

# Racetrack patrons get advice for season

The racetrack. Churchill Downs, Pimlico and Belmont. The three legs of the Triple Crown.

When you hear those names, they don't make you think of dumpy tracks like State Fair Park or Fonner Park.



**McGraw Milhaven**

Unlike the tracks found in Lincoln and Grand Island, Kentucky's Churchill Downs and its counterparts are the best horse racing tracks around.

But thanks to simulcasting -- a process which allows racing patrons to bet via a closed-circuit television monitor -- the quality of tracks like State Fair Park and Fonner Park has improved. And now that the State Fair Park is open five days a week and simulcasting races from Fonner, it

won't be long before the Kentucky Derby will be upon us.

There are many betting fans, but the true ones will go to such extremes as taking a day off work, getting up early in the morning and reading the Daily Racing Form. All this trouble just to see and bet on a bunch of horses that run the risk of being turned into glue or dog food if they don't start winning.

The process of preparation proves to be a tedious task, as the Daily Racing Form requires intense scrutiny. Patrons must scan the daily newspaper to find out what day a horse ran, its history, the kind of competition it ran against and just about everything else you need to know.

Needless to say, the form has a language all its own. You can read it many different ways and still find some other way to calculate the horses and their track times.

The Daily Double, exacta and quiniela wagering are just a few ways to bet on the horses, and just a few ways to lose your money.

When you go to the track there are some strange things you must be aware of. There is not a pay phone anywhere in sight, because the track doesn't want a true gambler to call his or her bookie and make an off-track bet.

In other words, the track wants all the "action."

When you place a bet you must do it in a certain order or you'll look like a novice. You tell the cashier the amount of money, then how the horse will finish (win, place or show) and then -- and only then -- the horse or horses you want to bet on.

There is a certain bond that occurs with the other gamblers at the track, as losing money spurs friendship.

There is a sad side to the track, as many people do have a problem with gambling. One track employee even said there is a 10 percent to 15 percent increase in revenue on days welfare check come out.

Larry King, the late night talk show host, had a love affair with the track back in the late 1970s, and he was quoted as saying that he lived for the racetrack. He would spend every last dollar he had at Belmont in New York.

But soon after that, he declared bankruptcy.

In the early eighties he landed on his feet, caught a break and, according to King himself, now has more money than he could ever spend.

But he has no desire to go to the track anymore. He said the thrill of winning money has gone and he could care less about the horses.

If you are not crazy and don't get completely hooked on the racetrack, the horses could be a good time to share with friends and family.

But don't let yourself get caught up in the thrill of racing. Don't let yourself spend hours reading the Daily Racing Form or skip work to endure the emotional rollercoaster of the races.

That's all the advice I can give right now. After all, it's post time.

Milhaven is a senior history major and a Daily Nebraskan sports writer and columnist.

## Quinn confident about returning to courts after one-year absence

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Returning to Big Eight women's tennis competition after a one-year absence doesn't make Meghan Quinn weak in the knees.

That's good, since the Cornhusker junior has had knee surgery seven times (four on one knee, three on the other) in addition to a broken foot and foot surgery.

Quinn's last knee operation kept her from playing during the 1989 Big Eight season and during the summer. But she will be back in action when she joins her teammates and opens the 1990 conference slate with duals at Kansas State on Saturday, at Kansas on Sunday and at Missouri on Monday.

"It's been a long time since I've played a Big Eight match," she said.

But Quinn said she is confident for herself and for her teammates.

"I'm playing probably the best tennis I've ever played," she said. "I'm optimistic about myself, but I'm really optimistic about the team.

We have so much potential."

Quinn said she is injury-free now, and she is playing better partly because her past trouble comes to mind only when she looks at the scars or the knee brace.

"That's the thing -- that I don't think about it," she said.

Two years ago, fighting two injuries, Quinn finished fifth in the Big Eight at No. 5 singles. Back then she went for winners, she said. After the latest round of surgery and rehabilitation, she has turned to quantity to get quality, out-waiting opponents in marathon matches.

"That's my weapon -- my patience," she said. "I can out-rally anybody staying on the baseline."

When the Huskers have five- or six-hour duals, it usually is because of Quinn's three-hour singles matches.

Coming back from all those injuries took that same patience.

"Well, if you look at it, I haven't played a lot of matches since my freshman year in high school," she said. "I had to put in extra time (this

year), just because everyone had an advantage over me."

