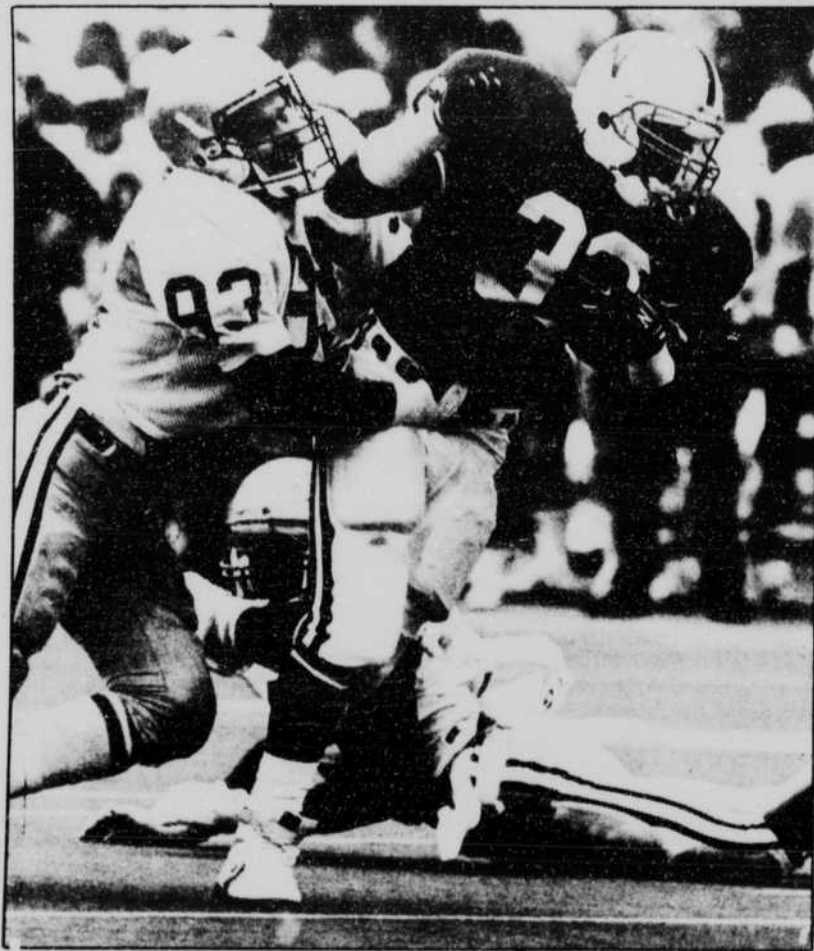


## Clark is setting high goals this season



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska I-back Ken Clark tries to elude the grasp of Utah State's Chuck Thompsen during last season's game against the Aggies.

By Nick Hodge  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska I-back Ken Clark wants to make it two in a row.

Clark said that dedicating himself to spring practice last year and working hard in the summer enabled him to earn All Big-Eight honors as a junior. As he prepares for his senior season, he said he plans to continue to push himself this spring in hopes of surpassing the team-high 1,497 yards he rushed for last season.

"I'm working hard this spring to get my potentials as high as they can get right now," Clark said. "I haven't set any goals for next season, but I'd like to rush for more than 1,500 yards. I think it's a realistic goal. I'll just wait and see what happens this spring and workout hard this summer."

Clark said he will have to keep playing well to remain the No. 1 I-back. Challenging Clark for the I-back spot are redshirt sophomores Leodis Flowers and George Achola, and junior Terry Rodgers.

"I feel a little bit more comfortable about being in the program, but you always have to worry about your job," Clark said. "It's the same situation as Tyrese Knox last year. He had a pretty good spring, but his job wasn't real safe."

"I'm more comfortable and I know what I'm doing and I'm going to keep doing what I can do to maintain my job."

Knox rushed for 490 yards last

season as a senior while playing backup to Clark. Knox is the lone Cornhusker player not returning in Nebraska's running back roster.

Rodgers suffered severe knee damage in practice last October, and has since undergone reconstructive surgery. He is still undergoing rehabilitation and is not participating in spring drills. Before his injury, Rodgers was the No. 2 I-back.

Clark, a 5-foot-9, 200-pound graduate of Omaha Bryan High School, said he knows Flowers and Achola will provide plenty of competition.

"I'm going to stay here this summer again and just turn up the intensity a little bit," Clark said.

Clark, who also scored 12 touchdowns last season, said he wants to improve this spring and come back next fall ready to meet his goals.

"You can't come to fall camp out of shape," Clark said. "I came back in a lot better shape, stronger and quicker last year. It really paid off a lot."

Clark's production last fall was 2nd in the Big Eight only to former Oklahoma State tailback and Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders. Sanders chose to bypass his senior year in favor of the National Football League.

Clark said he can't let Sanders' absence affect him.

"It doesn't make me any different," Clark said. "I have to be my

own person and play my own game. It would have been more competition for me because it makes me perform better."

