

# Ruling heightens battle for split end

By Pete Wegman

Four juniors have spent the last four weeks of UNL football practice competing for the starting split end position against LSU Saturday. One took himself out of the picture Tuesday night.

Dave Shamblin caught 15 passes as a part-time starter for the Huskers when he was a sophomore two years ago. He missed last season because of a knee injury, after entering fall practice as the No. 1 split end. But his confidence may have dipped to its lowest point Tuesday.

"To be blunt, I don't think I'll suit up Saturday. It's terrible for my confidence," Shamblin said following Tuesday's practice. "I think it (the split end position) is real close and the coaches have had a hard time making decisions. Things can change though."

## 60 suit up

A recent NCAA ruling has limited teams to suiting up 60 players. Last year Nebraska could suit up an unlimited number of players for home games.

Jerry Moore, Husker receiver coach, refused to say whether Shamblin would dress Saturday.

"We probably won't know who will suit

up until Friday afternoon," Moore said. "Dave's main problem is timing. He's been away from football for a year."

Although Shamblin is listed ahead of Ron Nitzel on the second team, Shamblin said he thinks Nitzel would dress instead of him.

## Fairbury transfer

Nitzel, transfer from Nebraska Southern Junior College at Fairbury, entered fall camp as the No. 1 split end, following a strong spring game. Nitzel could not be reached for comment.

The latest Nebraska depth charts list Chuck Malito ahead of Bobby Thomas on the first team. Moore said Thomas could start Saturday.

Malito, a member of Nebraska's track squad, started the Iowa State and Kansas State games last year. He missed spring football practice because of track.

"Spring practice is not that necessary to me," he said. "I just need time to get my timing back and catch the ball. I think I have to work a lot harder than the other guys in the summer though."

Malito said he thinks all four split ends are very close.

"The competition is there," he said,

"and that's what athletics is all about. It's good to have guys close to you."

## Thomas improved

The most improved split end is Thomas, according to Moore. Thomas, the fastest of the four, also will return punts Saturday.

"This is another chance to prove myself," said Thomas, who temporarily quit the team last season. "It's not a real big chance, but it's the biggest I've had yet."

"I think each of us split ends is trying to put it all together," he said. "The big thing is to contribute to the team what you do best."

Whoever starts at split end Saturday will not be in the game long, Moore said. Nebraska plans to shuffle in plays to the quarterback using the split ends as messengers.

Despite any headaches Moore may be having in choosing who to start and who to suit up for each game this year, his troubles may not be over.

All four split ends will return next year.



Dave Shamblin, missed last season with a knee injury and is trying to regain his past form.

## sports

### Rugby match set Saturday

A home match against Creighton opens the UNL Rugby Club season this Saturday.

"Creighton was not too good last year," coach Adrian George said. "They played with a lot of enthusiasm, and we expect them to be better this year."

The three-year old club was initiated by Don McNulty, a rugby player who played on a military team while he was stationed in England.

The roster lists 45 members, of which 35 are active.

Fifteen members from last year's team are expected to return. Games are scheduled every weekend until mid-November, when a greater chance of injury exists because the ground is hard.

The game originated in Rugby, England, in the 1850s, when a player picked up the ball and ran with it during a soccer match.

There are eight forwards and seven backs on the 15-member teams. Both forwards and backs are eligible to run the ball.

There is no limit to the amount of time or number of plays during which the team holds the ball.

There are four ways to score in rugby. A try is similar to a touchdown in football. However, once the ball is across the goal line, it must be firmly placed down and held. A try is worth four points.

A goal attempted immediately after a try, must be kicked from the spot where the ball was placed back from the try line. The ball must go through the uprights to be worth two points. Other scoring possibilities are a penalty kick and drop kick, each worth three points.

The game is divided into two 40-minute halves. The clock stops only for an infraction.

Rugby players wear no protective equipment. If a player is injured and unable to leave the field, time is not called until an infraction occurs.

### Five freshmen promoted to Husker varsity squad

By Scott Jones

Five freshman football players, including three defensive linemen, now are on Nebraska's varsity.

