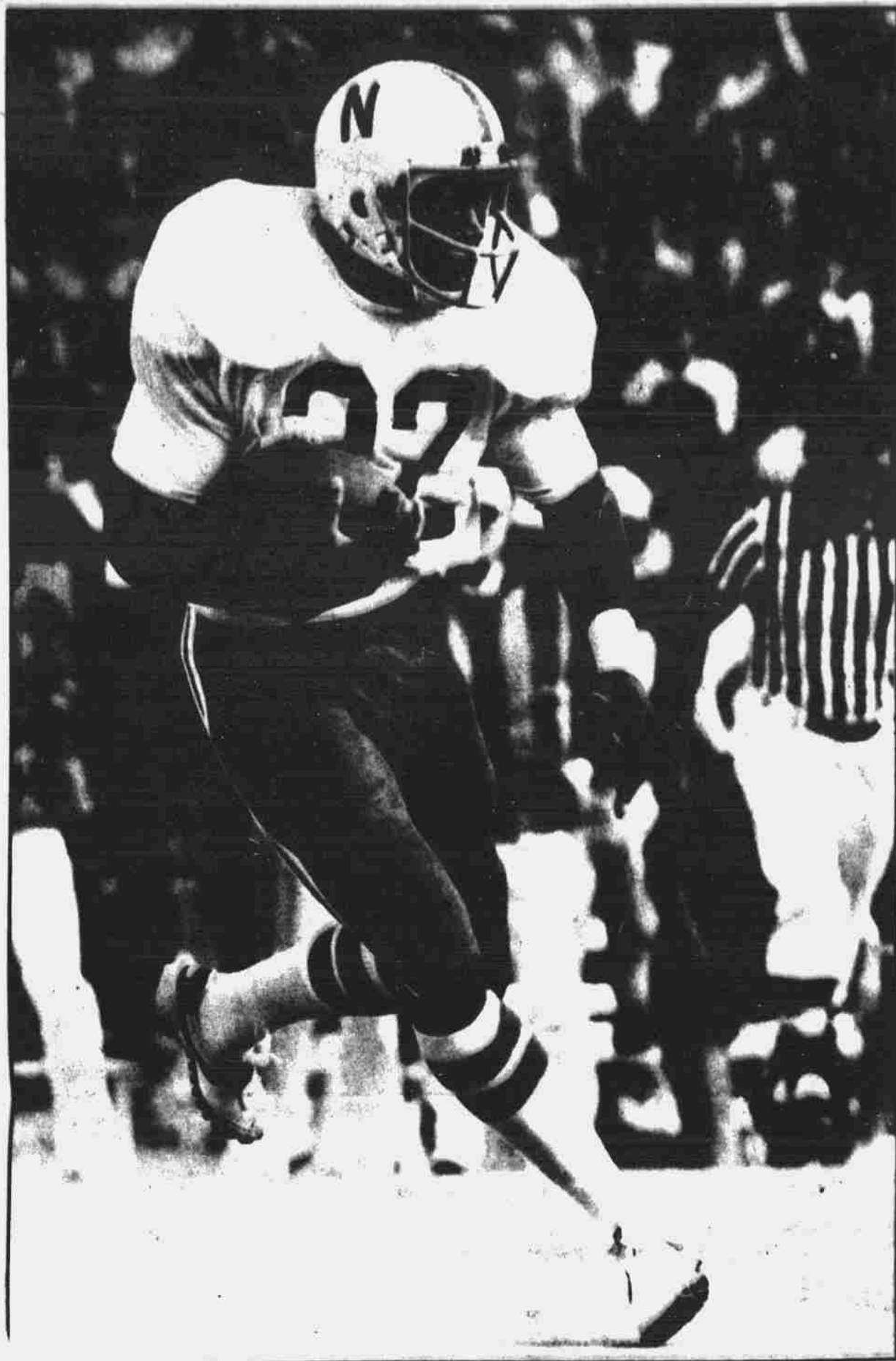


## sports

## Cornhuskers prepare for upcoming football season



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Senior I-back I.M. Hipp breaks loose for some yardage in a 1978 Husker game.

The 1979 edition of Nebraska football, a mixture of talent and experience despite one big question mark, began practice Monday under seventh-year head coach Tom Osborne.

