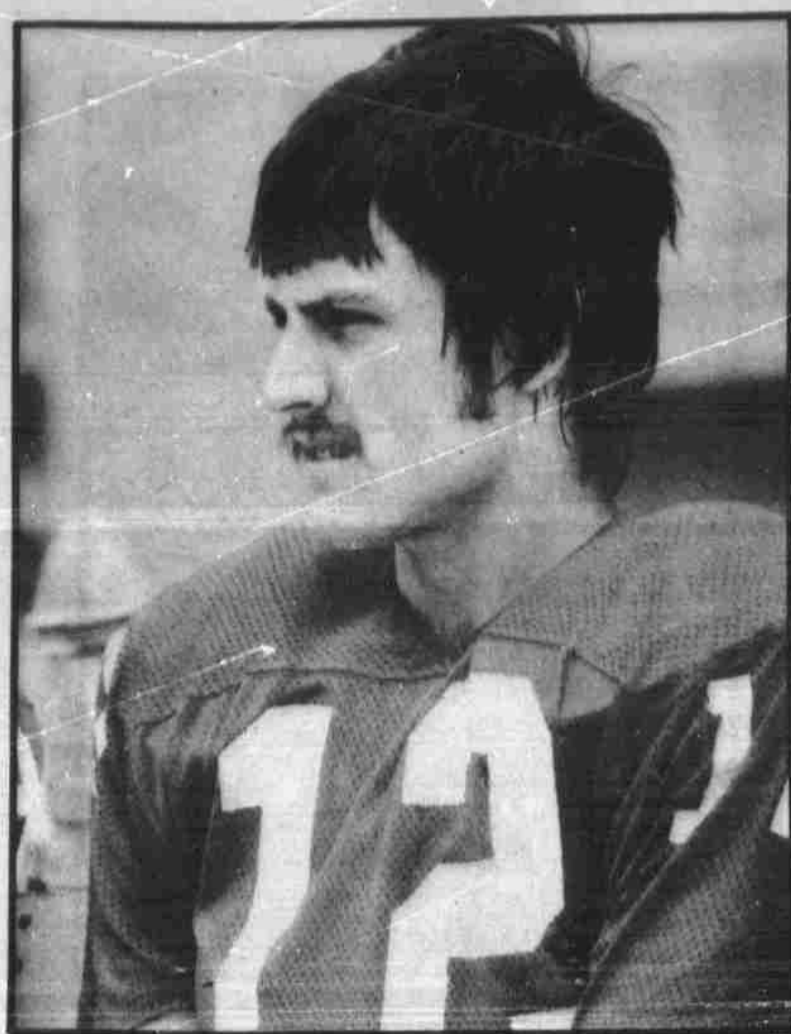
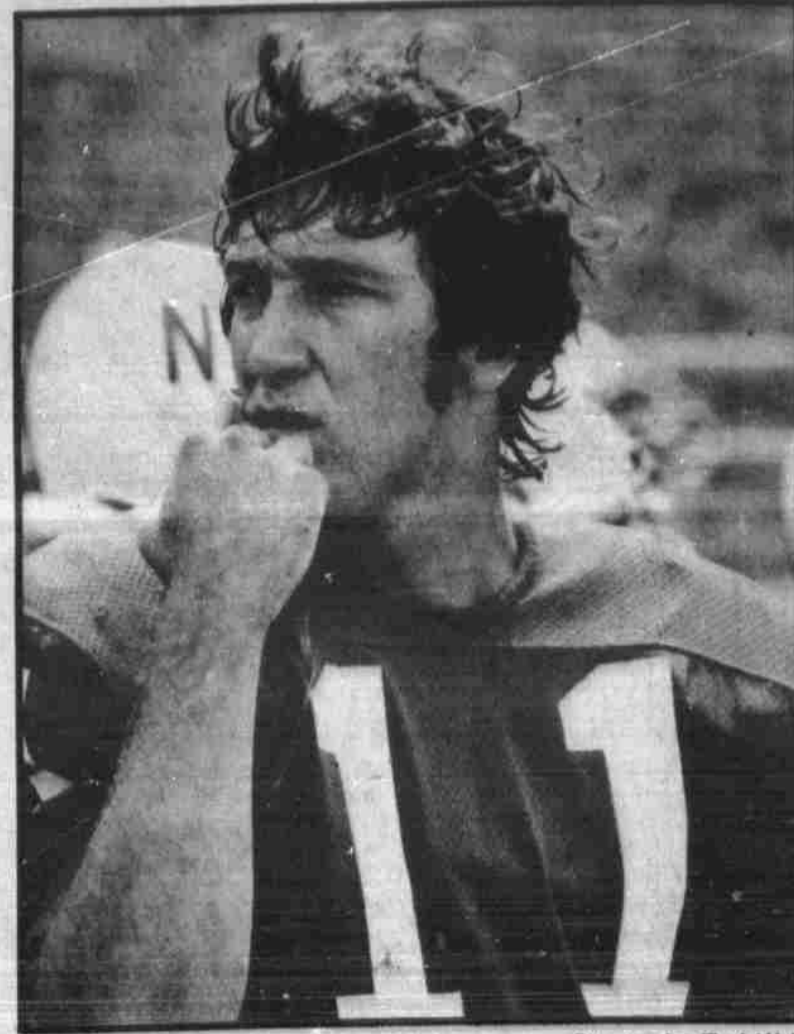


