

# Husker Red and White teams to clash Saturday

UNL football players will be taking an early final exam at 1:30 p.m. Saturday

The annual Red-White intrasquad game at Memorial Stadium will be the last chance for the players to impress the coaches before practices start in August.

The spring game will be part of a sports doubleheader on campus. A baseball twin-bill between the Huskers and Iowa State University starts the activities at noon.

The cost to get into both games is \$1 for students and \$2 for adults.

Head coach Tom Osborne said he is pleased with the spring practices and is looking forward to the spring game.

"I think pretty satisfactory progress has been made. The players' efforts have been good throughout," Osborne said.

"We avoided any serious injuries. I'll just keep my fingers crossed and hope we don't suffer any during the spring game."

It is doubtful some players will play Saturday.

## Injuries

Defensive back Ted Harvey will be taking an entrance exam for dental school.

Monster back Jim Pillen injured a knee in a controlled scrimmage Wednesday. Other casualties Wednesday were offensive guard Greg Jorgensen, who pulled a groin muscle, and defensive tackle Barney Cotton, who suffered a knee injury.

Osborne said, as in the past, the defense will run the same plays during the game.

"The defense will remain pretty constant during the game," Osborne said. "It

will be basically man-on-man so we can evaluate each individual.

"The players have adjusted to changes in both the offense and the defense satisfactorily," he said. It looks like we could have a good football team next fall.

Fans attending the spring game will get their first look at some players.

## Depth

According to the latest depth chart players who ran first string that did not see much or any action last year, include full-back Keith Steward, defensive tackle Bill Barnett, linebackers Lee Kunz and Jeff Carpenter and middle guard Kerry Weinmaster.

Others include last year's specialty team star, Steve Lindquist at offensive guard and Steve Glenn and Kelvin Clark at offensive tackle.

There also will be a new face at quarterback, replacing 1976 graduate Vince Ferragamo. Five athletes, including Tim Hager, Tom Sorley, Randy Garcia, Jeff Quinn and Ed Burns, are battling for the top spot.

"The starting quarterback job is up in the air," Osborne said. "But whoever ends up with the job will be a good athlete."

"The split end and back-up jobs are also up in the air. The kicking game is uncertain too."

Gone is three-year punter Randy Lessman and place kicker Al Eveland. Osborne said junior college transfer Billy Todd has been doing a good job place kicking, and

there are three or four still in running for the punting job.

## Red, White teams

Osborne said the first and fourth teams will makeup the Red team and the second and third teams will comprise the White squad.

Osborne will sit in the press box during the game and communicate by telephone with both sides. Coaching responsibilities for the two teams will be divided between coaches so each team can have secondary coaches.

This spring's practice session has been

similar to his past four as head coach, Osborne said.

"I think the players have improved since the start of practice. That's a positive sign. But I'm sure all of the coaches in the Big 8 can say the same thing."

Football chores are not over for either the players or coaches after Saturday's game.

Next week the coaches will start recruiting, Osborne said. In two weeks they will evaluate the films of the spring game and the players will begin a summer conditioning program the first of June.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Sophomore defensive back Tom Doggett runs back an intercepted pass in Sunday's scrimmage. The Huskers will close spring drills Saturday with the Red-White game at 1:30 p.m., at Memorial Stadium.

## sports

# Huskers need two sweeps to qualify for tournament

By Jim Kay

The chances for the Husker baseball team to qualify for the Big 8 Conference Tournament in Oklahoma City next month may be more than mathematical, according to head coach Tony Sharpe.

The Huskers need a four game sweep of Iowa State University (ISU) in Lincoln today and Saturday and a similar sweep by the University of Missouri over the University of Kansas (KU) this weekend in order to make the four-team tournament.

The four schools make up the Eastern Division of the Big 8's baseball league. Only the top two from the division will advance to the Big 8 tournament to play the two best teams from the Western Division.

The Western Division is made up of Kansas State University, the University of Colorado, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

Missouri has already clinched the top spot in the Eastern Division with a 7-1 league record. KU is 5-3 and ISU and UNL are 2-6. Kansas needs only one win or one loss from both ISU and UNL to get the other spot in the tournament.

Should Nebraska and KU tie with identical 5-7 records after this weekend, the Huskers would qualify for the tourney since they won the first game of the KU-UNL series played in Lawrence, Kan. last Friday. The first game is designated as the tie-breaker in case of a tie.

## Hope for sweep

ISU must hope for a Missouri sweep because a tie with Kansas would not get the Cyclones a tournament berth. KU won the first game of the ISU-KU series.

Sharpe said he felt if his team could put it all together it could find itself in the tournament.

