

Hopes for professional career

Golfer's consistency improves with practice

By Bill Dunbar

Knox Jones is the only All-American the UNL golf team has ever produced. He is perhaps the most talented player Nebraska has had since Tom Sieckmann came out of Omaha. Sieckmann is now playing in the Asian Tour.

Jones came out of Lincoln Southeast with impressive credentials, having won every tournament he played in at least once. But only one major college, Nebraska, offered him a scholarship.

The rap against Jones, if there is such a thing with a player of his caliber, was that he was inconsistent at times.

As a 17-year-old, he found himself tied for the 36-hole lead in the State Medal Play Tournament with rounds of 77 and 64.

"I didn't have much experience then and kind of got lost in it all," Jones said. "About the only thing I remember that third day was coming up the last fairway and hoping not to three-putt in front of all the people."

Jones shot himself out of the title-chase that day with an 80.

Nebraska Coach Larry Romjue said he recruited Jones because of the tremendous potential Jones had to shoot low scores.

The 64 shot at Lincoln's Hillcrest Country Club still is the competitive state record.

"Maturity has a way of taking care of erratic scores," Romjue said. "I believed that as Knox got older his scores would level out and the consistency would come."

Jones opened his freshman season impressively as he finished third in the Big Eight Tournament. His team went to the nationals that year for the first time.

"It was quite an experience to play with a guy like Bob Tway," Jones said. "You hear about how good these guys are and it really makes you feel good when you shoot better than them."

"For Knox to improve," Romjue said, "he has to play with better players. You can learn so much from just watching how the good players go about doing things. You don't have great players in Nebraska and better competition really helps a player like Knox."

Jones seems to have watched well. In his junior year, he once again made the All-Big Eight team and qualified individually for nationals.

"The really good players just don't make mistakes," Jones said. "And they have so much confidence because they've

all been here before. Guys like Hal Sutton and Jay Blake all know each other and play together in the summer. They're playing places like Pinehurst and I'm playing somewhere in Nebraska."

One of the chief drawbacks of playing in Nebraska is that it has no championship courses. The Lincoln Country Club, Jones' home course, is 6,100 yards. A course like Pinehurst is 7,100 yards.

"Long courses won't bother Knox because he is long off the tee," Romjue said. "Great courses demand all types of shots and the courses in Nebraska are not that demanding."

Although Jones has not won at the college level as he had hoped, his success at the state level has improved. He bagged the State Match Play Tournament several years

ago, defeating Mike Ley 5-3 during 36 holes. Last summer, he won the Lincoln City Title with consistent rounds of 72-72-66-72.

"When I played in nationals, I felt I had to do my best on every shot," Jones said. "But now at the state level, I don't have to do my best to finish well."

Jones makes it no secret that he would like to play professional golf.

"I'll never be satisfied unless I give it a try," Jones said. "I may fail miserably but I've got to know one way or another."

Romjue said Knox has all the tools to play professionally.

"He's long off the tee and is a great putter. He's getting good experience in college but improvement is a slow process in golf. He just needs to play and play."

Sun Devils win in overtime by five over UNL women

By Ward W. Triplett III

Kym Hampton and Cassandra Lander combined for 60 points Friday night to give Arizona State a 88-83 overtime victory against the Nebraska women in the Huskers' final regular-season basketball game.

The Huskers rallied from eight points behind at the half. Nebraska went ahead 72-70 with Chris Leigh's shot at a minute to play in regulation. Arizona's Hampton, a 6-1 freshman, then hit both ends of a one-and-one with 24 seconds left to send the game into overtime.

Hampton scored eight of her 32 points in overtime to push the lead back up to eight and put the game out of reach.

Nebraska Coach Colleen Matsuhara, whose team finished the regular season 17-11, said the Huskers had too much trouble trying to stop Hampton inside.

"I just hope this type of game will get us eager to play Missouri," Matsuhara said. Missouri, whom the Huskers tied with for first place in their division, will meet the Huskers in first-round regional action in Minnesota on Thursday.

Matsuhara also said Husker Kathy Hagerstrom played good defense.

"I was very pleased with the way she played tonight, and I hope she starts believing she can play defense as well as offense."

Hagerstrom, who lost her starting position to Susie Wickham three games ago for defensive reasons, scored 26 points to lead Nebraska. Huskers Ami Beiringer and Janet Smith added 18 and 14 points respectively. Lander had sunk 28 points for the Sun Devils, helping to push their record to 18-10.

"I think Nebraska came out real strong," Arizona State Coach Juliene Simpson said. "We ended up turning the ball over 16 times in the first half, and we've only averaged 10 a game for the year."

"We were not really ready, and Nebraska was," Simpson said. "It was just a prayer and a luck that we were able to tie the game."

"The first few minutes of the overtime was the first time in the game we played like we can and usually do," she said.

Second team title awarded

Nebraska successfully defended its Big Eight swimming and diving title Saturday at Norman, Okla. The Huskers finished the meet with 519 points, far ahead of runner-up Missouri with 432. Kansas was third with 418, followed by Iowa State at 304 and Oklahoma at 93.

Nebraska, which already had a large lead going into Saturday's diving competition,

stretched the lead with a one-two-three performance in the three-meter diving event.

Dave Keane won the event with 538.5, followed by Scott Hinrichs with 530.0 and David Goodwin with 520.15.

Nebraska set one conference record en route to its second straight team title. The record came in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:02.44.

Teams selected, pairings for NCAA finals unfair

Analysis By Jeff Goodwin

The NCAA released its pairings for the national basketball championship Sunday and, as usual, there are some unhappy teams.

Actually, I don't see anything wrong with 48 teams. It's just that the NCAA always manages to pick some school where basketball is little more than an intramural sport. For example, take James Madison. Please. They are the champions of the ECAC Southern division. What is that you say? Mainly a collection of schools which can't get into any other conference and want the chance to send a team to the NCAA championship.

But wait. There is also the ECAC North and the ECAC Metro. Northeastern and Long Island University won bids as winners of those divisions. So the ECAC

sends three teams, just like the Big Ten.

And while James Madison marches off to the tournament, teams like Marquette and Tulsa and any Big Ten team except Northwestern must sit and watch. Northwestern gets an automatic bye to the quarterfinals of the Illinois high school tournament.

Tulsa defeated three teams, Wichita State, Creighton and Louisville, which received bids and won 20 games, but didn't receive a bid. Perhaps the Golden Hurricanes should apply for admission to the ECAC.

In addition to the teams selected, the pairings sometimes leave something to be desired. Last year, DePaul was shunted off to the Western regional in Arizona. This year, UCLA goes east while North Carolina takes the long trip west. Perhaps they can wave to each other over Topeka.

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