

# Husker coaches have good crop for fall harvest

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles during spring practice analyzing the various football positions.

By Scott Jones

Husker football coaches Jerry Moore and John Melton should have won a bundle of money when they visited Fanner Park last Thursday for Big Red Day.

It's not that they go to the horse races often. But they've each had plenty of experience picking winners from a large field.

Their handicapping talents should be tested severely this spring. Each has a large field of athletes to pick from in the races for the starting tight end, wingback and wide receiver spots.

"We'll have five or six guys that could play for a lot of people," said Moore, coach of the wide receivers. "The thing that's hard is to get a lot of work for all those people."

#### Not overly concerned

Because of that problem, Moore is not overly concerned that last year's top two receivers, seniors Bobby

Thomas and Chuck Malito, skipped spring practice to compete in baseball and track, respectively.

"It gives me a chance to look at some of the young players," Moore said. "Right now there are four guys we're really spending some time looking at."

Those four are Dave Shamblin and Tim Smith, ranked 1-2 in the depth charts, Ron Nitzel and Rocke Loken. Moore said Jeff Lee also is in contention.

Like Malito and Thomas, Shamblin has proven himself in the past, Moore said, but he needs work on the timing he lost when he was recovering from knee injuries.

#### Shamblin's injuries

Shamblin, a senior from LaVerne, Calif., started part of the 1973 season but injured his knee early in 1974 spring practice. After reinjuring the knee, Shamblin sat out the 1974 season but played some behind Malito and Thomas last year.

Shamblin bruised his ankle earlier this spring but returned to practice Friday.

Smith, sophomore from Chula Vista, Calif., led the

freshman team last year with 15 receptions for four touchdowns and 355 yards.

Moore said the Huskers are experimenting with a two wide receiver offense to accommodate the large number of receivers. As a result, Melton said Nebraska may pass the ball more next year.

"Tom (head coach Osborne) has indicated we'd throw a little more next year because we've got a lot of good receivers and quarterbacks who can get the ball to them," said Melton, who coaches the tight ends and wingbacks.

Like Moore, Melton has several players in contention for both positions.

#### Everett finally healthy

Curtis Craig has the most experience at wingback and is now on the first team, but Melton said Kenny Brown, Darrell Walton and Earl Everett all are playing well.

Everett, a senior from Kansas City, Mo., has been plagued with ankle, back and other injuries since he switched to wingback from his old quarterback spot. He also was tried at cornerback last fall. Craig and Walton, Omaha sophomore, are coming off knee injuries, but Melton said both are near full speed.

Ken Spaeth is the leader at tight end, where last year's top three players—Larry Mushinski, Brad Jenkins and Rick Panneton—all are gone.

Despite the lack of playing experience, Melton said there should be no fall-off from last year partly because junior college transfer Mark DuFresne and John Selko have shown good progress.

Melton said DuFresne, Spaeth and Selko are as fast as last year's tight ends and are a little bigger. Spaeth, a junior from Mahanomen, Minn., is 6 ft. 5 in. and 228 lbs., while DuFresne is almost as tall and weighs 235 lbs. Selko, Lincoln sophomore, is 6 ft. 4 in. tall and weighs 200 lbs.

Melton said two players probably will split time again at tight end and wingback.

"We're going to try to keep fresh people on the field all the time," he said. "That first game will be awfully hot down there."



Photo by Ted Kibb

Darrell Walton (7), a wingback candidate, is wide open for this reception in Saturday's scrimmage at Memorial Stadium.

## sports shorts

Two more basketball players have signed national letters of intent to play at Nebraska. Mark McVicker, a 6 ft. 7 in. forward, averaged 21 points and 13 rebounds a game as an All-Stater at Hastings High School this year. The other is Herman "Bo" Jackson, 6 ft. 8 in. center-forward from Oklahoma City Southwestern Junior College. He averaged 18 points and 15 rebounds a game last season.

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Wet weather forced postponement of the Husker baseball home doubleheader against Kearney State College Saturday. The games have been rescheduled for 2 p.m. today. The Huskers then face the University of Nebraska at Omaha in a Tuesday doubleheader in Omaha.

