

Teammates say linebacker plays for pain

By Jason Corns
Staff Reporter

Nebraska linebacker Mark Hagge is a modern-day version of Norman Bates.

Hagge, a 5-foot-11, 230-pound senior from Omaha Creighton Prep,

has made a name for himself with his aggressiveness and high level of intensity. Teammates describe him as a crazy force that's driven from within, which are two of the characteristics Bates possessed in the "Psycho" series.



Hagge

"He's crazy, he's ruthless," Ne-

braska free safety Will Thomas said. "He goes all out every single day."

"He plays with pain," fellow Nebraska linebacker Alvin Banks said. "Pain doesn't bother him at all. Sometimes I think he likes it."

Physical contact is what Hagge said he really enjoys.

"There is absolutely nothing better than a good, solid blow," he said. "Nothing better."

Banks said he remembers the time he saw Hagge in practice with "blood flowing down his face." Instead of getting the injury treated, Hagge "just smiled and kept playing."

Most players, Banks said, wear their helmets tight for protection. But Hagge always wears his loose, despite the pain that results from blows

to the head.

"It's just a matter of comfort," Hagge said.

Nebraska defensive tackle Joe Sims said Hagge's craziness extends throughout the season. He said it helps, too.

"His aggressiveness really picks up the pace in practice. He's a guy that leads by example," Sims said. "He's not afraid to get hit."

Nebraska middle guard Greg Koellner agreed.

"Hagge has a desire. He's a competitor," Koellner said. "He's really driven from within to play."

Hagge's crazy attitude began at Creighton Prep, where he earned all-state and two-time all-metro honors

as a linebacker while leading his team to the 1983 Nebraska state championship.

It continued in 1986, when Hagge led the freshman team in tackles with 48. He played in four games as a sophomore, and saw action in 11 of Nebraska's 13 games last season.

Hagge said the source of his motivation throughout his career has been his father, Mike.

"When I was growing up, I was taught by my father that you have to always stay tough," Hagge said. "I've really gone by that idea."

Hagge has hung tough despite being considered too short to be a major-college linebacker.

"I don't have all of the physical assets some people do," Hagge said. "I just try to make the most of the playing time I do get."

"Hopefully, I can keep doing my job, and keep the coaches' confidence in me. Maybe before the season is over I'll get some more playing time."

Hagge said he accepts his role. He has seen all his action this season on special teams, where he is a mainstay, or as a reserve linebacker who takes the place of either Pat Tyrance or Chris Caliendo.

"I know my role is on the special teams," Hagge said. "I just try to help the team in any way possible."

Player wants birthday gift of a weekend NU blowout

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

Tahaun Lewis knows how he wants to celebrate his birthday.

The Cornhuskers' starting right cornerback doesn't want a gift. He wants to take something away from Oregon State -- namely, the ball.

"A pick(off) for a touch-down," is what Lewis said he'd like.

And while Lewis he's asking -- why not "a big win and a shutout for the defense," too?

Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said he would like to see Lewis enjoy his 21st birthday Friday by wreaking a little havoc on the Beavers' passing game Saturday.

"I'd like to see him have three interceptions," McBride said. "An important thing is that he continues to gain confidence, but maybe he'll pick a few off for his birthday."

Lewis could just as well be celebrating his first season as a starter.

After two years of seeing his name second to three-year starter Charles Fryar, Lewis has taken over the starting spot in the secondary.

Lewis began his stint as Fryar's back-up almost as soon as he arrived at Nebraska. The freshman all-stater from Colorado Springs, Colo., played briefly for the Husker junior varsity but soon was called up to play for the varsity.

He ended his freshman season as a second-string corner, and saw playing time in six of the final seven regular-season games and in the Sunbelt Fiesta Bowl against Florida State.

Lewis played extensively his sophomore year as the nickel back in Nebraska's passing defense, which features five defensive backs.

He finished the year with 20 tackles -- 12 of which were unassisted, including a personal best of four against Arizona State. Lewis also tied for second on the team in passes broken up with four and, against Kansas, he intercepted a pass and ran it back 45 yards.

"Last year -- towards the end of the year -- he really came on," McBride said. "He did one of the better jobs in the secondary in the bowl game."

Indeed, Lewis said, it was in the Orange Bowl last January that he looked his best.

"I enjoyed the Orange Bowl," Lewis said. "That was my best performance."

On that night in Miami, Lewis had three tackles -- all unassisted -- and broke up two passes. But there's no doubt in his mind what the best part was: the interception.

In the third quarter, Lewis picked off a Steve Walsh pass, turned up field, and returned the ball 31 yards to the Miami 37. The play set up Nebraska's only score -- a 50-yard field goal by Greg Barrios -- in the 23-3 loss.

McBride said that game and the others last year improved Lewis' confidence entering this season.

"The confidence that came with playing time last year meant a lot to him, I think," McBride said. "I don't think coming in and starting this year was a big thing."

Lewis echoed his coach's comments.

