

# Sports

## Cross country teams to defend Husker title

A year ago, Jay Dirksen began his first season as coach of the men's and women's cross country teams with a women's team made up of promising freshmen and a men's team with one bona fide star.

This season, those freshmen are seasoned sophomores, and the men's team has four runners who could score big points.

Dirksen will get his first chance to see how his teams stack up against real competition when the Husker Invitational runs Saturday at Pioneer Park. It not only will begin the Nebraska season, but it also will serve as Lincoln's only chance to see the Husker harriers this season.

"Duals with other schools do us very little good," Dirksen said about the lack of home meets. "The invitationals we are in have been set for years."

Jill Noel and Karlene Erickson lead the Husker women, with Noel, a sophomore from Lincoln, looking to defend the title she won last year in the Invitational.

On the men's side, Dirksen said four runners could challenge for the team's top position. Kurt Russell, Tom Hoffman, Gerald O'Callaghan and Kraig Vanderbeek had good seasons last year. Bryan Clark and Glen Cunningham are expected to be close behind the top four, Dirksen said.

The Air Force, Midlands College, Tarkio College, Southwest Missouri and South Dakota State will provide the competition for the invitational. The Husker squads both won last season.

Dirksen said the Pioneer Park course was good for cross country running, but it is not an easy race.

"It's a good place to have a meet because it simulates cross country a little more (than other Lincoln sites)," Dirksen said. "It's also a good spectator course."

Last season, Wally Duffy, a transfer from Illinois, used the invitational as a springboard to an All-American ranking. Dirksen said this year's team will be looking to peak later in the year.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Rich Rannels, quarterback of the Love/Pound 2 CoRec football team, attempts to get a pass off before being tackled. The pass was intercepted and returned for a touchdown by a member of the Sigma Nu/Alpha Chi Omega team. Sigma Nu/Alpha Chi Omega won 32-6.

## Canadian Sippel adjusts to United States softball

By Julie Bauer

Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

One of the recruits on the women's softball team this year has never played softball in the United States. That is because pitcher Lori Sippel is from Canada.

Sippel is a freshman from Statford, Ontario, where she lived with her family on a farm. She is one of five children. As a youngster, she developed an interest in softball because of an older brother.

"My brother played softball, so when we were little I also started playing," she said. "After my parents saw I had some potential in the sport they signed me up to play in a league. I was about 9 years old then."

Sippel played softball in summer leagues through high school, while also participating in volleyball, basketball and track. But the 6-1 athlete excelled the most in softball. She led the Canadian national team to the gold medal at the Pan American games, defeating the United States team for the championship.

She also was named the most valuable player in the Canadian Nationals as she led her team to the national championship. She pitched five shutouts during the tournament.

After high school, Sippel was recruited by the best in college softball, including Texas A&M, UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, Kansas, Creighton and Indiana. Nebraska was the last school she visited, but it became her first choice.

"I liked Nebraska because of the people. Midwesterners are a lot like the people I grew up with, friendly and always willing

to help," she said. "I'm impressed with coach (Wayne) Daigle, as well. He knows his softball and he knows how to express his ideas and get them across to the girls."

Daigle, likewise, said he was quite impressed with Sippel, not just as a pitcher but as a person.

"She has character. She's very intelligent, mature and down-to-earth. She doesn't play any ego games and she knows her limits," Daigle said.

Of course, her performance on the mound is important as well, and what her high school record didn't say, Daigle did. "She has it all. She can pitch any ball: a drop, a rise, a change-up, or a curve," he said.

Sippel said she thinks her change-up is most effective. "Right now that's probably my best pitch, but my other pitches have to be on before I can use it."

As Sippel began practice with the team, she said she noticed only slight differences between the softball she played in high school and playing at Nebraska.

"It's a lot more competitive in college, especially since the leagues I was playing in were recreational in Canada," she said.

She has now been in Nebraska a few weeks and said she is learning a lot from the team. "There are a lot of good players out here," Sippel said.

As a pitcher Sippel said she's hoping she can carry her share of the load. "I think one of my best qualities as a pitcher is I keep my composure," Sippel said. "I feel it's my duty to the team to keep as composed as possible at all times and pitch the best game I can. The team depends on that."

## Rec Scoreboard

### Men's Softball

#### Monday scores

Abel Six A 16, Cather Six A 5  
Cather Three A 7, Cather Two A 3  
Abel Five A 11, Cather Eight A 4  
Burr II West B 13, Schramm Two C 2  
Burr I West B 11, Cather Five B 4  
Harper Five 5 15, Cather Eleven B 5  
Base Invaders 6, Holysmokers 0  
Schramm Four B 12, Abel Eleven B, 11  
Burr One East B 20, Abel Eight B-1, 2  
Mutley's Crew 9, Voykoulf 8  
Abel Ten B 16, Harper Four B 9  
Harper Eight B 5, Schramm Two B 4  
Mudvil Sluggers 13, Master Batters 3

### Hosers C 11, Uhing's Team 6

Co-Rec Flag Football  
Pigskins 26 (4.2), Cather Ten/Pound Six 19 (4.5)  
Abel Seven 12 (4.0), Heppner Two/Three 6 (4.2)  
Abel Eight/Sandoz Eight 34 (4.2), Abel Five/Sandoz Five 12 (4.0)

Scores in parenthesis are sportsmanship ratings.

MANAGER'S MEETING: Manager's meeting for club sports will be held today at 5 p.m. at the Campus Recreation office, 1740 Vine St.



Daily Nebraskan Staff Photo

## Meeting of the Minds?

Nebraska's Women's Athletic Director June Davis discusses a point with Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney at a Husker volleyball match earlier this season.