

Brink: didn't get 'a fair chance to prove herself'

By Rob Barney
and Mike McCarthy, Sports Editor

Sherry Brink, covergirl for the 1977-78 women's athletic basketball brochure, will not be a team star this season and will not get her fourth letter.

Brink, a three-year starter and letter winner for UNL, quit the women's squad last week.

Brink, the team's only senior, was listed on the third team by the squad's first-year coach, Marcia Walker. Brink said she quit because she did not think she got a fair chance to prove herself.

"I was put down to third string and I had started for three years," she said.

"I didn't think it was worth my time and effort to stay out for basketball."

Walker said Brink had reacted too early by quitting.

"It was so early in the season, I hadn't picked my first, second or third team," Walker said. "I felt cheated that I didn't get the chance to find out how well she could play."

Brink said she was looking forward to playing for the new coach at the beginning of the season.

"I had praise for her (Walker). We started out pre-season with a conditioning program. And she started out practices teaching us fundamentals, which we needed," Brink said.

But when the team was being chosen, Brink said she found herself on the third squad.

"The main reason I quit is that she didn't see my potential," Brink said. "She put me on third string and blew my three years of experience right off the table."

"She knew my statistics and she had talked to people who had seen me play," she added. "She claimed I wasn't putting out in practice. I don't think that's right."

Walker disagreed.

"Sherry is bitter toward basketball," she said. "She talked to me and said she wasn't having fun playing basketball anymore. I told her I felt disappointed she was quitting but I didn't try to influence her decision."

As a three-year performer, Brink said she thought she would get some extra consideration.

"She (Walker) doesn't think a senior has any privileges over other players, everybody is even," Brink said. "I might be old fashioned but I have a different feeling. I think a senior should be given a chance before a freshman."

Brink said Walker told her she had the ability to become a good player.

"I'll be down to watch the games," the Ceresco resident said. "I have a lot of friends playing."

Those friends might have some problems this season, according to Brink.

"I think they'll have a tough time winning state this year," she said. "With her (Walker's) style of play, there are too many individuals on the team. The players aren't working together."

"I had a feeling they were going to lose the two games in Canada, just by the way they were performing in practice. They were sloppy." UNL lost to Winnipeg University, 76-57 and 105-79.

However, Walker said some disorganized play is normal so early in the season.

"With a new coach and a new system, of course that's to be expected," Walker said. "I've been putting the girls through some pretty rigid workouts. I don't know. Some of them just don't want to put out that much. They seem to have other activities outside of basketball."

"College and high school basketball takes a different kind of dedication," Walker added. "Some find that out later."

Brink is a physical education major and wants to get her coaching endorsement. She said she wants to coach either in a high school or college.

She said she has some different philosophies from Walker.

"It seemed to me she knew who she wanted way before the season started. She told me she had a lot of freshmen athletes coming down to try out. She said if they were not all-state or had no state-wide recognition, not to even bother coming out," Brink said.

"I don't like some of her ideas," she added. "They seem too simple. I don't think she's a college-caliber coach, but I have nothing against her."

Game Saturday

UNL's annual Red-White intrasquad basketball game will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the McDonald Belton Gymnasium at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte.

Red	White
10 Mike Naderer, G, 5-11, Fr.	12 James Caldwell G, 6-3, Sr.
14 Pat Hodges, F, 6-5, Jr.	22 Brian Banks, G, 6-0, Sr.
20 Greg Gideon, F, 6-5, Fr.	24 Mark McVicker, F, 6-7, So.
24 Srebrenko Despot, F, 6-8, Fr.	30 Bob Moore, G, 6-3, Jr.
40 Andre Smith, F, 6-7, Fr.	32 Terry Novak, F, 6-4, Sr.
42 Eric Eckelma, F, 6-7, Fr.	50 Curt Hedberg, F-C, 6-8, Jr.
44 Gerard Myrthil, G, 6-2, Fr.	54 Carl McPipe, C, 6-8, Jr.
52 John Ploetz, C, 6-8, Fr.	

Women cagers open at home

The UNL women's basketball team will be "out to get" Simpson College Saturday at their home opener at 7:30 p.m. in the UNL Coliseum.

Coach Marcia Walker said the Huskers were "out to get anyone on the floor" after two losses last weekend at the hands of the University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Canada.

"They (UNL players) played well," Walker said. "They just got beat in the first game. The second game was taken away from them. The officiating was atrocious. It is not that Winnipeg played rough, it was the one-sidedness of the officiating."

The team lost the first game, 76-57 and the second, 105-79.