Randy Garcia



Tom Sorley



Jeff Quinn

Photos by Ted Kirk

Garcia, Sorley battle daily for top position, style

By Jim Kay

Huskers Randy Garcia and Tom Sorley are battling one another for two top Husker positions—the first for the top quarterback spot, the second for tops in style.

Garcia's take charge attitude as team leader has been rivaled daily in fall drills by Sorley's quiet, assuring role.

Garcia is listed as the number one signal-caller on the latest Husker depth charts with Sorley a close second. But Garcia feels the pressure of being number one only will come from outside influences.

"The pressure will always be there," he said. "But I'm not going to put any more on myself. I'll get enough (pressure) from the upcoming season and the coaches. It's here now and whatever happens, happens."

Garcia's new found take charge attitude stems from the attempt to avoid any self-applied pressures and from confidence.

"It's a kind of attitude I think is a reflection from the other guys on offense," Garcia said. "They show confidence in me, and when things start off right, we have confidence in each other. It's not something you can work on."

Confident quarterback

Sorley is also confident of his quarterback ability. "There are still a couple of weeks left," Sorley said. "I'm pushing as hard as I can. I'm confident I can still do it."

Sorley added he feels some pressure, although not as much as last spring when there was a five-way race for the starting job.

"I've gained some confidence back," he said. "It's been awhile since I've played but I've been throwing and running a lot and reading defenses. The pressure eases up with the pre-game butterflies."

Garcia said the five-way "dead heat didn't help any at the end of spring, but it also didn't change my summer

Husker women's crystal ball cloudy

Flip a coin, draw a straw or just take a guess. May be the way to predict the success of the Husker Women's Cross Country team, according to head coach Carol Frost.

Frost predicts the team will be "considerably better than last year."

"Last year was our first year," Frost said. "We never fielded a full team. Due to injuries and few people, we couldn't keep a record."

Frost said the team has four returning starters and eleven total members.

Sophomore Kelly Hiatt of Fremont will be the top returner along with seniors Cindy Dixon of Utica, Doris Hitz of Lincoln, and sophomore Cindy Vickers of Farnam, Frost said.

"We feel the women are coming into this week's practices in good shape," Frost said. "Most of the women have been running all summer."

Hiatt finished 65th, in a field of predominately male competitors in this summer's Omaha Marathon.

The Huskers open their season Sept. 24 at the Grinnell Invitational in Grinnell, Iowa. The next meet is the Kearney Invitational Oct. 1 which is followed by the South Dakota State University Invitational in Brookings Oct. 8.

Last year's national champion, Iowa State University (ISU) will be tough competition for the Huskers, Frost said.

"ISU will be tough and Kansas State University was an easy second last year," she said. "After that, it's about anybody's guess where we will end up."

UNL will host the Husker Invitational Oct. 15 at Pioneers Park. The Big 8 Conference Meet follows in Manhattan, Kan. Oct. 22 with the Southeast Community College Invitational scheduled for Oct. 29 in Fairbury.

The regionals will be held at Ames, Iowa Nov. 5 followed by the national competition to be held in Austin, Texas.

(conditioning) plans. I went home after the spring game confident but not a sincere confident."

Head coach Tom Osborne, however is not ready to concede anything to Garcia or Sorley.

Osborne skeptical

"I'm not flat counting any of them out," Osborne said. "You can never tell what may happen with injuries and so on. Right now Jeff Quinn is on the third team but he's probably the best runner among the quarterbacks. He doesn't look great in practice but he moves the ball in scrimmages and makes some things happen."

