

# Team record most important to Mitchell

By Sara Bauder  
Staff Reporter

Utah quarterback Scott Mitchell took a modest approach toward his record-setting season.

Mitchell said he was surprised with his performance last year because the only goal he had was to lead his team to win. He did that while leading the nation in total offense and passing yardage, setting 10 NCAA records, five Western Athletic Conference records and 24 school records.

Mitchell said he did not set out to do any of those things.

"It wasn't even in my mind," Mitchell said. "I just wanted the

team to win. This year, I want the same thing."

At some points last season, Mitchell's goal of seeing his team win seemed far away. With four games to go in the season, the Utes were 2-5 and just had dropped a 61-18 decision to Wyoming.

Mitchell said his biggest thrill in sports came when Utah rallied and ended its season with four wins. In their last game, the Utes beat Brigham Young for the first time in 10 years.

Mitchell, a 6-foot-6, 230-pound junior from Springville, Utah, said that because Utah's offense likes to throw the ball a lot, he had the chance to complete a lot of passes and compile the passing yardage.

Mitchell said his goal for this season is to lead Utah to a bowl game, preferably the Holiday Bowl. The winner of the Western Athletic Conference's regular-season title receives an automatic berth to that bowl.

"I'm not much into personal goals," he said. "I just try to do my assignments and complete my passes."

Mitchell said his main strengths are his love for football and desire to work.

"I love to play football," he said. "I want to work hard at it and be good at it."

To do well against Nebraska, the Utes cannot be intimidated by the Cornhuskers, Mitchell said.

"Nebraska is a national power, well-known, with a big stadium and a lot of people," he said. "We can't make mistakes and have to play good hard-nosed football."

Mitchell said he had a chance to play quarterback at Nebraska once. He was at a football camp where Dave Humm, an All-America quarterback for Nebraska in 1974, was coaching. Humm liked what he saw in Mitchell and said he would go back to tell the Nebraska coaches about him.

"But I knew that Nebraska didn't have a passing offense, so I didn't really want to go there," he said.

Mitchell was recruited by BYU, Stanford, Colorado and most of the

WAC schools.

"I decided Utah was the best place for me," he said. "I felt I could develop as a football player and get a good education here."

An all-state selection in football, basketball and baseball, Mitchell said his true first love was baseball. He said he had a chance to play professional baseball with the Houston Astros, Boston Red Sox and New York Mets.

But, during high school, Mitchell said he began to like football more than baseball.

He said his favorite play is anything that has a pass in it.

"I hate running the football," he said. "I think running is boring."

## Utah coach says defense is team's Achilles' heel

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Football fans who enjoy lots of passing will feel right at home Saturday in Memorial Stadium.

Utah, led by quarterback Scott Mitchell, will take on the No. 4-ranked Cornhuskers at 1:30 p.m.

Mitchell, a 6-foot-6, 235-pound junior, has thrown for 719 yards and seven touchdowns in Utah's first two games, completing 45 of 89 passes without an interception.

"I don't think our fans will see a better quarterback this season," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "A couple years ago, (former UCLA quarterback Troy) Aikman came in here, but I don't think they were really set with him at that point. Mitchell certainly compares to him and (former Miami quarterback Steve) Walsh."

Last season, Mitchell broke 24 Utah passing and total offense records, and led the nation in passing and total offense while passing for 4,332 yards.

Utah coach Jim Fassel said the game with Nebraska is just another one on the Utes' schedule.

"Of course, I'd just as soon play somebody else," he said. "Nebraska is one of the best teams in the country year in and year out."

One of Nebraska's main defensive problems during the last few seasons has been stopping good passing teams. Fassel sees that as a chance for Utah to have a good day against the Huskers.

"Mitchell can cause a lot of people a lot of problems," he said. "But there are other factors. Scott has got to have a good game for us to be successful."

"I think sometimes people play Nebraska and they put so much into it, they can hit a lull after that. We'll try hard not to fall into that situation."

Fassel said Utah's offense isn't playing at the level he wants, "but at least the progression is right."

"We didn't have a good game the first week (a loss to Fresno State), but then we returned with a good showing against Utah State (a 45-7 win)," Fassel said. "In the first game, the whole team was just flat."

Utah returns 13 starters from last season's team, which finished with a 6-5 record and a fifth-place finish in the Western Athletic Conference. Fassel said he hopes for more this season.

"We have the potential to be better than last year offensively," he said. "The key to our success is to

See UTAH on 8



Nebraska cornerback Bruce Pickens returns an interception against Kansas State last season. Pickens and the rest of the Cornhuskers' secondary will have their hands full Saturday, as they will face Utah quarterback Scott Mitchell.