The two not in the defensive line, linebacker Lee Kunz and wingback Ken Brown, both are on the second team. Kunz, from Lakewood, Colo., is sharing second unit duty at weakside linebacker with Jeff Hansen. Cincinnati native Brown and senior Tom Heiser are the No. 2 wingbacks.

Keith Bishop, from Midland, Tex., and Mark Goodspeed, Leawood, Kan., are both fourth team defensive tackles. Lincoln Southeast graduate Kelvin Roehrs is a fourth team middle guard.

Freshman coach Jim Ross is working out the other 75 freshman for their first of five games Sept. 26 against Kansas State at Manhattan.

Ross said practice sessions are going well, although progress has been slow in the defensive backfield, where Lincoln East's Bill Holmes is the only scholarship athlete.

"They've got a good attitude," Ross said. "It's a good bunch to work with. This team compares fairly favorably with past freshman teams."

Ross, whose six-year freshman record is 22-2, said the linemen have been the strong point of the squad, but without Bishop, Goodspeed and Roehrs the defensive line is thin.

"I think we had, not better backs, but more backs and less linemen last year than we've got this year," he said.

Depth charts ranking the players have been made, but Ross said the rankings are tentative.

Missouri, Colorado, and Oklahoma, who all canceled scheduled games with Nebraska last year claiming a player shortage, have been dropped from this year's schedule.

The freshmen will play the University of Nebraska at Omaha junior varsity there—Oct. 7. Added to the schedule were Marshalltown, Ia., Junior College, (there—Oct. 18) and Kearney State College's junior varsity, (here—Oct. 24). Nebraska freshmen will play their last game at home against the Iowa State junior varsity, Nov. 14.

### Women's sports program excites director Davis

By Susie Reitz

Women's Sports Information Director June (Jay) Davis has gone from asking "May I help you?" to answering questions.

The Winnipeg, Canada native gave up management of a sporting goods store in Denton, Texas to come to Nebraska in August to assume women's sports information director duties. The post was created this year, the first time a full-time director has been hired exclusively for women's sports at any university, Davis said.

Davis said she is excited about the

possibilities in sports information.

"This is where it's at," she said. "It's a rapidly growing field with new women's sports departments being created in many schools."

"I came here because of the challenge. It gives you a tingly feeling to be in on the ground floor of a developing program."

## Public relations

Davis's part in that development includes public relations for the women's Athletic Dept. recruitment of women athletes, and department bookkeeping. She also is working with Aileen Swofford,

Women's athletic director, to plan clinics for high school coaches and to establish a women's sports booster club.

UNL will have national contenders in women's sports, Davis said, and her job is to let the media know about them.

Every accomplishment of the program, like the new women's sports logo, is exciting Davis said, since each indicates growth.

Davis, who attended Canadian and U.S. schools while earning her graduate and undergraduate degrees, said there is a big difference in women's sports programs between schools.

In Canada, she graduated from the University of Manitoba with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, a specialized degree.

"Physical Education students were expected to be proficient in basic skills," she said, "because the department didn't want to have to teach those."

## Versatile athlete

In college, Davis said she competed in basketball, volleyball, track and field, and field hockey. She was not introduced to field hockey until her senior year but went on to compete with an international field hockey team representing Canada, she said.

The Canadian and American attitudes differ, she said.

"The Canadian programs have been developed equally for men and women," she said. "There just as much attention paid to women as men in Canada."

In the United States, the public has

been conditioned to support men's teams while women in sports have been content with a silent background role, she said.

## High school coach

After graduating from Manitoba, Davis taught high school for a year in Ontario. She coached all women's sports, including volleyball, basketball, field hockey, track and field, and gymnastics.

Davis was a graduate assistant at Washington State while earning her M.S. She taught modern dance, tennis, and field hockey and coached golf at Washington State.

While she was there, she said, the school was going through a transition trying to improve the women's program with a limited budget.

After receiving her M.S., Davis taught methodology and activity courses for P.E. majors at the University of Toledo, Ohio. She also coached basketball and tennis.

The program at Toledo was very impressive, she said, and is designed to show students the needs of their body for exercise.

Davis left Toledo for Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas earning her Ph.D. in exercise physiology. She ran a sporting goods store and coached field hockey and badminton, she said.



June (Jay) Davis, women's sports information director

Photo by Steve Bowers