

sports



Photo by Ted Kirk

Tim Hager, junior quarterback who led the passing department in last Saturday's scrimmage, is one of six candidates battling senior quarterback Tom Sorley for his job.

Sorley battles six for quarterback

By Rob Barney

At this time last year, Tom Sorley was an untested junior quarterback battling Randy Garcia and four other hopefuls for UNL's starting quarterback berth.

Sorley and Garcia split playing time during the Huskers 9-3 campaign last season.

This spring is different for the senior from Big Springs, Texas. He is listed number one on the depth charts but he has learned a valuable lesson in his attempt to stay there.

"Brad Humphrey, Jeff Quinn, Tim Hager, Scott Michelson, Mark Mauer and Bruce Matthison are all battling for the quarterback spot and if they have a good spring and a good fall, they'll be seeing a lot of action next season," Sorley said.

"You know it wasn't just Randy and I last season. You would beat somebody out last year and somebody else would be there to knock you on the head. So I have to keep working."

Sorley does think he has some advantages over the other quarterbacks, though.

"I have the experience," he said. "I've played in the big games before."

"I also have the general knowledge of the offense and I can recognize the defense a little quicker," he said.

"I'm not overly blessed with speed. I'm not a very fast runner at all. But Nebraska has never had a very fast quarterback," he said.

However, UNL quarterbacks have had strong throwing arms since the Dave Humm and Vince Ferragamo days.

Last season, Sorley had trouble throwing long and was criticized by some fans for his poor throwing statistics.

Sorley, who underwent surgery on his shoulder after returning from the Liberty Bowl last season, hopes that his problem is gone.

"I think my arm is stronger than it has been in a year or two," he said.

Despite the stronger arm, Sorley might use it less if the Huskers continue to experiment with the split back formation. The formation would include Richard Berns and I.M. Hipp in the same backfield.

"It's tough for me to say if it's a good thing or not. I might say it is, but Coach Osborne would come out the

next day and throw it out," Sorley said.

"It looks like to me we'll add it to our arsenal on offense. As far as it taking over, I doubt it," he said. "We've been brought up on the 'I' (formation) and the coaches have used it for I don't know how long."

"The I-formation gave us the Big Eight total offense crown last season, so I guess you don't kick a gift horse in the mouth," he said.

UNL has hopes to fill in the offensive line, at fullback and in the defensive secondary this season. Sorley is optimistic though.

"With a program like Nebraska's, players come here because it's a great team. And you don't develop a great team with just one set of people, you have to have depth," Sorley said.

"The people who graduated will be hard to replace, but we have people who will step in and do a real good job. They won't let anybody down."

Sorley said he would like to finish his Husker career with a Big Eight Conference championship.

"Our goals have always been high and we're pushing ourselves hard this year. We've got all the confidence in the world," he said.

Huskers upset Hawaiians in Tuesday doubleheader

The UNL baseball team scored three runs in the top half of the seventh inning to upset 16th ranked University of Hawaii in the second game of a doubleheader in Honolulu Tuesday.

The 5-3 decision gave the Huskers a doubleheader sweep of the Rainbows in the first two games of a six-game series. UNL took the first game Tuesday, 2-1.

Pitcher Jeff Costello, 3-1 on the season, defeated Richard Olson, who is also 3-1, in the opener. In the second game, Tim Pettit outdueled the Rainbow's Derrick Tatsumo to gain his second victory against four defeats this season.

Women's outdoor track team places 3rd at Arkansas meet

By Rick Huls

The UNL women's outdoor track squad finished third in last weekend's Arkansas Relays, and will host the first Husker Invitational Saturday at the Ed Weir track.

Head Coach Carol Frost said the women had some good performances last weekend but also some bad breaks.

Cindy Tatum, who broke school records in the preliminary 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, was unable to compete in last week's finals because of illness. Tatum qualified for the national meet with an 11.8 clocking in the 100-meters and 24.5 second time in the 200-meter run.

