

Freshmen talent offers glimpse of next season

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

The future looks promising for the Nebraska football team following its 4-2 win over Texas A & M Sunday.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said next season should be another strong year for the Huskers after seeing a nucleus of inexperienced players contribute to the win over the Aggies.

"It's good we got to use a lot of kids," Wolforth said. "You got kind of a glimpse of the future."

Freshman Kristin Davidson proved able on the field and at the plate. Davidson made two catches on the run from her center field starting position and went one-for-two at the plate.

Freshmen pinch-runners Joy Rishel and Amy Killman also had productive outings.

Rishel stole her 15th base of the season while Killman completed two steals. This increased Killman's team-leading stolen base mark to 19.

Killman, finding herself at the plate for the second time this season, claimed her first hit in the second inning.

"I think you got to see what we're gonna do in the future. . . . That's our running game," Wolforth said. "To me it's pretty impressive because we can put a lot of pressure on the defense."

Nebraska has already established a running game as Rishel and Killman, along with junior starting right fielder Jill Rishel have combined for 51 of the Huskers' record-setting 79 stolen bases this season.

Wolforth said that Killman, Davidson and the Rishels should make for an exciting season next year.

"Those four kids. . . . I'm really looking forward to next year," he said. "You have two kids that have stole over 15 bases so far that are freshmen and that's pretty encouraging."

Wolforth, whose Huskers suffered a doubleheader loss 4-1 and 5-0 to conference rival Kansas Friday night followed by a 3-2 loss to Texas A & M on Saturday, said he was pleased with the win Sunday.

"Anytime it's a 'W' against Texas A & M I'll take it," he said. "Those have been hard to come by over the years."

Freshman pitcher Marie Bowie picked up her second save of the season after relieving Stephanie Skegas in the seventh inning.

With runners on second and third, two outs and the count at 2-2, Bowie threw a perfect change-up pitch that left Texas A & M batter Tory Parks standing.

"It's a pressure situation," Bowie said,

"but I don't really see it as pressure because I know I can probably get myself out of it."

The Aggies jumped into the game quickly by scoring two runs off two hits in the first inning off Husker pitcher Stephanie Skegas.

But Nebraska met the challenge by producing four runs off of three hits in the bottom of the inning.

The Rishels, Killman and Lori Cook scored for the Huskers with third baseman Ruth Chatwin, Cook, catcher Katy Wolda and short-stop Jennifer Biallis all credited with RBIs.

"After the first inning I thought 'here we go again,'" Wolforth said. "I'm real happy with the way we bounced back."

The 10th-ranked Huskers are now seeking their sixth-straight Big Eight Conference Tournament title. The team heads into this weekend's tournament in Oklahoma City, Okla., with a 31-26 and 7-3 record.

Freshman quarterback leads Whites to victory

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska freshman quarterback Mike Grant knew he could play big-time college football.

The Cornhusker coaches also realized he had that ability.

"Now, the fans know I'm capable," Grant said Saturday after 25,006 fans at Memorial Stadium watched him rush 19 times for 157 yards to lead the Whites past the Reds, 40-28, in Nebraska's 40th-annual intrasquad spring game.

The game, played between second- and third-team players on the Whites and first- and fourth-teamers on the Reds, marks the end of the Huskers' spring football practice season.

And Grant, who stands 6-feet-2 and weighs 205 pounds, finished the spring with a flurry. He led the Whites to their first spring game victory since 1981, when they won 22-21.

He did it in part by engineering two, third-quarter touchdown drives against the Reds' No. 1 defense. After the teams battled to a 21-21 halftime tie, Grant led the Huskers on a nine-play, 67-yard drive that ended with I-back Andre McDuffy's two-yard touchdown burst. Phil Mendoza's extra point made it 28-21.

During the drive, Grant had runs of 12 and 31 yards.

When the Whites got the ball back later in the quarter, Grant went to work again. He raced for runs of 35, 15, 15 and 5 yards as the Whites moved to the Reds' 14.

He capped the drive with a 14-yard touchdown run around left end to give the Whites a 34-21 advantage. This time, Mendoza's extra point failed.

By that time, Grant had rushed nine times for 111 yards.

The key to the white's third-quarter offensive surge, Grant

said, was defensive fatigue.

"All of our first-half passing wore down the linemen," said Grant, who led last fall's Husker junior varsity to a 5-0 record. "I think all that drop-back passing opened things up for the run. You can't cut a tree down with one blow."

