

Promise, potential mark UNL men's tennis team

By Scott Ahlstrand
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

For men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott, the upcoming fall season looks promising, but also challenging as he tries to develop his team's potential.

"I'm really optimistic about our team this year," McDermott said. "We've got some experienced players coming back, and our recruits have a lot of potential. On paper we look like a real good team."

Paving the way for the Huskers is senior Jim Carson. A four-year starter for Nebraska, Carson, along with senior Ashwin Vasan, should provide the leadership on this year's team, McDermott said. The other returning starter for the Huskers is sophomore Jim Burton, who played tennis for Lincoln Southeast High School. Recruits this year include Mike

Marsh, walk-on Mike MacDonald and Jim Carson's younger brother Pat, who played for Lincoln's Pius X Central High School. Marsh is a freshman from Mission Viejo, Calif., where he was a top-ranked doubles player. Originally from Iowa, MacDonald walked on at Nebraska from a Kansas junior college. Last year MacDonald reached the quarter finals of the junior college national championships.

McDermott said Scott Wilson also should see some action this fall.

Jim Carson, Ashwin and Marsh will compete for the No. 1 position on the team, McDermott said.

"Jim will probably be our top player," McDermott said. "He won the Big Eight Championship at No. 5 last year and he's very steady. He responds to pressure well."

Entering his fifth year as coach, McDermott said that the fall season is used mainly for preparing players for the spring.

"In the fall we try to put people in the right position and get them used to our program. We'll be working on conditioning and doing a lot of teaching this season," McDermott said.

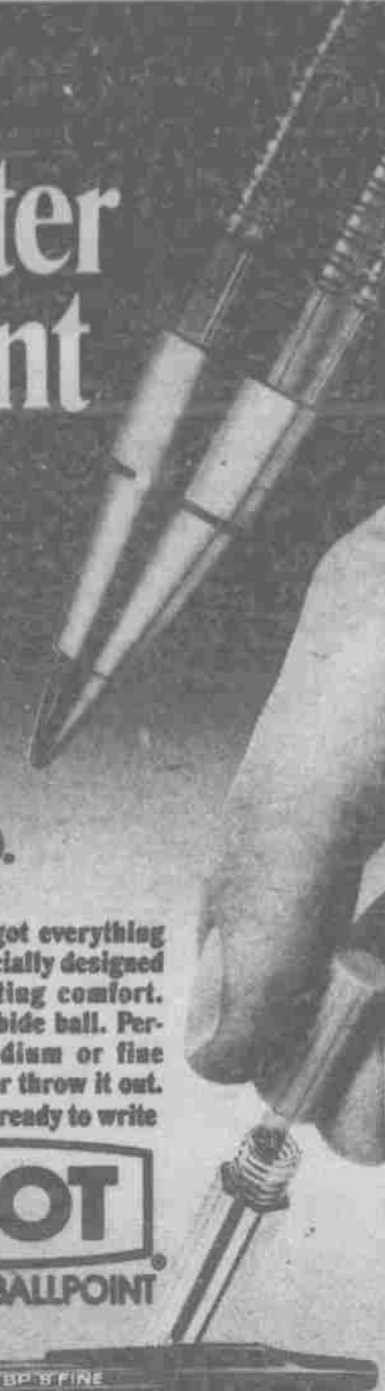
The Huskers open their season in Lawrence, Kan., at the Kansas Invitational Sept. 21 to 22. They will next compete in the Ball State Invitational Oct. 5 to 6. Nebraska will host the Husker Invitational Oct. 19 to 20, and finish the fall season against Oklahoma Nov. 17.

"We should have a pretty good fall season," McDermott said. "We'll get about 10 matches and that should give us a pretty good idea of who will play where this spring."

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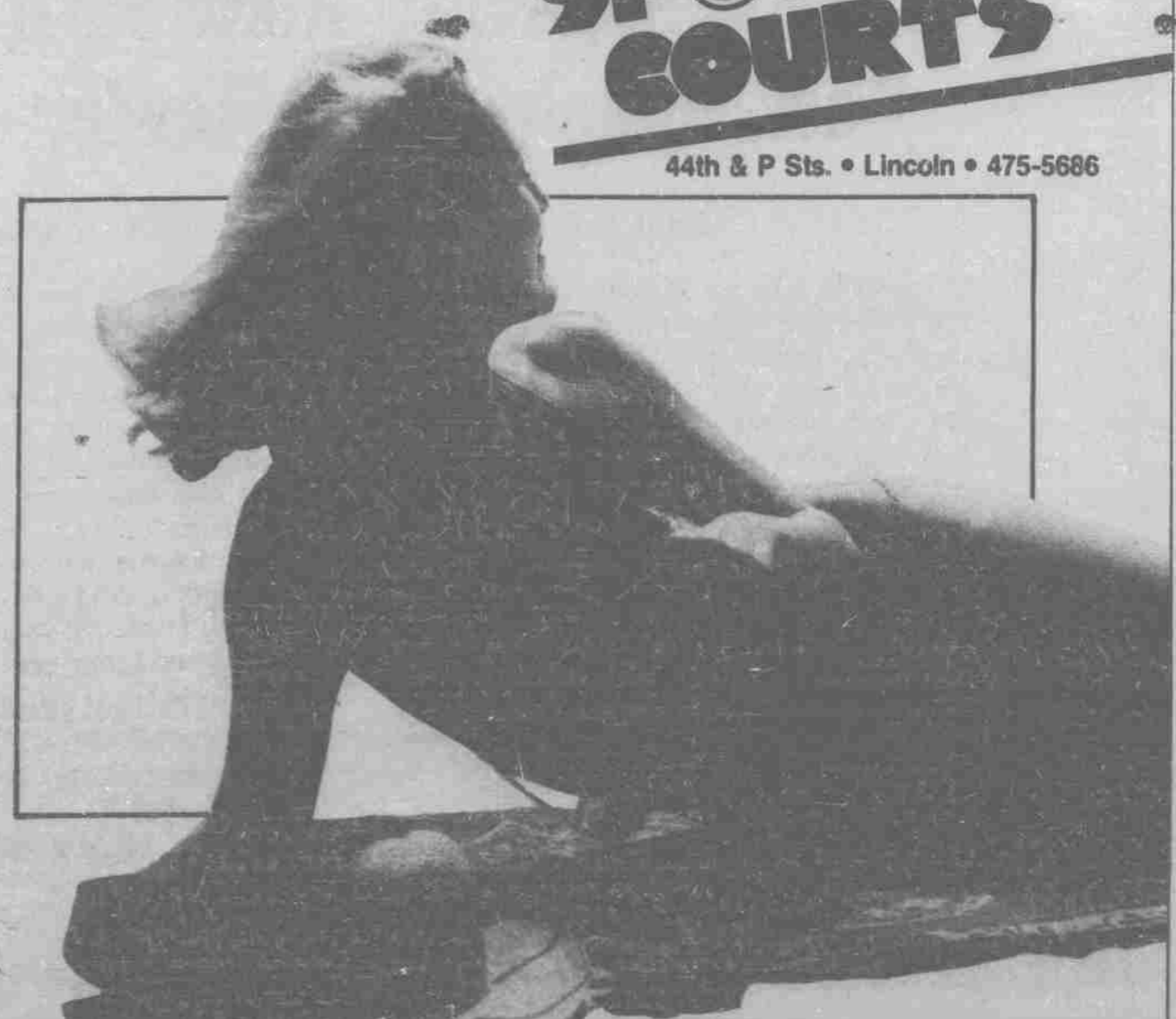
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