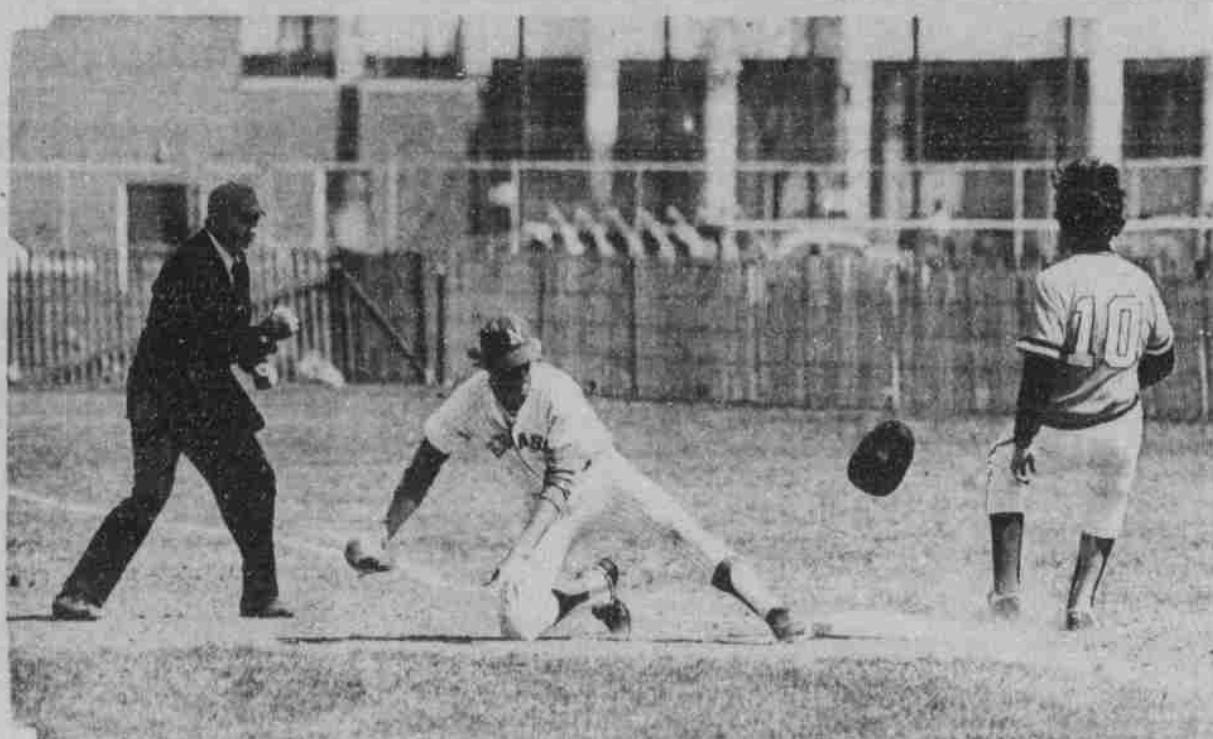


## sports



Husker firstbaseman Jeff Hoffman, a junior from Lincoln, stretches to make a putout during last weekend's Missouri series. Friday the Huskers travel to Colorado for a three-game series. Nebraska is leading the Big 8 conference baseball standings.

## UNL's tennis team to host quadrangular this weekend

By Pete Wegman

UNL's tennis team will host a quadrangular meet with Colorado, Iowa State and Oklahoma State on Friday and Saturday at Wood's Field, 33rd and O Streets, head coach Jim Porter announced.

"We're playing at Wood's instead of our courts because they have nine courts there," Porter said. "The courts are excellent, probably the best in the city."

Nebraska faces Colorado and Oklahoma State plays Iowa State at 2 p.m. Friday. Porter said all nine courts will be used. Six singles matches between two of the teams will be held while the other two teams use the remaining three courts for doubles matches. When all nine matches are completed, the pairings will be reversed, finishing the match.

Saturday Nebraska goes against Oklahoma State while Colorado and Iowa State tangle at 9 a.m. At 2 p.m. Saturday, Nebraska plays Iowa State.

According to Porter, Colorado and Oklahoma State will not play each other this weekend because they will play later this season.