As late as last semester, she had to take a three-week break from tennis to rest the knee. Quinn said her personality has contributed to her comeback.

"If you're spontaneous, aggressive, outside the court, then that's the way you are on the court," she said. "I like to take things slowly outside in everyday life, and that carries onto the court."

So she sat on the side for the 1989 Big Eight matches, traveling only to the conference tournament, where, she said, she thought about this year.

"I had time to think what I had to do to be a better player," she said. "I watched the fourth position, fifth position, sixth position; I watched the people that were winning matches."

"The one that could hit 10 shots over was the one that would win."

So patience, along with her heavy top-spin shots became the new style.

"I'm excited to let people know I didn't quit the team," she said.

## Smith

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ball player, kids look up to you," Smith said. "Every kid wants to play in the big leagues."

Smith, a New Orleans native, said BAD has taken on a personal significance for him.

"When I went back to New Orleans last year, a lot of friends of mine had died or really messed up my life because of drugs," Smith said. "It really hurt to see that."

BAD is in a growing stage, Smith said, and more professional athletes

are being recruited to join the organization. He said the organization would like to include athletes from other professional sports.

"We're just in a starting stage now, and it could be a long process," Smith said.

Along with the basketball game on Saturday, a halftime slam dunk contest will be held.

Smith said he's looking forward to playing against his former teammates. The Husker seniors will be led by Ken Clark, Richard Bell, Morgan Gregory and Gerry Gdowski.

"I think it's going to be a great experience," Smith said. "I played

with a lot of these guys, so it'll be fun to play against them for once."

Smith, at 6-foot-6 and 265 pounds, said he doesn't plan to shy away from the notion of playing a run-and-gun game. In fact, he said he is looking forward to it because it will bring back memories of his prep career at New Orleans Shaw High School.

Smith said he earned second-team prep All-America honors in basketball following his senior season, but no official records of such an accomplishment can be found.

"I don't want to brag, but I used to be fairly good," Smith said. "But I'll be the first one to admit I'm a little rusty."

## Thoughts

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when Kansas swept Nebraska in a doubleheader in Lincoln, which ruined the Huskers' chances of winning the conference and going into the Big Eight tournament as the top seed. Nebraska went into those final conference games against Kansas leading the Big Eight with a 7-1 record.

Wolforth said he expects the Jayhawks' attitude against Nebraska to be much like last year.

"Kansas will play us real tough," he said. "They'll be intense and they'll

be aggressive. We'll have to play really, really well to beat them."

Jill Rishel, a senior right fielder and team co-captain, echoed her coaches remarks.

"It's going to be very intense," she said. "Nebraska and Kansas is always a real battle."

"Kansas always has been able to get up for Nebraska as much as anybody else. Hopefully the players, like those who are sophomores now, picked that up from last year."

Those players need to learn that Oklahoma State is not the only team in the Big Eight, she said. The conference has become much more com-

petitive, she said.

"Everyone talks about Oklahoma State as far as the Big Eight," she said. "Now you can't pick out one team that you want to beat."

"I'm not sure if that's what happened to us last year . . . that we overlooked Kansas, but what has to happen this year is we have to go down there and be very, very serious about the game."

Wolforth said this doubleheader, like last year's, could determine how the six conference teams will finish.

"It's hard to tell how big it is right now," he said, "but if we get swept or we sweep them it could be a huge factor on down the line."

## in brief

SPORTS

### Four players named weightlifter-of-the-year finalists

Nebraska strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley announced that four football players have been chosen as finalists for this year's weightlifter-of-the-year award.

The finalists include defensive tackle Joe Sims, strong safety Curtis Cotton, defensive tackle Kenny Walker and linebacker Andrew Zacharias. The winner will be chosen after Saturday's scrimmage.

Cotton is favored to win the award, as he set records for every category of the performance and strength index. The sophomore from Omaha also has a 41-inch vertical jump.

Walker is expected to give Cotton some close competition, as he holds position runs for the pro agility run and the vertical jump. He is also a pass-rushing specialist who is being penciled in as a starter next season.

Zacharias is a walk-on who holds position records in the pro agility run, performance index and vertical jump. He started at linebacker on the Nebraska junior varsity two years ago.

Sims is a junior from Sudbury, Mass., who gained 10 pounds of muscle since last season. He spent the 1989-90 campaign as a part-time starter.

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