

Coach optimistic about returning starters

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Never mind that it's only April. George Darlington is already thinking about next January's Orange Bowl. Now all he needs is some help from his players in the defensive backfield.

Darlington, the Nebraska football team's secondary coach, said that with four starters back from last year's team, the Cornhusker coaches are expecting great things on pass coverage.

"We're expecting to be the best defensive backfield in the Big Eight," he said. "I anticipate that if we do our jobs, we'll be playing Florida State or Miami or Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl."

Darlington's optimism is based on the fact that two of the four first-team All-Big Eight defensive backs were Huskers -- strong safety Reggie Cooper and cornerback Bruce Pickens -- and they're back this season.

"Overall, we're in pretty good shape," Darlington said. "We have a lot of first- and second-team players

back, so we'll be very experienced."

One player who won't be back is free safety John Reece, who tore an anterior cruciate ligament in his knee during a non-contact punt return at a recent scrimmage. Darlington said Reece probably will be lost for the season, and won't return until winter conditioning.

"That will hurt us on the dime defense (a scheme which employs five defensive backs on obvious passing situations), because he was our starter for the dime position," Darlington said. "It will also hurt us in

competition at safety."

Other than Reece, Darlington said, the Huskers secondary is "pretty much intact," with the only exception being cornerback Tyrone Legette, who still is recovering from a hip injury he suffered against Oklahoma. Darlington said the injury is one that can't be fixed by surgery.

"There's just nothing to operate on," Darlington said. "It's the type of injury that you just have to wait for it to heal."

This week's depth chart has Jon Crippen listed ahead of Pickens at left

cornerback. Darlington said Crippen's effort in last Saturday's scrimmage is what made the difference.

"I'm really impressed with the improvement Jon has made in all aspects of his game," Darlington said. "He has improved in all physical strength test scores over last season, and he is playing very well right now."

Other players Darlington said have made noticeable improvement over last fall are strong safety Curtis Cotton, who was named Nebraska's

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Prospects force pause in Nee's recruiting chase

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee will have to play a waiting game if he wants to sign three prospects he is chasing on the recruiting trail.

Martin Keane, a forward from Northeast Community College of Norfolk, point guards Jose Ramos of Central Florida College of Ocala, Fla., and Eric Moore of Pratt (Kan.) Community College all intend to delay their signings until at least the early part of next week, their respective coaches said. Wednesday was the first day prospective recruits could sign letters of intent.

The three coaches said the wait would be well worth it, as their prospects are being highly recruited. Keane is being sought by Nebraska, Oklahoma, St. Johns and Washington, while Ramos is being pursued by Nebraska, Florida State, Miami, Clemson, Texas A&M and Colorado State. Moore was being recruited by a multitude of schools, but has narrowed his choice down to Nebraska and Clemson.

Fred Johnson, the coach at Northeast Community College, said Keane is being sought highly because of the combination of his 6-foot-8, 222-pound frame and his ability to run the floor. He said Keane is a big, physical player who has the ability to step into any Division I lineup and make an immediate contribution.

Johnson said Keane displayed his abilities last season by averaging 24.5 points and 14 rebounds per contest. He said Keane posted those numbers despite being double and triple teamed every time he touched the ball.

"That's a chunk," Johnson said. "He was obviously a vital cog in what we were doing."

Johnson said he isn't trying to steer Keane towards Nebraska even though the Cornhuskers originally tried to recruit the post player when he was a high school senior in Toronto. He said Keane ended up attending Norfolk because he suffered a severe injury to his left knee during his senior year and because he did not meet the academic requirements set by Proposition 48.



Daily Nebraskan file photo

Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee

Johnson said he isn't trying to persuade Keane to go one place or another.

"That's not my job," he said, borrowing a phrase that Nee usually uses when referring to his players academically. "My job is to take a look at the schools and see what is best for him."

"I'll sit back and see what decision he makes, then hope it works out."

Central Florida coach James Smithson said he also is not becoming heavily involved in Ramos' decision. He said Ramos, who was the 1987 Parade Magazine co-player of the year, is being recruited by Nebraska, Florida State, Minnesota, Clemson, Texas A&M and Colorado State, among others.

"There's a bunch of them," Smithson said. "It's just on and on and on."

Smithson said Ramos began his collegiate career at Florida, but transferred to Central Florida when turmoil struck the Gators' program.

Florida, which is in the midst of serving a NCAA probation sentence, recently hired former Kansas State coach Lon Kruger as its new coach.

Smithson said Ramos is interested in becoming a Husker, as the guard was visiting Nebraska on Thursday. The Huskers definitely are interested in obtaining Ramos, as he averaged 16.2 points per game for a team that had six players average in double figures, dealt out 210 assists and had 101 steals.

"He's a complete player," Smithson said.

Pratt Community College coach Jim Sampson said Moore also is a complete player. He said Moore would be a nice addition to the Nebraska program, which rolled to a 10-18 record this season largely because it lacked a true point guard.

Sampson said Moore is impressive.

"He's a very strong and very steady point guard," Sampson said. "He's a floor leader, and he's very dangerous as far as speed and quickness."

Contented Wolforth feels NU will win championship

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

For the second time this season, Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth is confident his team can be a tournament champion.