### Strong again

Oklahoma State was 27-7 last season and lost the Big 8 championship to Oklahoma 70-69. The Cowboys graduated only one player from last year, and Porter said they are very strong again this year.

Porter said Colorado should finish about fourth in the Big 8 while Iowa State could take over the cellar Nebraska occupied last year.

"This weekend is going to be rough," Porter said. "We haven't been doing too well in conference play."

Sig Garnett, Bill Jackson, Mario Hamden and Rich Cohen will play in the number one through four singles for Nebraska, respectively.

Either Jeff Schmal, Dan Weaver, John Crancer or John Duncan will be in the fifth and sixth positions, with Schmal and Weaver having the edge, according to Porter.

### Inside practice

Porter said the recent bad weather hasn't hurt the team too much. "We did practice inside on a limited basis, although the weather didn't help any," Porter said. "Next year with the five indoor courts at the new fieldhouse, weather should be no problem."

The Huskers upped their record to 5-6 when they defeated UNO, 7-0, Saturday and Washburn University, 8-1, in Topeka on Tuesday. "We're starting to play a little better. Everyone played well in those two matches," Porter said.

"The biggest problems we face now are inexperience and sometimes the kids are too aggressive," Porter said. "We don't really have control or consistency yet."

Porter said he doesn't believe in teaching players new shots or techniques at this stage in the season. "At this point, there just isn't time to change a player's game," he said.

"All the kids are coachable and willing to listen. I can offer suggestions and advice," Porter said. "Sometimes it pays off, but sometimes it's better if I shut up."

## Osborne: offense improved, still needs work

By Scott Jones

Nebraska's first team defense continued to assert itself and its offensive counterpart improved in Wednesday's football practice session, said head coach Tom Osborne.

Practice time was split between station drills and four 15-minute scrimmage sessions. The half-field scrimmaging matched the No. 1 offense against the second defense and the second offense against the No. 1 defense. The same rule applied to the third and fourth units.

Although Osborne said the first team offense improved over its unproductive scrimmage effort last Saturday, he said more work is needed.

### Offense needs work

"Most of our concern now would have to be with our offense," he said. "Offensively we've still got a lot of things to get done."

"I think maybe the first offense did a lot better today—of course they were playing against the second defense so they should look good," he said.

Osborne said the quarterback position, which has five prospects, is still not filled, although Terry Luck's experience has earned him the No. 1 spot for now.

"Ferragamo and the other guys are still learning," Osborne said. "They all have ability and are good throwers. Although we rank them one through five, they are much closer than such a ranking usually indicates."

The first team defense was without defensive ends Bob Martin and Ray Phillips, out with knee injuries, and monster back Wonder Monds who had a groin problem. The efforts of interior linemen John Lee, Mike Fultz and Ron Pruitt, however, made it easy for the injured players' replacements, Tony Samuel, George Andrews and Dave Redding at end and Kent Smith at monster back.

### Rushed passes

The defensive front line, responding to the encouragements of coaches Monte Kiffin and Bill Myles, dropped second string passers Tom Sorley and Vince Ferragamo three times and rushed other passes. Rushing yardage also was meager.

"I think our interior down linemen—Fultz, Pruitt, Lee—continue to look good," Osborne said. The competition for linebacker positions also seems to be stabilizing, he said, with Cletus Piller, Percy Eichelberger and Jim Wightman playing well.

Jim Belka, another linebacker prospect, is still recovering from strained knee ligaments.

Although there were no major injuries during the scrimmage, Earl Everett, second string wingback, sprained his ankle but continued to play. Everett was practicing for the second time this spring. He has been out with a pulled hamstring muscle.

Osborne said Friday's practice will be split, with the top two units practicing first, followed by the third and fourth teams.

Saturday's scrimmage will begin at 1:30 p.m.

## UNL baseball—coach speechless

By Becky Morgan

UNL head baseball coach Tony Sharpe hasn't said much to his league-leading team all week. He can't. He has laryngitis.

"It's something I get every year," Sharpe said. "It usually happens during the spring trip but this year it waited until conference play."

Sharpe's team didn't start their winning ways until conference play either. Winning only two of their preconference games this spring, Nebraska is now leading the Big 8 with a 5-1 record.

The Huskers will travel to Boulder, Colo., for a three game series with Colorado University this weekend.