## Husker to play former team in softball season-opener

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln infielder Michelle Cuddeford made what she said was a difficult decision two years ago when she transferred from Kearney State College.

Cuddeford said leaving Kearney State was tough because she played both basketball and softball for the NAIA school. She said it was difficult to give up basketball in favor of playing softball at Nebraska.

Cuddeford, a Lincoln High graduate, was recruited by Nebraska, but chose Kearney State because the Antelopes offered her basketball and softball scholarships.

"I always wanted to play basketball," she

said, "(but) after a couple years it was time to move up and realize a dream."

Cuddeford's dream was to play at Nebraska.

"It wasn't an easy decision," she said. "I always wanted to play Division I and it was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to play at Nebraska."

Cuddeford will be united with some of her old teammates today when Nebraska opens its fall season in a doubleheader against Kearney State at 5 p.m. at the NU Softball Complex. The match-up will be televised by NETV on a tape-delay basis at 9 p.m.

Cuddeford was a two-year starter at second base for Kearney State. She was an NAIA All-America selection during her sophomore year. Kearney State won the NAIA national

championship during her freshman year.

Cuddeford said she is looking forward to competing against her former teammates.

"I'll be a little nervous, but it's just another ball game," she said. "You got to block out that they're your friends and get the job done."

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said he is going to give all the Huskers a chance to get the job done. He said everyone will play against the Antelopes.

"Very few people will play a full game," he said, "because we want to see what we have."

He said a starting line-up has not been set, "but I have a fairly good idea in my mind."

The Huskers will approach the fall season as a tune-up for the spring, he said. Wolforth wants the Huskers to be prepared by the time

they reach their spring season-opener on March 1, 1990, when they face Texas A&M.

"We have stressed all fall that March 1st is the date we want to be ready," he said.

Wolforth said freshman catcher Kristina Vucurevic is questionable because of a muscle pull. He said Vucurevic, who was a highly recruited player at Kennedy High School in La Palma, Calif., last year, wants to play.

"Her status is day-to-day," Wolforth said, "but I'm not going to rush her into a game when she's not near 100 percent."

With the loss of All-Big Eight catcher Katy Wolda, who used up her eligibility last season, Vucurevic is the Huskers' only catcher. Sopho-

See KEARNEY on 8

### Returning champions, new faces open season

## Tennis coach anxious for weekend invitational

By Paul Domeier  
Staff Reporter

An abundance of new faces and two returning champions will join the rest of the Nebraska men's tennis team when it opens its season this weekend by competing in the Husker Invitational.

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott said he is looking forward to the invitational because it will give him a chance to see his team in action. The invitational begins

today and will run through Sunday at the Cather-Pourld and East Campus courts.

Joining Nebraska for the meet are Colorado, Southwest Missouri State, Drake, Iowa State, Wichita State, Midland (Texas) College, Tyler Junior College and Graceland College. The meet, which will not have team scoring, begins at 9 a.m. each day.

McDermott said Matthias Mueller, a Big Eight champion at No. 3 singles last year, will make his debut at No. 1 singles. Ken Feuer, who won the conference title at No. 4

singles last season, moves up to No. 2 singles. Steve Barley will fill the No. 3 slot.

Barley, a junior from Wichita Falls, Texas, transferred to Nebraska from Northeast Louisiana State this semester.

McDermott said the top three players are close in skills. Barley defeated Mueller in the Nebraska Open earlier this month and Feuer recently defeated Mueller in practice.

McDermott said Mueller, a sophomore from West Germany, holds the No. 1 spot because of his raw ability.

"Matthias has the potential to be a great player," McDermott said. "He needs to be in that No. 1 spot. Hopefully he'll show some leadership."

Of the 10 Huskers slated to play this weekend, only Feuer and Mueller were part of Nebraska's line-up at the end of last season. McDermott said he tried a new tactic this year by taking four transfer students.

He said he took the transfers because he lost four top players to graduation.

"I had to get what I could," he said. "If I would have gotten four

freshmen, I would be really nervous now."

The remaining Husker participants in the invitational are Scott Randolph at No. 4 singles, Karl Falkland at No. 5 singles, David Moyer at No. 6 singles, Joseph Rahme and Troy Bray at No. 7 singles and Troy Larsen and Andrew Auch Moedy at No. 8 singles.

The doubles teams are Feuer and Mueller at No. 1, Barley and Randolph at No. 2, Falkland and Larsen at No. 3 and Bray and Auch Moedy at No. 4.