Osborne, who guided the Huskers to a 9-3 overall mark, a berth in the Orange Bowl and a co-Big Eight championship with Oklahoma, welcomed 127 varsity candidates to the annual Photo Day Sunday.

Two-a-day practices in shorts and helmets conclude today and tomorrow the Huskers continue two-a-days in full pads with contact.

Thirty nine lettermen return—21 on offense and 18 on defense—including six offensive and defensive starters, along with the No. 1 punter.

On offense, Nebraska returns senior starters I-Back I.M. Hipp (6-0, 200), tight and Junior Miller (6-4, 222), wingback Kenny Brown (6-0, 182), split end-punter Tim Smith (6-2, 195) and center Kelly Saalfeld (6-4, 249). The other returning starter is junior fullback Andra Franklin (6-1, 218).

**HIPP WILL** attempt to become the first Nebraska running back in Cornhusker history to gain 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons. In 1978 he gained 1,353 yards, a school single season record—and last year ran for 1,002 yards. His total of 2,355 yards is just 350 yards shy of Rick Berns NU record of 2,704 yards (1976-78).

Miller led UNL in receiving last year with 33 catches for 609 yards and six touchdowns, earning him All Big Eight honors and third team All American.

Last season Brown earned first team All Big Eight by rushing for 139 yards—a 5.6 average a carry—and one touchdown, while catching 28 passes for 410 yards and two scores. He also returned 19 punts for 278 yards and one touchdown.

**SMITH IS** entering his third year as NU's starting split end and punter. Last year he caught 22 passes for 303 yards and two touchdowns, earning him second team All Big Eight honors. Smith, who is a two-time first team Academic All Big Eight

selection, has a two-year average of 40-1 yards on 99 kicks—and has never had one blocked.

Saalfeld, also a first team Academic All Big Eight pick, will be starting for his second year at center.

Franklin gained the starting fullback spot midway through the 1978 season and never relinquished it. He received Honorable Mention All Big Eight as a sophomore, gaining 428 yards on 86 carries with three touchdowns.

The big question mark for Nebraska will be the quarterback position after the graduation of veteran Tom Soriey. Jeff Quinn (6-2, 203), a letterman who saw limited action in 1978, enters fall camp as the No. 1 quarterback. Quinn will be pressed for the starting job by senior Tim Hager and sophomores Mark Mauer, Steve Michaelson and Bruce Mathison.

**IN THE LINE**, senior letterman John Havekost (6-4, 230) and junior letterman Randy Schleusener (6-5, 232), held down the No. 1 guard spots after spring ball. Senior letterman Dan Steiner (6-1, 238) and junior Mike Bruce (6-6, 243), enter fall camp in the No. 1 tackle spots.

Defensively, Nebraska will be led by senior starters, end Lawrence Cole (6-2, 206), and Derrie Nelson (6-2, 212), who shared the left defensive end spot a year ago, left tackle, Rod Horn (6-4, 269), right tackles Bill Barnett (6-5, 250) and Dan Pensick (6-5, 245), who shared duty last season, and middle guard Kerry Weinmaster (6-0, 217).

Returning junior starters are cornerback Andy Means (5-11, 186) and safety Russell Gary (6-0, 191).

Cole starts his second season as the Nebraska's top left end. In 1978 he had 61 tackles, a fumble recovery, pass interception, a pass broken up and a blocked punt.

Nelson, who will be moved to right end, had 42 tackles, including 20 solo stops in 1978. He also had three stops behind the line of scrimmage, recovered three fumbles, intercepted a pass and blocked a punt.

**AN HONORABLE** Mention All American

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## Three-team race predicted for Big Eight football crown

While we are all anxiously awaiting word on:

a) The possibility of Bobby Knight being named United States goodwill ambassador to Puerto Rico;

b) The plans for the Chicago White Sox's next promotion night gimmick;

c) The Houston Astros faltering from the baseball pennant race;

d) The NBA's intentions to include all 22 of its teams in next year's playoffs; we'll take time here to preview, review and comment on some of the summertime activities of Husker sports teams, coaches and players.

## lee barkknecht

**FOOTBALL** — The Big Eight football race, by consensus of opinion, looks like a three-team race among Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri. Each team appears to have two major question marks — the Huskers and Sooners both concerned about the quarterback slot and the offensive line, while the Tigers wonder about defense and overall team depth to go with a dynamite offense.