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Senior Deb Benish earned medalist honors at the University of Illinois Invitational Friday and Saturday to lead the Husker women's golf team to second place in the eight-team field. The University of Minnesota (MU) had a 710 score to finish first, followed by UNL's 722.

Benish had a 171 two-round total to edge two MU golfers by one stroke. Other Husker scores were: sophomore Jane Deeter, 182; freshman Sharon Slattery, 184; sophomore Nan Circo, 185; freshman Laurel Smedberg, 203; junior Deb Denbeck, 219.

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ABC-TV has announced that the Nov. 20 Nebraska-University of Oklahoma football game in Lincoln will be televised.

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The Husker women's softball team will meet Tarkio (Mo.) College in a home doubleheader Tuesday. The games start at 3:30 p.m. on the Women's Physical Education Bldg. Field.

The UNL crew team had mixed results in two Saturday regattas in Indiana. In the morning at Lafayette, both the Husker men's and women's varsity eights lost to Purdue University but beat Springfield College. Nebraska beat both Purdue and Springfield in the men's freshman eight.

In the afternoon at South Bend, the Huskers downed the University of Notre Dame in both the men's and women's varsity eights. The Husker varsity lightweight eight tied Notre Dame.

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Junior javelin thrower Scott Sorchik successfully defended the title he won last year at the Kansas Relays, held Thursday through Saturday at Lawrence. Sorchik threw the javelin 229 ft. 10 in. despite rainy and windy conditions and a muddy runway. Among the competitors he beat were University of Kansas' (KU) Mark Kostek, third in 223 ft., and Kansas State University's (KSU) Frank Perbeck, fourth in 211 ft. 7 in. Those two previously had recorded the two Big 8 Conference bests this season.

The Husker two-mile relay team of freshman Ron Fisher, sophomore Paul McClain and juniors Matt Reckmeyer and Keith Whitaker finished fifth in 7:30.7. KSU's winning time was 7:28.2.

Although not placing, sophomore David Green and freshman Neville Murray had career bests of 51 ft. 1 and one-half in. and 49 ft. 10 and one-half in., respectively, in the triple jump. The jumps placed them second and fourth on the all-time Husker charts.

In the seven-team faculty distance medley race, UNL took second in 11:43.8 behind KU's 11:02.7. Husker team members were Walt Manning, Jim Lewis, Phil Sienna and Dave Wishart. Wishart and Roger Wiegand were the top faculty finishers in the marathon. They took 32nd and 33rd in a field of 190 with times of 2:57:15 and 2:57:33, respectively.

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The Husker men's tennis team saw its record dip to 11-8 after a 9-0 loss to the University of Oklahoma Friday in Norman. The team next hosts Wichita State University Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. on the courts east of the Coliseum.

## nebraskan sports



Photo Courtesy of Mark Ebel

Dave Tomrdle of Wayne demonstrates climbing technique during the Recreation Dept.'s April 9 and 10 climbing seminar at the newly completed East Campus climbing wall. Tomrdle and Mark Ebel, UNL recreation coordinator, were instructors for six UNL students at the seminar, which was designed to train and qualify them for the May 14 through 28 climbing tour of South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. A second seminar will be held May 8 and 9 so that additional students may qualify for the trip. Interested students should contact Ebel at 472-3467.

## Intramural season nearing end

By Jim Hunt

Intramural activities at UNL will wind down the next two weeks with all competition to be completed by April 30.

The All-University softball championship games, which were scheduled to start Wednesday, have been moved back because of bad weather. When the playoffs will start is not known, Tom Fagot of the intramural office said Friday.

"Softball is kind of in a mess because of the rain," Fagot said. "We don't have enough fields, time or cooperation from the weather. So it has been hectic."

The outdoor track meet will be Wednesday starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Ed Weir Track.

Track events are the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, 440-yard dash, 880-yard run, mile run, two-mile run, 440-yard relay and mile relay. Field competition events will be the high jump, long jump and shot put.

The top two finishers in each event will receive T-shirts, and the winning team will receive a trophy. No advance entries are due, but participants must fill out a card for each event they plan to enter when they arrive at the track.

Men's golf doubles scores are due at the Recreation Office by 5 p.m. Tuesday. Scores for the co-recreational golf doubles are due April 26 at 5 p.m.

The bike rally scheduled for next Sunday has been cancelled, Fagot said.