In the first half, Grant and Jerry Dunlap combined to complete three of 13 passes for 39 yards with three interceptions, including two by Dunlap.

The Whites' final score came on another McDuffy plunge, this one coming from one yard out with 37 seconds left. The two-point conversion try failed. McDuffy also scored in the first quarter. His three touchdowns tied him with three others for most points in the spring game -- Tony Davis (1973), Steve Taylor (1986) and Terry Rodgers (1987).

The Reds only second-half score came when quarterback Mickey Joseph found split end Morgan Gregory streaking down the sideline on a 39-yard touchdown pass with 1:08 left in the third quarter.

Grant, who along with Dunlap is sharing second-team duties behind starter Gerry Gdowski and Joseph, said he wasn't completely satisfied with his play Saturday.

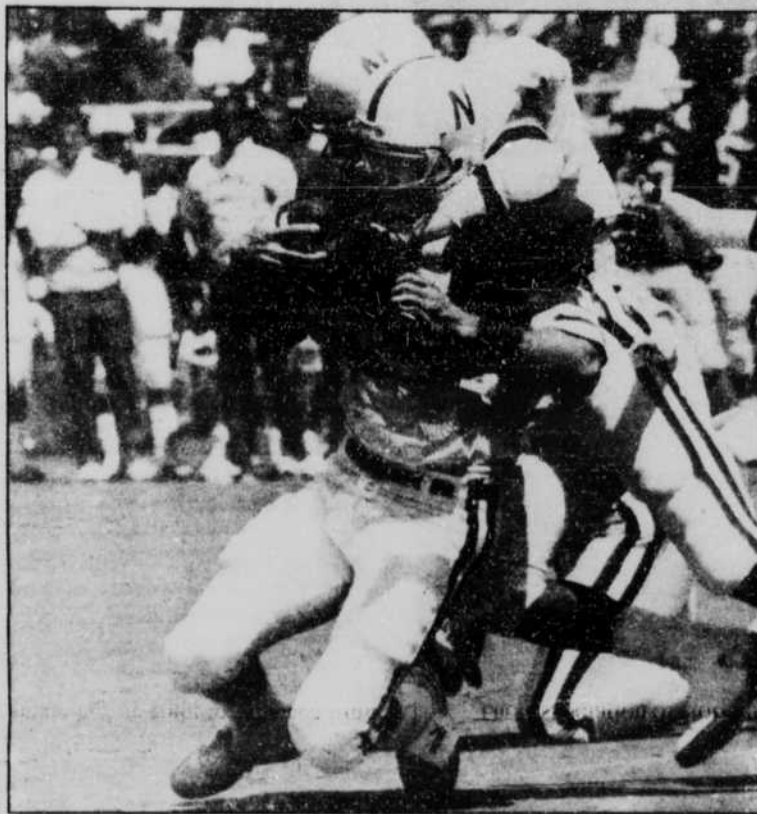
He said he needs to fine-tune the "mechanics" of his game.

"I was doing it mostly by ability instead of by the book," Grant said.

And of the Huskers' quarterback battle, he said nothing has changed much.

"I still got two great athletes in front of me," he said. "I'm sure that when my time comes coach (Tom) Osborne will give me a fair shot."

Grant said he would prefer not redshirting, but that he would sit out the season if he won't see



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska quarterback Gerry Gdowski is crunched during Saturday's scrimmage.

much playing time.

Osborne was impressed with Grant, who's from Valrico, Fla.

"Mike played well today," Osborne said. "He ran well and threw well." But Gdowski, Osborne said, will enter fall practice No. 1 on the depth chart.

Gdowski, a junior from Fremont, completed 4 of 9 passes for 45 yards, including one interception. He rushed five times for 23 yards.

Joseph, who teamed with Gdowski in leading the Reds most of the day, hit 3 of 10 passes for 49 yards and had two passes picked off. He rushed eight times for 55 yards.

"Gdowski played well today except his one interception," Osborne said. "Mickey had some big plays and some bad plays."

Eight interceptions, three lost

fumbles and 16 penalties marred the scrimmage and were a source of concern, Osborne said. But he said that the Huskers also showed positive signs.

"I think we found some good players," he said. "And I think we'll have a good football team. We're capable of being very good."

