



Husker golfer Steve King placed 10th in the Galveston Invitational last week.

Golfers not teed off by slow start

By Steve Taylor

UNL's golf team opened its spring season last weekend at the Galveston Invitational in Texas. The Huskers finished fourth out of six teams.

Nebraska ace Steve King says the team isn't throwing drivers or bending putters because of the low finish.

"We weren't really too disappointed," he continued. "The teams in the meet were mostly southern teams, and they have been playing all year. We've been outside only a month."

King played well in the Galveston meeting. The 20-year-old junior finished 10th out of 90 golfers. For most of the tournament he was in second, but a dismal last round pushed him back in the standings.

King, who packs 150 lbs. on his 6 ft. 1 in. frame, sets fairly high standards for himself.

"One or two over par isn't bad, but if the weather is good I want to shoot par."

Though he prefers to play in pleasant conditions, King calls himself a "bad weather player." It's not that he plays any better; it's that his opponents play worse.

"My short game holds up pretty well in bad weather," he explains. "I like to watch the others give up."

Golf is not the Lexington native's only game. When he was 17, he won the Omaha city bowling championship in his age bracket. Since then, he has given up the sport to concentrate on golf.

While Nebraska hosts the Cornhusker Invitational today, King will be the Huskers No. 1 golfer. Other members of the team include: Dan Bahensky, Gary Teel, Tom Sieckmann and Jon Rumfield.

King has some confident opinions about this year's

team.

"We have the best team the university has ever had," he said. "We're head and shoulders above any team they've had here before. I think we have the best golfers in the Big 8."

What about Oklahoma and Oklahoma St. two conference teams ranked in the national top twenty? "We're better than both of those teams," King said.

If King's optimistic appraisal turns out to be accurate, Nebraska will get a chance to participate in the national meet in San Diego later this year. The top two finishers in the conference tournament will qualify to go west. This year's Big 8 meet will be in Lincoln May 17-18.

King felt that a good golfer needs several attributes to be successful.

The most important thing is to have a positive attitude," he observed. "You've got to develop a repetition of the swing so you don't choke on the big shots."

King's goal is to make it to San Diego. Beyond that, his plans are not definite. Of course, every golfer's dream, including King's, is to compete on the professional tour.

"Few guys in the history of Nebraska have made it on the tour," he remarked. "I'm just going to wait and see where the money is."

There won't be any money involved in the Cornhusker Invitational today, but it will be interesting to see if Coach Larry Romjue's crew can bounce back.

If Steve King is right, the tournament will trigger the start of a long winning streak for the Nebraska golf team.

sports shorts

Registration deadline is 4:30 p.m. today for intramural golf, tennis and horseshoes doubles. For more information, contact the Recreation Dept., 472-3467.

UNL's women's softball team has three home games scheduled this weekend on the field behind the Women's Physical Education Bldg. The season opener against the College of St. Mary starts at 5 p.m. today. Saturday's doubleheader with Wayne State College begins at noon.

Huskers, Sooners to meet on diamond

Defending conference champion Oklahoma University brings a 22-2 nationally ranked baseball squad to Lincoln today as the Huskers open their home conference season. UNL will play a doubleheader today and conclude a 3-game series with the Sooners Saturday.

After snapping a 11-game losing streak with a doubleheader sweep over Morningside College Tuesday, Head Coach Tony Sharpe said his team is much more relaxed.

The Huskers' worst start in Sharpe's 28 years at UNL (0-11) had several causes; however, he feels his team has played better than their record would indicate.

"Because of key injuries to four or five players, we were not able to field our starting team until the Kansas State series. Most players now appear physically sound," he said.

Despite dropping their three previous conference games to KSU (2-3, 4-6, 5-7) the Huskers are still tied for fifth place in the Big 8. There were four sweeps of conference ball clubs last week, the first time in history that has ever happened, Sharpe said.

Before the southern swing Sharpe said the Husker pitching staff was one of his strong points. He no longer is sure.

"I think we can use improvement in all phases of the game. We've hit the ball well, except in the clutch, which could be due to the early part of the season," he said.

Denny O'Doherty the conference earned run champion a year ago, and Ralph Benish figure to be the Huskers' starting pitchers this afternoon, Sharpe said. He still is undecided as to his starter for Saturday's contest.

"Oklahoma won the Big 8 in '73 for the second consecutive year, and this year seem to have even improved," Sharpe said. "They won two of three games from powerful Arizona State University and easily handled Texas Christian University, a strong Southwest Conference title contender," he said.

Last year the Sooners led the league in team hitting and pitching, and won or shared individual crowns in batting average, hits, doubles, home runs and stolen bases.

Oklahoma senior first baseman Kenny King narrowly won the batting crown by three percentage points last year over the Huskers' Bob Munson. King finished the season with a .424 mark, and led the conference in hits (28) and doubles (6).

Track team's hopes fall prey to football

At the beginning of this semester, Husker track hopes received a jolt when seven athletes were declared scholastically ineligible. Among the casualties was virtually the entire sprint corps, including top returning team member Karl Webb and three promising freshmen.

Now, with the start of the outdoor season Saturday at the Oklahoma Invitational in Norman, Coach Frank Sevigne has seen his problems compounded.

Four of his trackmen are participating in spring football drills. Dave Gillespie had helped fill the sprint void in the indoor season, while Dave Shamblin picked up some points in the hurdle events. Also lost are 440-yard men Bill Bunkers and Chuck Malito. Malito is the top Husker in that event.

As in the indoor season, Sevigne expects the middle distance events to be the Huskers' strong point. Surprisingly, that only means more problems.

Two middle distance events, the 600- and 1,000- yard runs, run in the indoor season are dropped for outdoors. The Huskers picked up points in both those events in the Big 8 indoor meet, where they finished fourth.

dennis onnen press box review

Also, the 100- and 220-yard dashes and the 440-yard relay are added to the outdoor program. Husker hopes in those events are dim, to say the least.

Sevigne pointed out that the added discus and javelin events should be a boon to his team. Freshman Scott Sorchik and top returner Wayne Ritchie lead the javelin men. Best in the discus appear to be freshman Steve Millard and sophomores Jerry Hannan and Steve Jepsen. Jepsen was the top man last year.

Millard was the only Husker to garner points in the field events in the Big 8 indoor meet when he took fourth in the shot put.

Senior co-captains Roger Chadwick and Bob Unger should be among the team leaders, as in the indoor season, according to Sevigne. Chadwick was named the outstanding performer in the Big 8 indoor. He won both the 660- and 880-yard runs. Unger took the 2-mile championship.

Among the top middle distances men are Larry Gnapp, Dan Lepak and Jeff Wisemiller. Lynn Hall, who posted a 4:03.8 mile two seasons ago, Keith Whitaker and Mike Fertig should pick up points in the longer distances.

"Kansas State and Colorado have extremely good teams," Sevigne said in analyzing the Big 8 race. He said it is too early to predict Husker chances. Saturday's meet might help in determining just how serious Husker problems are.