Flowers, a 5-11, 195-pound Omaha Central graduate, earned his first varsity letter by rushing for 202 yards last season. He was redshirted as a freshman.

Achola, from Omaha Creighton Prep, looks to battle for playing time after sitting out last year as a redshirt.

Sophomore Scott Baldwin will also contend for one of the top four I-back positions.

The top three Husker fullbacks return to make the running back position one of the most experienced areas on the team. Seniors Bryan Carpenter and Sam Schmidt will battle sophomore Lance Lewis for the top spot.

Carpenter, a 5-10, 200-pound native of Olathe, Kan., will try to keep hold of his first-team fullback slot. Carpenter gained 498 yards rushing last season.

Schmidt, a 6-1, 230-pound player from Wood River, had extensive playing time last year before an ankle injury in Nebraska's third game ended his season.

Lewis, 6-0, 200-pound native of Scott City, Kan., was awarded a varsity letter for his playing time in the third fullback spot.

Senior Brian Harchelroad and sophomores Andre McDuffy and Tim Johnk will also spend spring practice hoping to work up the depth chart at fullback.

## Motivation up, players pepped for practice

By Paul Domeier  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team solved its doubles problem and took its second step toward a Big Eight title this weekend.

Nebraska Coach Kerry McDermott said he altered his doubles lineup after the Cornhuskers' No. 2 team of Robert Sjöholm and Matthias Mueller dropped a tough decision during a 6-3 victory against Air Force Friday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

McDermott said the change in-

involved Sjöholm and Ken Feuer for Nebraska's match against Colorado Saturday in Boulder. The switch paid immediate dividends, as the Huskers' No. 2 doubles team of Mueller and Feuer and the No. 3 team of Sjöholm and Pat Carson led Nebraska to a 9-0 victory against the Buffaloes by posting a pair of victories.

McDermott said the players were ready for the change.

"The guys looked forward to it," he said. "They saw it as a challenge."

McDermott said he likes the change for strategic purposes.

"Matthias and Ken are going to get along real well. Matthias is more of a power player and Ken is more of a control player," McDermott said. "Before, with Matthias and Robert, you had power, power, power."

"It works the same way at No. 3 doubles. Robert is a power player, while Pat is more of a finesse player."

McDermott said the lineup change will give Nebraska confidence for the rest of the season.

"Now we feel like we can win all three doubles," he said. "Before we only felt like we could win two."

McDermott said Nebraska is playing with great confidence. He said the Huskers were bolstered by the performances of Steven Jung and Mueller.

Jung is a senior who tops a veteran lineup, McDermott said, while Mueller continues to play very well. He said Mueller, who has won 16 consecutive matches to raise his record to 18-2 overall, is a talented player.

"He's probably the most talented freshman we've ever had," McDermott said.

McDermott said Feuer and Carson demonstrated the team's determination by battling back to win three-set matches Saturday at No. 4 and No. 6 singles.

"The biggest difference," he said, "is that our guys are not quitters."

The team is so fired up, McDermott said, the players are "even anxious to practice."

"Our guys are so psyched to win the Big Eight, we won't have any problems with motivation the rest of the year," he said.

## Chatwin homer wins game

By Darran Fowler  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska third baseman Ruth Chatwin did not want to go into extra innings.

Chatwin, a senior from Melbourne, Australia, led off the seventh inning by sending a 1-1 pitch over the center field fence to give the Huskers a 1-0 victory over Wichita State in the second game of a softball double-header Tuesday at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

With the home run, Chatwin became the first Husker to reach third base -- and eventually home -- in the two games played against the Shockers. Wichita State pitcher Patty Bautista, who pitched both games, limited Nebraska's hitters to three hits in each game.

Wichita State won the first game 4-0.

Chatwin, who was named the Big Eight Conference player of the week for her .444 batting performance against Oklahoma and Missouri last weekend, said she just wanted to lead off the inning by getting on base.

"I thought the game had to end this inning," Chatwin said.

Wichita State coach Jim Maynard said that after seeing Chatwin hit a hard liner at Shocker second baseman Carmelina Vairo in the fourth inning he knew that Chatwin had the power to hit the ball out.

"We knew she was capable," he said. "We're not satisfied with the split, but we're satisfied with the way our girls played."

Nebraska is now 18-20 and has won five of its last six games.

"We're on an upswing," Chatwin said. "I really believe that. If everyone takes care of their job we'll be all right."

Chatwin said her season got off to a slow start but that the coaches have helped build her confidence when she is batting.

"It's helped a lot knowing that they believe in me," she said.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said Chatwin is an example of someone whose extra work has paid off.

"She's worked hard on her stroke," Wolforth said. "She's never backed off from anything that we've taught her."

The Huskers needed the home run by Chatwin as Bautista had kept Nebraska's hitters at bay.