One of the best Nebraska showings in the countless preseason polls was in *Playboy* where Anson Mount picked the Huskers sixth in the country at 9-2 and a slight favorite over Oklahoma in the Big Eight. Mount's choice of Southern California as national champion also seems to reflect the opinion of the majority of football pollsters.

Nebraska opened camp this week after recruiting 24 freshmen that Coach Tom Osborne called the best class since the NCAA imposed the 30-scholarship limitation five years ago.

Not many freshmen are expected to step in and play, though, as the Huskers will rely on a veteran defense and some of the best talent in the country at the skilled positions to battle for the Conference title.

Injuries slowed a few Huskers over the summer. Spring running back sensation Jarvis Redwine was virtually unstoppable in April scrimmages. But Redwine stopped himself for a time this summer when he ran his bicycle into a tree and broke his collar bone. However, he is expected to be at full strength for fall drills.

As is wingback Kenny Brown, who underwent knee surgery in June after being hobbled all spring. Damage to the knee wasn't as bad as first expected and Brown should be back at top speed.

The most serious injury was suffered by freshman recruit Jim Jeffries from Grand Island. Jeffries tore up his knee in a Shrine Bowl practice, was operated on and will now delay enrolling in school until second semester so as to preserve a year of eligibility.

Mark Tuck, a junior college All-American signed by the Huskers in late spring, reported to fall camp, despite an earlier statement that said Tuck wasn't joining the Huskers.

**BASKETBALL** — After playing for more than 50 years in the old Coliseum, the building of the new Sports Center in 1975 brought with it promises from the basketball program of being able to recruit

better athletes and line up better schedules.

Sorry to disappoint you, roundball fans, but those of you anxious to see the Huskers play big-name basketball schools in the 1979-80 campaign are going to have to wait for another time.

Instead of using the beautiful 15,000 seat Sports Center to entice a "Who's Who" of college basketball in to play the Huskers, the basketball program, which released its schedule over the summer, lined up teams that instead of reading like "Who's Who," look more like a "Who's This."

Except for Creighton, Minnesota (away) and Purdue (away), the lineup is a hodgepodge of Division I nobodies, Division II and NAIA schools — Windsor, Ontario, Eastern Washington, Portland St., Wisconsin-Oshkosh, San Angelo St., California-Bakersfield and South Dakota St.

Obviously the schedule has been softened up to give what will be a younger Husker team time to try and get its feet on the ground. But maybe the Huskers will be more careful in their scheduling in the future when they find out the NCAA will consider strength of schedule as a factor for pairings and byes in future national basketball tournaments.

One basketball bright spot could be the recruiting of Minnesota native Greg Downing, a 6-2 guard. Downing got rave reviews in a series of high school all-star games in the spring and summer and could step right into the Nebraska lineup.

**GOLF** — Both the men's and women's programs have undergone major changes since last spring.

Larry Romjue, who coached both the men and women, resigned the women's job

and will be replaced by Jerry Fisher, Lincoln Country Club pro.

Fisher will be assisted by Jean Hyland, a well-known name in Nebraska amateur golf circles and a five-time winner of the state womens match play title.

A host of new recruits and transfers could make the Lady Husker golfers one of the most improved teams in all Nebraska athletics.

For the men, leading golfer Rick Reynolds graduated. But Lincolnite Knox Jones, who tied for sixth in the Nebraska Mens Amateur Golf Championships in Omaha in July, could fill the gap caused by Reynolds' departure.

The man Jones tied with at the state amateur, Mike Huggert of Lincoln, one of the top golfers at Oral Roberts the last three years, has transferred to Nebraska, but will have to sit out a year to become eligible.

**SWIMMING** — Several members of the Nebraska men's team, which made a phenomenal showing in the Big Eight championships last year by moving up from seven straight last place finishes to fourth place, kept busy during the summer swimming for assistant coach Jeff Collen's Nebraska Aquatics team in a series of AAU meets throughout the Midwest.

Women's coach Ray Huppert also saw several of his athletes swimming the AAU circuit.

**OTHER SPORTS** — Coach John Sanders will be hard pressed to match last year's baseball success because of heavy graduation losses. But Sanders appears to have uncovered some recruiting gems to fill the necessary spots and make the Huskers title contenders again.