"There's no anxiety or anything, or no nervousness back there," he said. "I have a lot of experience. If I go in with a play-to-win attitude, everything will be all right."

It is a change, though, Lewis said. "There's a lot of leadership qualities needed as far as being a starter," he said. "You realize that there's no one to be behind anymore. You're in there by yourself."

"Before, there was always Charles in front of me. I didn't have to look at any type of leadership role or losing the job to anyone, because ... he was the roll (player)."

Although Lewis has moved up since Fryar's graduation, the press has left him in the shadow of well-publicized players, like strong safety Reggie Cooper.

Still, Lewis said he doesn't mind. "That's no problem," he said. "I just take it as it comes. I'll still go in

See LEWIS on 14



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Women's No. 1 singles player Ildiko Guba practices Wednesday in preparation for a seven-team tournament Friday and Saturday in Lincoln. Guba, a junior on the UNL team, said she would like to place among the top four in the Big Eight this year.

Nebraska tennis player finds transition from Hungary to Lincoln an easy one

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

For Ildiko Guba, collegiate tennis is nothing compared to a trip to the dentist.

Guba, a junior on the Nebraska women's tennis team, spent two weeks at home in bed in Budapest, Hungary, this summer after the removal of two wisdom teeth.

"The first time I tried to run, I was out of breath after five minutes," she said.

That was not a good way to prepare for the season, especially since Guba has moved into the No. 1 singles spot in the Cornhusker lineup. She replaced Kathrin Edelkottler, who forfeited her final three years of eligibility to pursue a teaching cer-

tificate in her home of Hamm, West Germany.

Guba's transition has been a smooth one, as she recovered sufficiently enough to put the bite on Drake Saturday. She came from behind to defeat the Bulldogs' Tish Vail 7-6, 6-2, then teamed with freshman Ann Flannery to defeat Kim Forti and Tiffany Turner 7-6, 6-4 in No. 2 doubles.

Guba said she doesn't care where she plays in the Nebraska lineup.

"I suppose there's more pressure on one," she said. "It doesn't matter what number I play, as long as I help the team."

Guba has plenty of experience to handle the stress of the top spot. She said she has been playing tennis for 10 years, and she was high in the

national rankings from age 12 on.

Playing No. 1 for her club team in Budapest, she earned a spot on the Hungarian National Team. Guba was preparing to play for the Federation Cup when injuries forced her to quit the team.

Those injuries caused Guba to become a Cornhusker. She said she thought about sitting out a year, then trying the pro circuit, when Nebraska men's coach Kerry McDermott contacted her.

After being offered a scholarship, she said, she decided to come to Lincoln.

"If I didn't like it, I could still join the pro circuit," she said.

Guba was the prize recruit for

See GUBA on 14

NU coach says team depth to be factor in Invitational

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Depth will be a factor when the Nebraska women's golf team competes in the Spartan Invitational this weekend.

Nebraska women's golf coach Robin Scherer said she is looking forward to the competition in East Lansing, Mich., because each team will compete with six players. She said that will work to Nebraska's advantage because most tournaments allow five players to compete.

"We've got better depth than most teams," Scherer said.

That depth will be tested, as Nebraska will join 13 other teams for the invitational. The

invitational begins Saturday at the 6,748-yard, par-71 Forest Akres golf course, and will conclude Sunday.

Joining Nebraska for the competition are Michigan State, Michigan, Illinois, Illinois State, Northern Illinois, Notre Dame, Penn State, Bowling Green and Wisconsin. Ferris State College of Big Rapids, Mich., Franklin (Ind.) College, Indianapolis College and Wisconsin-Whitewater also will compete.

Scherer said Nebraska should enter the tournament as the favorite even though it finished eighth in the 11-team All-College Kickoff Classic last weekend in Stillwater, Okla. The Cornhuskers finished with a 1,013 team total last weekend, which was well off the winning 951 total compiled by Oklahoma State.

Scherer blamed Nebraska's problems last weekend on a lack of concentration and poor playing conditions. The entire competition in Stillwater was staged in 30 mph winds and rain which turned the course's greens into rock-solid structures.

Scherer said she hopes Nebraska uses its performance last weekend as a learning experience.

"We evaluated our performance," she said, "and we know that we can't be making mistakes. We've got to be making strides."

Scherer said she staged qualifying competitions throughout the week in hopes of finding who Nebraska's top six players are. She said the only players who were guaranteed spots were sophomore Joanne Brooks and junior

Ann Guiberson.

Brooks won the All-College Kickoff Classic's individual title last weekend by recording a three-round total of 232. Guiberson finished 16th with a 248 mark.

Scherer said the qualifying competitions have been highly competitive. She said that competitiveness should transfer to the course.

In addition to Brooks and Guiberson, the Huskers who competed last weekend were Susan Dougherty, Nodjya Cook and Alysen Madsen. Dougherty finished 39th with a 263 mark, and Cook was 48th with a 270 total. Madsen finished 51st with a 273 score.

"The girls have been working really hard this week," Scherer said. "I'm definitely looking for an improved effort."