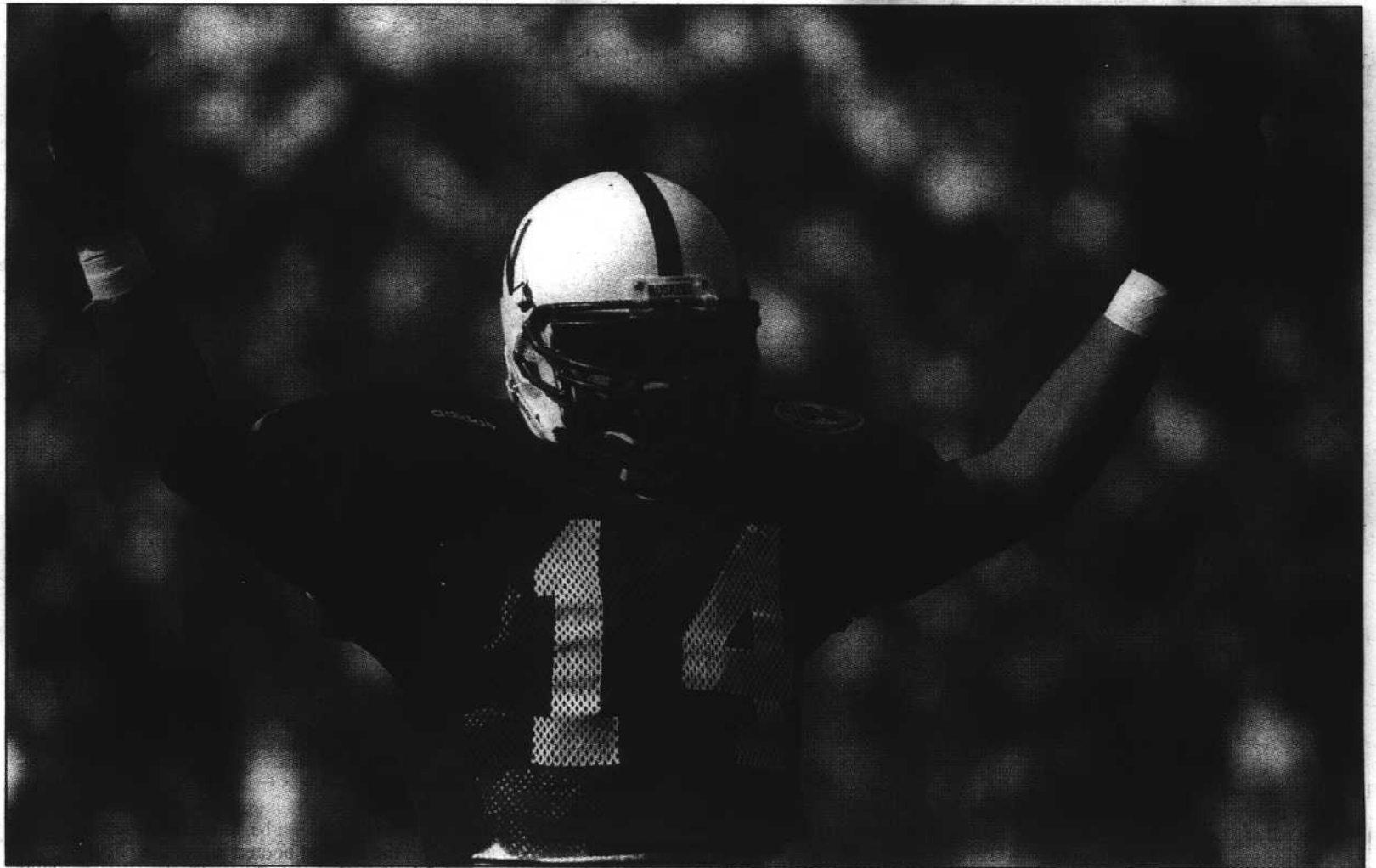
Other teams also used the fall for preparation. The wrestling and men's and women's track and field, basketball, gymnastics and swimming and diving teams have been lifting weights and conditioning.

Freshmen can make contributions on these teams. However, if they aren't able to right away, they need to take everything in stride and not let it stress them out because the first year is the foundation for the next three.

These athletes are the future. So fans will need to live with their mistakes now. These athletes will be the stars of tomorrow.

Ivy is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

On top again!



LANCE BROWN celebrates Saturday during Nebraska's 29-0 win over Texas Tech. Coupled with Penn State's 16-15 win over Minnesota, the Huskers took over the No. 1 spot Sunday in both major polls.

Huskers vault Penn State to No. 1

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

For the first time since before a 19-0 loss to Arizona State on Sept. 21, 1996, the Nebraska football team moved to No. 1 in both The Associated Press Top 25 and the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll Sunday.