Nebraska opens play today in the four-team Iowa Hawkeye invitational at Iowa City, Iowa. In round-robin play, the Cornhuskers play Miami of Ohio at 11 a.m., Adelphi University of Garden City, N.Y., at 1 p.m. and Iowa at 5 p.m.

At noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, the four teams play semifinal games according to how they finish today, with the two winners meeting in the championship game at 4 p.m. Saturday.

The last time Wolforth felt the Huskers had a legitimate shot to win a tournament was at the 20-team Florida State invitational on March 16-18. However, rain forced that tournament to be canceled after the first round of

play was completed.

Wolforth projected Iowa will challenge the Huskers to win its own tournament.

"I expect us to win this tournament," he said. "Iowa is a good team, but we're better than they are."

Besides feeling the Huskers are the best team entered in the tournament, Wolforth also based his optimism on the fact that he is content with the Huskers.

"I'm starting to feel more comfortable with this team," he said. "We're getting a lot tougher. We're not near as distracted as we used to be."

In the past, Wolforth said, players had the tendency to get rattled when things went bad or they made a mistake. They used to worry about what the coaches or other players thought in those situations, he said.

Wolforth attributed those concerns

See **INVITE** on 8

NU faces 6-game homestand with injured starting pitcher

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders will unveil his team's altered pitching rotation when the Cornhuskers face Northern Colorado.

Sanders said he will start Doug Tegtmeier tonight in place of junior Mike Zajeski. He said Zajeski, the son of the former major leaguer by the same name, is suffering from a tender right (pitching) shoulder that could end his season prematurely.

"I don't know if he will be back or not," Sanders said.

Sanders said losing Zajeski for the year would be a big blow, as the Orland Park, Ill., native has a perfect 4-0 record and a 3.60 earned run average. He also recorded 44 strikeouts in 40 innings of work and had a team-high two complete games.

Sanders said Tegtmeier could ease some of the sting implemented by Zajeski's loss by turning in a strong performance tonight. Tegtmeier will try to do just that when the Cornhuskers open a six-game homestand by squaring off against Northern Colorado in a single, nine-inning game at 7 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

Nebraska, 24-13, also will face the Bears in a pair of seven-inning contests that begin at 4 p.m. Saturday, and will face them in another single, nine-inning contest at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The Huskers then will close out their homestand by squaring off against Northern Iowa and Northwest Missouri State in a pair of nine-inning games at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student ID cards will be admitted free to all six games.

Sanders said he is expecting good things from Tegtmeier because the junior from Beatrice spent last year as a starter. Tegtmeier completed his 1989 campaign by posting a 3-6 record and a 6.81 ERA in 78 innings of work.

This season, Tegtmeier was sharing time with fellow junior Dave Mairanga as Nebraska's top relief pitcher. Tegtmeier compiled a 3-1 record with one save in that capacity.

Sanders said Tegtmeier should have no problems adjusting back to his role as a starter. He will be joined in the starting rotation by freshman Josh

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NU confronts Iowa State, Colorado in weekend matches

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team will look at seeds and standings when it faces Iowa State and Colorado in dual matches today and Saturday.

Both matches will start at 1 p.m. or after the men's matches at the Cather-Pound courts, weather permitting.

The Huskers will go to the Lincoln Racquet Club in case of bad weather to face the Cyclones, Nebraska coach Gregg said.

Calvin said he is wary of the Cyclones even though Nebraska crushed

them in the fall.

"We beat them in the fall, 8-1, and the one loss was with a substitute," he said, "but they can play."

Colorado and Nebraska will play at the Woods Park tennis bubbles if necessary.

"Colorado is really a good singles team," Calvin said. The Lady Buffs were 3-3 after singles with Oklahoma, he said, before being swept in the doubles.

The Huskers are second in the Big Eight after posting 7-2 and 9-0 wins over Kansas State and Missouri, and

dropping a 6-3 decision to league-leading Kansas last weekend.

Calvin said the Huskers could gain points on the Sooners this weekend. While the Huskers will try to beat Colorado by a 7-2 score or better, Kansas will play at Oklahoma and at conference-favorite Oklahoma State, which has played one Big Eight match.

But he said Nebraska must do well both days to take advantage of last weekend's strong road trip.

"If we lost two or three matches, or even lose the match outright, all the good things we did at K-State we

would lose," Calvin said.

The Huskers also may lose some of the top seeds they have, as all nine of their lineup spots are in contention for top-four seeds in the Big Eight season. Tina Couretsis is 3-0 at No. 6 singles, Ildiko Guba and Ann Flannery are 3-0 at No. 2 doubles and Flannery is 1-2 at No. 2 singles. The other six Husker entries are 2-1.

Individuals need a 5-2 record to ensure a seed, Calvin said. A 4-3 player could lose out in a three-way tie for the third and fourth seeds, he said. Nancy Tyggum and Rachel

Collins, Nebraska's No. 1 doubles team, is risking that, he said.

Getting a seed means avoiding one of the nationally ranked Cowgirls in the first round of the conference tourney.

"You're drawing one of the top players in the country if you draw Oklahoma State," Calvin said.

In other tennis news, Heidi Junius, who had to sit out this season because of Proposition 48, will take the Huskers' last scholarship next year, Calvin said. Nebraska could get one or two walk-ons, he said.