### Playing advantage

"We've always played well against Colorado at Boulder," Sharpe said. "That should be to our advantage."

Sharpe said that CU is a fairly strong hitting team with several good young pitchers.

Kirk Eymann, Dave Buehrer and Jerry Yingling will be Nebraska's starting pitchers for the three-game series.

UNL's hitting has been progressing exceptionally well, according to Sharpe.

"A lot of our guys have been on a winter weightlifting program their timing is improved and they appear more relaxed at the plate," he said.

The team's batting average stands at .269 compared to .268 for their opponents.

Five UNL batters have hit home runs. Steve McManaman and Norm Glismann, both outfielders, have each hit two.

### Disappointed with pitching

Sharpe said he has been disappointed with the team's pitching. "Our pitching has been inconsistent and we need to work on control. It's possible that some of our pitchers as well as other players are starting to feel the pressure of being on top," he said.

Staying on top is exactly what the team is trying to do. "Losing is not much fun," Sharpe said. "We've been there and we know what it's like. We want to stay on top."

The team's overall record is 7-9. Oklahoma is second in the Big 8 with a 4-2 record. Oklahoma State, 5-3, is third.

## sports shorts

The Lincoln Table Tennis Association and the Nebraska Union will sponsor a table tennis team tournament Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Union Centennial Room.

Teams from Nebraska and Iowa will compete, and the seventh-ranked women's team in the country will be featured. Admission is free. For further information contact Don Taylor, 472-3686.

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There will be a final meeting of the UNL Water Ski Club Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Union.

All members and anyone interested is urged to attend, as the club will be setting up a summer program. For further

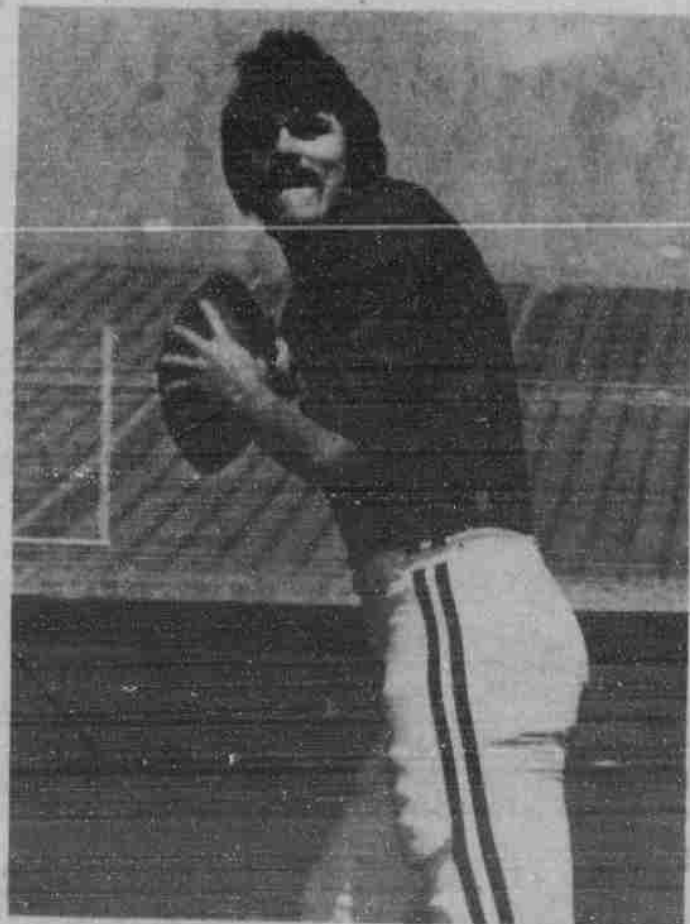
information contact Robert Mayfield, 432-1478.

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UNL's Rugby club will compete this weekend in a belated St. Patrick's Day tourney at N.P. Dodge Park in Omaha. Eight teams will compete as the Huskers and the Omaha Rugby Club rank as co-favorites. The first game will be played at 11:30 a.m., with the women competing at 1:30. The third half will be played at Vennlyst Park.

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Entries are due today for competition in the men's intramural track meet and archery. Contact the recreation office, 1740 Vine St., 472-3467.



Senior Terry Luck remains on top of the UNL football quarterback race, with more experience than the other candidates.