Senior Ed Burns and redshirt sophomore Tim Hager are the other quarterback candidates.

"We hope to give Burns and Hager some more work in the scrimmages," Osborne said. "There's not a whole lot of difference between Quinn, Burns and Hager. Ed Burns is much, much better than he was three years ago and he just might play a lot. You have to admire him for his determination."

Sorley, like Quinn, is considered a better runner than passer but he said the Huskers were looking for more balance between the two this season.

"There was a lot of talk Nebraska might go to the run this year," he said. "But Nebraska has always been a passing team. Coach Osborne realizes we were seventh out of the eight teams in the league last year in rushing so we're looking for more balance on offense between the pass and the run."

The first game of the season will be at Memorial Stadium Sept. 10 against Washington State University. Garcia and Sorley are approaching that date with different points of view.

"I want the starting job but I know that three weeks is not a lot of time to reevaluate (the quarterbacks)," Sorley said. "My changes will turn up down the road somewhere and I just want to be ready to take over from that time on. But we also want the best guy on the field and I'm sure Randy will say the same thing. If it takes five quarterbacks alternating, then that's what we want. That and the Big 8 championship."

"I've spent some restless nights," Garcia said, "but not as many as I used to. There aren't going to be any self-applied pressures."

sports

UNL baseball team gears for spring

By Rob Barney

The first game is almost six months away, but the UNL baseball team is already trying to groom its talent for the spring season.

First year baseball coach John Sanders and 80 players had the first team meeting Sunday.

About 57 returning players, recruits and some walk-ons attended the meeting to kick-off fall practice.

General workouts start at 4 p.m. Thursday. Sanders said walk-ons are asked to attend. Players will meet at the NU Diamond adjacent to Ed Wier Stadium.

The team has a 30-player limit and chances are slim that a walk-on can make the team, Sanders said. "But on the other side of the coin, there have been players who have made it and there will be again."

"If a player walks on, we'll certainly take the time to look at him."

Last year Tom Beeson and Troy King were walk-ons. Beeson was one of UNL's leading hitters and shared catching duties with Jon Henne. King backed up second base-

man Jeff King (no relation). Sanders compares fall baseball practice to spring football drills.

"It's a time for strength building, experiment and evaluation," he said. "We're going to combine running for cardio-vascular and weights for outright strength."

Sanders said intra-squad games and basic instruction will be included in the workouts.

"I believe we have a well-balanced program this fall. I hope we take the direction we were going when we left off last spring," Sanders said. "I think the players coming back believe in the philosophy of work, sacrifice and winning."

This season Sanders has two new assistant coaches, John Johnette of Millard and Dave Underwood of Omaha Burke. Millard and Burke have won state baseball championships.

"Johnette and Underwood are outstanding individuals with super backgrounds," Sanders said. "I know they'll do a fine job in the organization and I'm proud to be associated with them."

Injuries already challenging golfers

Coaches worry about injuries to players. But golf coach Larry Romjue's case, his worries have all ready begun before the season even starts.

The big problem is a tendon ailment to Sharon Slattery, Romjue said.

"It is too early to predict how the team will fare," he said. "But I can say that if Sharon Slattery is not up to normal, the team will not be as good as last year."

Players have been practicing on their own for the last few weeks and will begin organized practices Wednesday.

The team is in better shape than they were last spring, Romjue said, because they have had three to four months of practice. Competition starts against Creighton University Sept. 15 at Pioneers Golf Course.

Golf is not as much a team sport as most other athletic department sponsored sports, Romjue said, but we do have team strategy. This strategy is directed toward golf courses, he said.

Long hitters are better equipped to play the long courses while players with excellent shorts games are better prepared to play courses with sandtraps, water hazards and other obstacles, he said.

"We examine each girl's individual strengths and use

them to the team's advantage," Romjue added. Romjue said all seven team members from last year's fourth place Big 8 team are expected to return, in addition to a few freshmen. Nebraska attracts very few outstate girls to the team, Romjue said, because of a short playing season. Nebraska weather cuts playing and practice time much more than other Big 8 schools, he said.

This year's major competition will be Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. and Oklahoma State University.

sports shorts

Umpires for fall baseball are needed. Anyone interested should contact head coach John Sanders at 472-2269.

All varsity crew members must report to the boathouse at 7 p.m. today for an organizational meeting.