



New Nebraska linebackers coach Kevin Steele relaxes in his office.

## New coach ready for NU

By Steve Sipple  
Staff Reporter

Former Tennessee assistant Kevin Steele needed just one reason to join Nebraska's football coaching staff: Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne.

"It was the opportunity to be exposed to his program. That's exactly why I'm here," said Steele, who replaced former Husker coach John Melton as the team's linebacker coach. Melton announced his retirement March 3 after having quintuple-bypass surgery Feb. 14.

Osborne announced Steele's hiring early last week and Steele said Tuesday he was been working to get acclimated with Nebraska's defense. Spring football practice begins April 3.

Osborne wasn't the only Nebraska coach on Steele's mind during his decision-making process to become a Nebraska assistant, he said.

"The coaching staff had something to do with the decision," he said. "(Nebraska defensive coordinator) Charlie McBride is one of the premiere defensive coaches in the country. Being exposed to Coach McBride will be a benefit, too."

With the abundance of coaching talent at Nebraska, Steele said, his job will be to simply coach the linebackers -- and nothing else.

"I'm not here to change the defense. I'm here to coach linebackers to the best of my abilities," said Steele, a 30-year-old who coached the secondary and inside linebackers the last two seasons for Tennessee

coach Johnny Majors. "Whether it's high school, college or pro football, basically you got the same type of things that need to be done."

Steele, who's also made coaching stops at Oklahoma State and New Mexico State, said the transition from teaching the Volunteer's defense to Nebraska's defense has been smooth.

"Except for a few variations, the only difference is in terminology," he said. "Both teams run odd-man fronts. There's change-ups, but nothing too drastic."

One constant every college program shares is in the difficulty in recruiting. It was tough to recruit at Tennessee and it will be just as difficult at Nebraska, Steele said.

Steele served as linebacker coach and recruiting coordinator at New Mexico State in 1982 and 1983. He will also handle recruiting duties at Nebraska.

"I thoroughly enjoy recruiting. For me, it's one of the most enjoyable things," Steele said. "I enjoy the challenge of helping a high school senior make a decision that will affect him the rest of his life."

Steele made a decision that affected his life well before his senior year in high school -- the decision to coach college football. He said he realized as early as 1971 -- after watching Nebraska beat Alabama 38-6 in the Orange Bowl as a 12-year-old -- that he wanted to coach football.

"I knew then that I wanted to be a coach and I was impressed with the Big Red," he said.

## NU bowling teams qualify for nationals

By Mike Andreasen  
Staff Reporter

Describing the Nebraska men's and women's bowling teams performance at the sectional qualifying tournament as dominant may be an understatement.

Both squads won their respective divisions last weekend at Leisure Lanes in Omaha, earning automatic berths for the national competition April 19 through 23 in Las Vegas. The top-two teams from the competition earned national berths.

Nebraska bowling coach Bill Straub said he was pleased with both team's performances. He said he was especially pleased with the perform-

ance of the 4th-ranked Cornhusker women.

The Nebraska women won their title by tallying 13,178 pinfalls. Wisconsin-Whitewater finished 2nd with 12,397, followed by Mankato State (Minn.) with 12,375. Wisconsin-LaCrosse finished 4th in the women's competition with 12,230, pinfalls, followed by Northern Illinois with 11,795 and Illinois-Urbana with 11,636.

The Nebraska men, behind the performance of All-American Mike Shady, won their title with 14,009 pinfalls. Illinois State finished 2nd with 13,518, followed by Northern Illinois with 13,289, Wisconsin-Oshkosh with 13,248, Iowa with

13,129 and Wisconsin-LaCrosse with 13,005.

Mankato State finished 7th in the men's competition with 12,994 pinfalls, followed by Wisconsin-Whitewater with 12,902, Wisconsin-Madison with 12,895, Madison (Wis.) Technical College with 12,713, Illinois-Urbana with 12,577 and Concordia College of Seward with 10,488.

Straub said the pressure was on the Nebraska women.

"They've been successful all year long," he said. "The pressure was definitely on the ladies to keep their success going, and they have never made it to nationals so this is extra

special."

The Nebraska women swept the tournament's top three to win the team title. Nebraska's Michelle Kelly won the individual title by recording a 203 average over 12 games. Nebraska's Rachel Fleming finished 2nd with a 194 average, while Kim Berke was 3rd with a 193 mark. Nebraska's Jennifer Wilson finished 6th with a 188 average.

Straub said youth benefitted the Nebraska women. Four of the Huskers six team members are freshmen.

"Sometimes nervousness can affect older players," Straub said. "Fortunately, in this case our inexperienced freshmen performed well and were not as nervous."