The Huskers had some serious injuries occur Saturday. Outside linebacker Dan Svehla suffered a broken leg; backup kicker Tom Janky and backup I-back Troy Uhler suffered torn knee ligaments; backup I-back Scott Baldwin dislocated his right elbow; and back-up wingback Lance Bobolz separated his left shoulder.

Nebraska's No. 1 I-back, Ken Clark, played early Saturday before sitting out the final three quarters with a sore ankle. Clark rushed eight times for 38 yards.

Javelin throwers make Huskers a national power

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

A pair of newcomers has turned the Nebraska javelin squad into a national power.

Friday at the Drake Relays Husker freshman Roddy James set a school record and qualified for the NCAAs with a throw of 227 feet, bettering the old record of 223 feet, 7 inches.

James, a native of Montrose, Scotland, said the weather "kind of helped" him as he set the national record.

"It was not hot, not cold, kind of dull. Just like home," he said.

James, who has been throwing the javelin for six years, said he took up the sport because it was "either this or rugby, and I broke a leg at rugby."

Nebraska's Nora Rockenbauer won the women's javelin at Drake with a toss of 171 feet, 5 inches. Earlier in the year she qualified for the NCAAs by throwing 193 feet, 5 inches. This was the second-best in Husker history, but far short of her best of 210 feet.

Rockenbauer, who is from Budapest, Hungary, is in her first year at Nebraska. She leads the nation this year with her NCAA-qualifying throw.

Mark Kostek, who coaches javelin along with shot put and discus for Nebraska, said javelin may be the strongest throwing event for the team. Other Huskers who compete in the javelin include Eric Leick, Paul Larkin, and Lynne Frey.

Kostek said James, Leick, and Rockenbauer have good chances at winning the Big Eight. The last javelin title for the Nebraska women was in 1986, and the men haven't won the title since 1974.

Tigers take 3 of 4 games

Cornhusker hopes for tournament dampened

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team's hopes of qualifying for the Big Eight tournament were dampened on rain-soaked Buck Beltzer Field Sunday.

The Cornhuskers, 22-25, were swept in a doubleheader by Missouri 7-4 and 12-4. Saturday, the Huskers split a doubleheader with the Tigers, dropping the opener 5-2 before salvaging the nightcap 5-3.

Sunday's losses leave the Huskers in sixth place in the Big Eight standings, with only eight conference games remaining. The top four teams in the Big Eight standings qualify for

the Big Eight tournament May 17-21.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said Sunday's losses were disappointing to the Huskers because they went into the games with a lot of enthusiasm after coming back and winning the second game Saturday.

"Our enthusiasm and support has not varied," Sanders said. "To have the games result like that was not good."

"In competitive athletics, you go through some tough times where you get your jaw broken or your lip bloodied."

In the nightcap Sunday, the Tigers did just that. Missouri collected 15 hits and 10 walks off six different

Nebraska pitchers. Starting pitcher Dale Kistaitis, 3-7, was tagged for the loss.

"Give them credit," Sanders said. "They had struggled coming into the series and they came into our ball park and won three of four games. That's pretty good."

In the opener, the Tigers rallied for three runs in the seventh inning to overcome a 4-2 deficit.

Husker starting pitcher Doug Tegtmeier retired the first Tiger batter in the seventh, before hitting center fielder Brad Womack and walking Greg King.

Tegtmeier then threw three balls

to Darnel Hawkins before being relieved by Aaron Bilyeu, 0-1, who ended up taking the loss.

Bilyeu proceeded to strike out Hawkins on three consecutive pitches for the second out, before issuing a walk to John Pittenger to load the bases. Missouri's clean-up hitter, Tim Hawkins, followed with a three-run double off the right field fence, giving Missouri a 5-4 lead.

The Tigers added their final two runs in the eighth inning off Bilyeu and Joe Purvine. McGraw Milhaven also pitched during the game for Nebraska.

Offensively, Doug Twitty led the Huskers with three hits and a RBI.

Sanders said if the Huskers are still going to qualify for the tournament, they will probably have to win at least seven of their final eight conference games.

"There's no question that we have our work cut out for ourselves," he said.

But Sanders said, he is still confident Nebraska can win enough games to qualify for the tournament and finish the season with a record a few games above .500.

"We have 11 games to make a year of it," Sanders said. "And if we are to do it, we'll go in with a better finish than we have in the past."