UNL lost possible points in the long jump when Janet Bates bruised her foot. Bates is the only member still questionable for Saturday.

Two other women qualified for the national meet last weekend. Julie Seaton qualified in the 400-meter run with a time of 55.1 seconds, 4.4 seconds faster than the UNL record.

Lincolnite Pam Koontz qualified for the nationals in the javelin and discus. Koontz set school records by tossing the discus 146 feet and the javelin 129 feet, 11 3/4 inches.

Senior Cindy Dixon, who failed to qualify for nationals, set two school records at Arkansas. Dixon ran the 1500 meters in 4:40.5 minutes, taking 15 seconds off her own record. Dixon, the first woman to run the 3000-meter run at UNL, bettered her time in that event with a 10:29.8 clocking.

Frost said UNL will need many more record-breaking performances Saturday to win.

"We can't let Kansas outscore us by too much in any one event," she said. "We'll win our share of events and I think we have more depth than they do. But they do have some top-notch individuals."

KU's Sheila Calmese, Big Eight champion in the 300-meter and 60-meter dashes at this spring's indoor championships, won the 100-meter and 200-meter races at the Arkansas Relays. The Jayhawks captured the team championship last weekend.

Charmen Kuhlman, who won the 400-meter run and finished second in the long jump is another top KU performer. Kuhlman's time in the 400 was 54.2 seconds, almost a full second faster than Seaton's second-place finish for UNL.

"Missouri will probably be next strongest to us and Kansas," Frost predicts. "They have some fine distance runners."

Other schools in the invitational include University of Nebraska-Omaha, Wyoming University, Fort Hays State, Mankato State and Nebraska Wesleyan. Preliminaries begin Saturday morning. Finals will be in the afternoon.

UNL Rugby Club ranks fifth in Big 8

By Mike Schmoldt

When practices began this semester for UNL's Rugby Club, 40 members reported to the UNL Fieldhouse. Two months later that number has dropped to 20.

Tom Goldsmith, captain of UNL's backfield, said the squad practiced for two weeks on the AstroTurf in the fieldhouse before the women's softball team began practices there.

With the snow still outside, it left us in the dark and that discouraged a lot of players," Goldsmith said. "Since then, we've been kind of going downhill."

With its depleted squad, UNL opened the spring season last weekend placing fifth at the Big Eight Conference Rugby Tournament in Norman, Okla. UNL played three games, finishing with a 1-2 record.

Goldsmith said only about seven play-



Daily Nebraskan Photo

UNL track members Donna Fox and Kelly Hiatt take a breather after Wednesday afternoon workouts in preparation for the Husker Invitational, Saturday, at Ed Weir Stadium.

ers have any experience while the remaining players got their first taste of rugby competition last weekend.

UNL, which posted a 9-5 record last year, will play the Lincoln Rugby Club April 22. Goldsmith said the Lincoln team beat UNL for the first time last fall.

"It's a pretty big rivalry," he said. "Last semester was the first time they beat us since the two clubs have been competing against each other." He said the Lincoln club has members who are UNL students and others who are not. The UNL club is limited to UNL students.

Goldsmith said he started playing rugby last spring.

"I've played two seasons (spring and fall), but I'm still learning the game," he said. "Every game I play I improve."

Goldsmith said coach Dave Chinchin

has been showing films and having organized practices to help the team improve. Chinchin, from Australia, and assistant Adrian George, an associate professor of chemistry from England know about rugby and have been able to help the team because they grew up with the sport, Goldsmith said.

A rugby player has to be in better physical condition than a football player, Goldsmith said, and the hardest part about rugby is playing two 40-minute halves continuously, without stopping for a "huddle" once.

"I played football in high school and it just doesn't compare. It's a lot rougher than football, too, because you don't have any pads, yet you tackle," said Goldsmith. He added that although some players have suffered broken bones and other injuries, there were no more injuries than in football, "and probably less."