Walker said she thinks UNL will perform "exceptionally well" against Simpson because they are "fired up." The players should be strong on the boards, she said.

UNL beat Simpson in overtime last year, 64-60.

The Huskers suffered the loss of Laura Tietjen in the first half of the second game in Winnipeg and "it had to hurt overall because of the way she was playing," Walker said. Tietjen made 10 points prior to her injury.

Walker said Tietjen may be able to play against Simpson, but if not, Marta Prichard will take her place.

Other starters will be Jan Crouch, Darcy Williamson, Jeanne Boller, who had 10 points and 11 rebounds in the second game and Linda Jansen.

After playing Simpson, the team travels to Plainview, Tex., for a Nov. 24 through 26 tournament against seven other schools.

Walker said the Huskers play Wayland Baptist College, the hosts of the tournament, in the first round. Wayland Baptist is rated number one in the country, she said.

sport shorts

The UNL women's volleyball team today will compete in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Region 6 championships at Grand Forks, N.D. The top two teams in the region will qualify for the national tourney Dec. 8-10 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

The Husker women's swim team will be in Norman, Okla. Saturday for a dual meet with the University of Oklahoma.

Freshman Donna Fox was the only Husker women's cross country member to qualify for the AIAW national meet Saturday in Austin, Tex. Fox finished seventh at the Region 6 meet in Ames, Iowa to qualify for the meet.

sports



Husker kicker Billy Todd (14) will have the battle of the toes with Uwe Von Schamann when UNL meets the University of Oklahoma Nov. 25.

Photo by Ted Kirk

Game may be Big 8 battle of toes as kickers vie for field goal record

By Kevin Schnepf

The two top kickers in the Big 8 will have a battle of the toes when the University of Oklahoma and UNL collide in Norman, Okla. Nov. 25. The winning team will head for the Orange Bowl.

Uwe von Schamann, the Sooner's soccer-style kicker, leads the league in field goals, while the Husker's left-footed kicker, Billy Todd, runs a close second. Von Schamann has hit 13 of 20 field goals this year, and Todd has made 12 of 17.

Todd, with 12 field goals this year, has broken the record of the most field goals in one season, held by Paul Rogers and Al Eveland. His 55-yard field goal against the University of Kansas last week tied Rogers' record for the longest field goal.

Von Schamann, who kicked the winning field goal against Ohio State University earlier this fall, will enter the nationally televised game as the number two scorer in the Big 8. The junior from Berlin, Germany has made 42 extra points and is averaging 8.1 points per game.

Todd, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound junior transfer student from Mesa Arizona Junior College, said he thinks the kicking game will play an important role in the Husker-Sooner battle.

Most important game

"I'm looking forward to the game," Todd said. "This is definitely our most important game of the year. This is what we've been working for all year. Hopefully, I'll be able to contribute to the game."

"Other Big 8 teams play this Saturday, but UNL and Oklahoma have two weeks to prepare for their match. Todd said the layoff will help the team and his kicking.

"We've been going strong for ten games with Sunday the only day off," he said. "The break will be good and when I come back it will be like a fresh start."

The Huskers had Monday and Tuesday off and began practice again Wednesday.

Todd began his high school career in North Carolina. During his sophomore year he moved to Chandler, Ariz. Todd went to Mesa Arizona Junior College without a scholarship, where he made 28 extra points, eight field goals and punted 52 times for a 40.2 yard average.

"I wasn't sure what I was going to do after that (junior college)," Todd said. "I had three or four offers and Nebraska seemed to be a good opportunity. I happened to be in the right place at the right time with both (Al) Eveland and (Randy) Lessman graduating. Bowl games and the winning tradition at Nebraska were also incentives."

Helped maturity

"I'm just trying to do the best that I can," he said. His exposure at UNL has helped his maturity, he added.

"For the most part, I've been pleased with my field goals," he said. "I was glad to get a shot at that long one (his 55-yard tie-breaking field goal) because someone made the comment that I wasn't a long-range kicker."

However, Todd said he has been displeased with his extra points and kick-offs this year.

"I ran into a few problems at Missouri," Todd said of his two missed extra points. "Last year I was more consistent at getting the ball into the end zone. This year it seems that I'm kicking the ball higher and not longer."

The most important part of kicking field goals and extra points, Todd said, is the timing of the center, the holder and the kicker.

"When the center snaps the ball, I move forward. If it's a bad snap, I have to wait," Todd said. "We've done a good job this season, though."

"They've (holders) had to make quite an adjustment this year since I'm left-footed," Todd said.