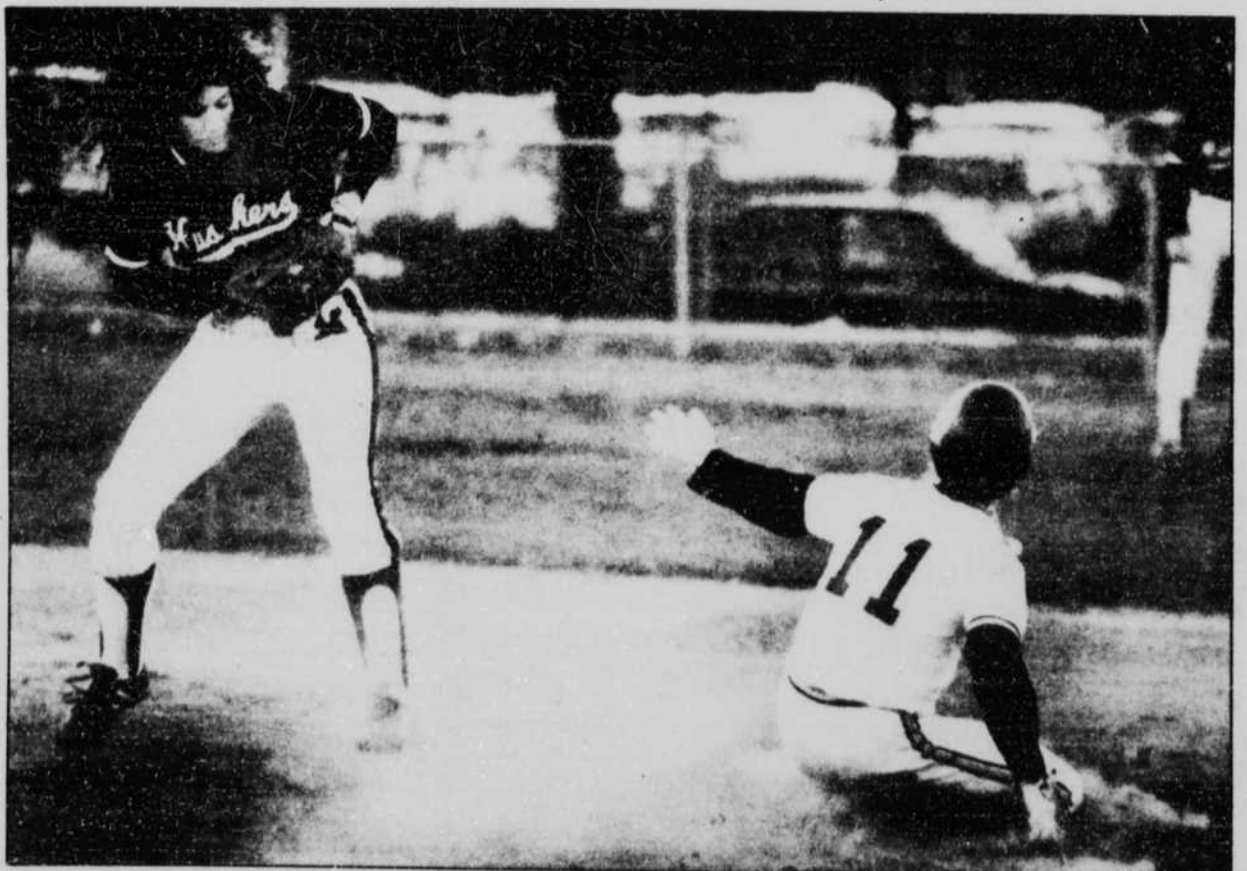
"Their pitcher threw a fantastic two ball games," Wolforth said. "She's an outstanding pitcher. They've improved since they beat us before."

Bautista also pitched when the two teams met at the Roadrunner Invitational at Las Cruces, N.M. on March 2. The Shockers won that game 2-1.

Maynard said this was the first time this season that Bautista had pitched back-to-back games. He said Bautista was forced to pitch both games because the Shockers other pitcher, Sylvia Lavin, pulled a groin muscle.

"She threw two super ball games," Maynard said. "She's been throwing well for us all year."

After Wichita State scattered eight



David Frana/Daily Nebraskan

The throw is late as Wichita State's Gina Blevins reaches second base before Nebraska's Jane Kremer can get the tag in the second game of a double header Tuesday night under the new lights of the softball complex. Nebraska won the game 1-0.

hits off Husker freshman pitcher Marie Bowie in the opener, Nebraska's Stephanie Skegas held the Shockers to two hits in the nightcap. In the first game, Wichita State picked up one run in the first inning when Bautista scored from second

base with two outs on a dropped ball by Nebraska right fielder Jill Rishel. The Shockers, again facing two outs, then scored three quick runs in the fifth on a bases loaded double by left fielder Julie Gallagher. Wolforth said he was not sure if

pitching Bowie in the opener was a good idea, but he was glad he had Skegas on the mound in the second game. He said Nebraska's pitching has improved.

Skegas raised her record to 12-11 while Bowie dropped to 7-8.