But this time, NU senior quarterback Scott Frost said, the Cornhuskers earned it.

"Last year when we were No. 1 at the beginning of the season, it was handed to us," Frost said. "This year we went up and beat a good Washington team. We beat a good Kansas State team, and we beat some other teams that are really respectable."

Nebraska improved to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in the Big 12 Conference with a 29-0 victory over Texas Tech at Memorial Stadium Saturday.

Penn State fell to second in both polls after a near loss to Minnesota Saturday in State College, Pa. The Nittany Lions recovered a fumble and scored the winning touchdown with 3 minutes, 59 seconds remaining in the game. Penn State improved to 6-0 with a 16-15 victory.

"It's a shame Minnesota lost that football game," Penn State Coach Joe Paterno said. "They outplayed us and outcoached us. We just outlucked them."

"If we were in a wide open deal, where we had the Big Ten and the Pac-10 all in the same pot, I'd just assume stay No. 2."

TOM OSBORNE
NU football coach

hooked up with freshman Derek Dorris for a 33-yard gain on which Darlington said a defender missed a tackle.

However, he didn't qualify either of those as big plays as Nebraska. "We certainly didn't give up any long plays on the ground," Darlington said Sunday.

Nebraska held Texas Tech to 17 yards rushing for the game, which

The Cornhuskers received 33 first-place votes in The Associated Press Top-25 to the Nittany Lions' 26. In the USA Today/ESPN poll, Nebraska received 28 first-place votes behind Penn State's 29, but the Huskers received 1,496 total points to the Nittany Lions' 1,482.

"It's nicer to be No. 1 than somewhere else," Nebraska

Please see **FIRST** on 14

Shutout pleases Darlington

BY ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Reporter

Two missed tackles can cost you 52 yards.

Nebraska defensive backs Coach George Darlington said two tackles could have cut the Texas Tech offensive output by 52 yards, which would be a significant loss for a team that only had 127 yards of total offense in the 29-0 NU win.

Nebraska freshman Joe Walker, who made his first career start Saturday, missed a tackle on Tech's first drive that ended up as a 19-yard gain. On the play Red Raider senior flanker Malcolm McKenzie caught a pass from senior quarterback Zebbie Letheridge that gave Tech a first down at the Tech 40-yard line. Nebraska senior defensive end Grant Wistrom chased McKenzie down for the tackle.

In the second half, Letheridge

hooked up with freshman Derek Dorris for a 33-yard gain on which Darlington said a defender missed a tackle.

However, he didn't qualify either of those as big plays as Nebraska.

"We certainly didn't give up any long plays on the ground," Darlington said Sunday.

Nebraska held Texas Tech to 17 yards rushing for the game, which

Please see **DEFENSE** on 14

Top 25

Below are the two major college football polls.

AP Top 25

Rank	School	Record	Pvs
1	Nebraska (29)	6-0	2
2	Penn St. (26)	6-0	1
3	Florida St. (9)	6-0	3
4	North Carolina (2)	7-0	4
5	Michigan	6-0	5
6	Florida	6-1	7
7	Washington	5-1	10
8	Tennessee	5-1	9
9	Ohio St.	6-1	11
10	Washington St.	6-0	13
11	Auburn	6-1	6
12	Oklahoma St.	6-0	16
13	UCLA	5-2	17
14	Kansas St.	5-1	20
15	Michigan St.	5-1	12
16	Georgia	5-1	19
17	LSU	5-2	8
18	Iowa	4-2	15
19	Virginia Tech	5-1	22
20	Texas A&M	5-1	14
21	West Virginia	5-1	23
22	Purdue	5-1	—
23	Arizona St.	5-2	—
24	Toledo	6-0	—
25	Mississippi	4-2	—

USA TODAY/Coaches Top 25

Rank	School	Record	Pvs
1	Nebraska (29)	6-0	2
2	Penn St. (29)	6-0	1
3	Florida St. (9)	6-0	3
4	North Carolina (1)	7-0	4
5	Michigan (1)	6-0	5
6	Florida	6-1	6
7	Washington	5-1	10
8	Tennessee	5-1	9
9	Ohio St.	6-1	11
10	Washington St.	6-0	13
11	Auburn	6-1	6
12	Oklahoma St.	6-0	16
13	Kansas St.	5-1	20
14	Michigan St.	5-1	12
15	LSU	5-2	8
16	UCLA	5-2	17
17	Virginia Tech	5-1	22
18	Georgia	5-1	19
19	Iowa	4-2	15
20	West Virginia	5-1	23
21	Texas A&M	5-1	14
22	Arizona St.	5-2	—
23	Purdue	5-1	—
24	Air Force	7-1	17
25	Syracuse	5-2	—