"Coach Sanders (assistant coach John) and I believe if our team goes out and plays all phases of the game, we can win," Sharpe said. "We have to put the three phases of the game together, pitching, hitting and fielding, which we haven't been doing in a few games lately."

Sharpe added he wished the Huskers did not have to rely on help from Missouri.

He also warned that ISU would be tough competition this weekend because it also has a chance to make the tournament.

"There's a chance they could end up 6-6 and Kansas would be 5-7," Sharpe said. "This is not a one-way street. They're not going to come here and play dead."

Although the games will be close, Sharpe said ISU doesn't appear to be as strong as it has been in past years.

## Never beat themselves

"They're not a great hitting team and they have just fair pitching," he said. "But they did give Missouri their one loss this year. I guess the trademark of Iowa State through the years is that they never beat themselves. Especially against Nebraska. They're a good defensive team."

Sharpe said he believed even if his team didn't reach the Big 8 tourney, it still would play well in its remaining games.

"We'll be a little disappointed, naturally, if we don't make it," he said. "But even though we wouldn't be going, we still have six games to play. We still have to play to win. I think the team has enough character that it wouldn't demoralize them too much."

This is the first year for the new divisional format and four team tournament. Sharpe, in his last year as head coach at UNL, said he liked the idea.

"It's better than what it was last year," he said of the old double elimination tournament play. "It's provided some enthusiasm. Even then I still prefer an eight-team round-robin format."

Saturday's doubleheader against ISU will be part of the annual spring all-sports day. The first game begins at noon.

Center fielder Paul Haas continues to pace the Huskers in batting with a .385 average. Haas is followed by freshman left fielder Joe Scherger with a .379 average and catcher Jon Henne with a .353 average. Scherger and Steve McManaman led the Huskers in home runs with seven a piece.

McManaman and Kirk Eymann lead the Husker pitching staff. McManaman, with a record of 5-0, has a 3.37 earned run average. Eymann, 3-2 on the season, has a 1.85 earned run average.

# Hopes for first at Drake ride with UNL tracksters

By Kevin Schnepf

The third time may be a charm for Husker trackster Matt Reckmeyer at the Drake Relays in Des Moines today and Saturday.

Reckmeyer, who competed in the Drake Relays his freshman and junior years, will run in the two-mile relay today with Keith Whitaker, Ron Fisher and freshman Scott Poehling.

Last year's relay team, with Paul McClain instead of Poehling, turned in the country's fifth fastest time, 7:20.9, at Drake for a third place finish.

Reckmeyer said the relay team has a good chance of winning this year.

"We would like to win it," said the senior from Mt. Morris Ill. "When you go into a race, you enter it with the idea that you can win it."

The two-mile relay finished third last weekend at the Kansas Relays behind the University of New Mexico and Bowling Green University. Both New Mexico and Bowling Green will be at Drake today.

"There will be a couple of good teams there," Reckmeyer said, referring to New Mexico and Bowling Green. "New Mexico beat us at the Texas Relays and the Kansas Relays."

## Tough competition

The Huskers finished fourth at Texas and their time at Kansas was 7:25.7. Reckmeyer said the competition at Drake will be tough.

"Drake is probably more of a highlight than the Kansas Relays. The top runners from across the nation will be competing."

As a freshman, Reckmeyer ran in the two mile relay at Drake but did not com-

pete his sophomore year because of an injury.

Reckmeyer said he did not know whether he will run in the distance medley. Head coach Frank Sevine said Paul McClain and Harold Stelzer will be two of the medley's runners, but said he hasn't decided who else will run.

Husker javelin thrower Scott Sorchik, who won that event in the 1975 Drake Relays, is listed as one of the top competitors again this year.

Sorchik failed to become a three-time winner at the Kansas Relays last week when he finished second with a toss of 257 ft., 10 and three-fourths in.

## One of the top teams

UNL's mile relay, which failed to place at the Kansas Relays, also is listed as one of the top teams with its best time of 3:10 this season. Pat McKenzie, Ray Mahoney, Ron Hoagland and Tom Dovel make up the mile relay team.

Discus thrower Steve Millard and triple jumper Neville Murray also are listed as top performers for the meet. Millard has thrown the discus 166 ft., 4 in., and Murray jumped 49 ft., 3 and one-fourth in.

Husker track men Jeff Lee and Lee Kunz will not compete because of the Red-White spring football game Saturday.

Lee, who won the indoor national title in the 60-yard high hurdles, failed to qualify at the Kansas Relays last week, but Kunz finished third in the discus with a throw of 175 ft., 9 in.

Also, Dean Ross will pole vault and Doug Phelps and Dean Herzog will compete in the high jump at Drake.