Shady paced the 6th-ranked Husker men by compiling a 215 average. That mark placed him 2nd to Wisconsin-LaCrosse's Tim Damerow, who finished with a 216 average.

Straub said Shady's senior status had an emotional ploy on the team.

"This was his last go around and we wanted him to go out in as much a blaze of glory as humanly possible," Straub said.

Straub said Nebraska will prepare for nationals by competing in an exhibition tournament this weekend at Sun Valley Lanes. He said the competition will feature Nebraska and five professional bowlers.

## Three students represent Nebraska in 'Super Bowl'

By Mark Derowitsch  
Senior Reporter

There's one Final Four that will definitely have a team from Nebraska in it.

Three students represented Nebraska in the final four of "Boardwalk and Baseball's Super Bowl of Sports Trivia" in Orlando, Fla. But you won't be able to find out how they fared until next month.

Steve Eckman, a sophomore from Lincoln, Joe Ryan, a sophomore from Omaha, and David Thompson, a senior from Lincoln, competed as the

Nebraska team in January. ESPN (Cablevision channel 23) will televise the tournament beginning April 3. Nebraska will face UCLA in the tournament's first match at 6:30 p.m.

"We really can't say how we did," Eckman said. "They told us we couldn't tell anyone because they want people to watch the show on TV."

But Eckman said the Nebraska contingent made it "pretty far in the tournament."

"But we didn't win it," he said. "I can say that we at least made in into

the Final Four."

Eckman, an undeclared major from Northeast High School, said Nebraska was the only school from the Big Eight in the tournament. This was his first trip to the Super Bowl.

"They had a lot of guys who had been there before, though," Eckman said. "I was pretty amazed at how fast they could answer the questions. It was really tough."

Eckman said the show's filming took place from Jan. 3 through 10. He said participants had weekends off because the show's host, Chris Ber-

man, had to go to the ESPN studio to tape the National Football League's Primetime telecast.

"We had a couple of days off and had a dress rehearsal the night before," Eckman said. "We had the weekend off and went to Boardwalk and Baseball a lot. We also went to the Epcot Center."

Eckman said Berman, who is a regular on ESPN's SportsCenter, made the experience fun.

"He's great," he said. "He's the perfect host to do the show."

Eckman said getting to the tourna-

ment was as tough as competing on the show. He said contestants in Lincoln had to fill out a 40-question questionnaire. The top three represented the university on the show.

"It was a pretty tough test," Eckman said. "It was pretty much like the show. The questions covered a wide variety of sports, but mostly included questions about baseball, basketball and football."

He said other teams in the tournament included Boston College, Georgetown, Columbia and several other East coast schools.

## UNL guard reluctant to play European pro-basketball

By Mark Derowitsch  
Senior Reporter

It would take a pretty big offer for Nebraska guard Amy Stephens to leave school and play basketball professionally in Europe.

Stephens, a senior from Alliance, said a few teams in Europe have made inquiries about her to Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck.

"I wouldn't say I'm interested -- at least not right now," Stephens said. "Coach Beck has mentioned it to me, but I'm not sure of all the details."

Stephens said Beck was contacted by a team

in West Germany. She said women's professional basketball is popular in some countries in Europe.

"I've read a couple of articles about it, and in Italy and West Germany, it's a pretty big deal," Stephens said. "I suppose if I received a really good offer, I might be interested. Some teams even pay for an apartment, spending money and a car."

Stephens said a lot of former All-Americans play in other countries. The most famous one is former Old Dominion standout Ann Donovan, Stephens said.

"She makes a lot of money over there," she said. "If you're a big name in America, you're

going to do real well playing over there."

Stephens said if she had to make a decision now, she would remain in school and get her degree in physical education. She expects to graduate next May and will student teach next spring.

"Right now, I guess it's too soon to really say that I might play again," Stephens said. "Maybe in a month, I may want to get back into it, but for now, I just want to take it easy for a while."

Stephens deserves the relaxation. She played all season with injuries that forced her to wrap her ankles and sit through whirlpool treatments after each game.

But despite the injuries, Stephens still managed to average 22 points per game this season and became Nebraska's 2nd all-time leading scorer with 1,958 career points. She also averaged 4.3 rebounds per game and totaled 115 assists this year.

Stephens said she still doesn't know the extent of her injuries. She said they do not require surgery, at least for now.

"I haven't been back to the doctor since the season ended, but I don't think surgery will be necessary," Stephens said. "They can't tell without X-rays, and I'll have them X-rayed soon. I just think I need some time to rest. That would help a lot."