

in brief
SPORTS

Today is last day for ticket lottery

Today is the last day the Nebraska ticket office will hold its annual lottery for student football tickets. Full-time students wishing to take part in the lottery must present a completed application along with their payment to the ticket office, which is located in the south end of Memorial Stadium. Student ID cards are not required to apply for tickets, as registration status will be verified by information provided by the Office of Registration and Records. The price for a student ticket is \$49. Married students may purchase a spouse ticket for \$136.

Students who miss the lottery deadline or who are not classified as full-time may purchase tickets from April 16 to Aug. 21. Ticket applications are available at 117 South Stadium, 110 Administration Building and at the East Campus Union information desk. Nebraska's schedule next season includes seven home games. The Cornhuskers will open their season by facing Baylor at Memorial Stadium, and also will square off against Northern Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon State, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Colorado at home.

Homestand

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Bullock (2-1, 4.38 ERA), junior John Ofstun (3-0, 4.58 ERA) and freshman Joe Shapley (1-1, 9.28 ERA). Sanders said Tegtmeier's departure from the bullpen means either sophomore Aaron Bilyeu or junior Armando Garza will join Matranga as a closer. Garza has compiled a 1-5 record and a 5.73 ERA while splitting time between starting and relief this season, while Bilyeu has 1-0 and 4.40 marks. Sanders said the games against Northern Colorado come at an opportune time. "We need to experiment with our pitching situation," he said. "This gives us a chance to do that."

Sanders said he does not anticipate a letdown even though all six games will occur in the midst of the Big Eight season. He said Nebraska needs to take its games against the Bears seriously. "We need to eliminate the mental aspect of it," he said, "and just go out and play." Sanders said Nebraska is not setting any definite goals for its homestand even though it has dominated all three opponents. The Huskers' all-time record against Northern Colorado, Northern Iowa and Northwest Missouri State is 30-1. "We've just got to take one game at a time," Sanders said. "We've got to play these games with a Big Eight mentality in order to prepare ourselves for the conference portion of our schedule."



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska cornerback Bruce Pickens is taunted by Florida State wide receivers Ronald Lewis (left) and Terry Anthony during the 1990 Fiesta Bowl.

Secondary

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Weight lifter of the Year last Saturday, and free safeties Will Thomas and Steve Carmer. Those players, Darlington said, will give the Huskers increased depth going into fall practice. Next season's non-conference schedule doesn't include any stand-out passers, like last season's game against Utah's Scott Mitchell, who is

projected as a first-round pick in the National Football League draft. But nevertheless, Darlington said, there are some concerns. The Huskers open the season Sept. 1 against Baylor, a game that will be nationally televised by ESPN. The Bears have a new offensive coordinator, who was at Clemson last season. Darlington said this causes the Huskers preparation problems. "We're just not sure what to prepare for against them," he said. "We'll have to prepare for both (the run and

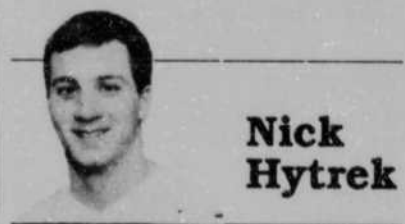
pass)." The other three non-conference opponents -- Northern Illinois, Oregon State and Minnesota -- have good passing schemes, but "might not have the athletes to get the job done." After Nebraska's loss to Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1, the Husker secondary was the target of a barrage of criticism. Darlington said he doesn't plan any major changes in the way the defensive backfield is structured, but hopes for improvements in the way his players execute.

Orioles favored for AL East title; Royals, Angels tough in AL West

After about a month of arguing, the baseball owners and players finally settled their differences and the season has begun -- although it was a week late. This is the time of year when hope springs eternal. The time when Chicago Cub and Cleveland Indians fans

who are proven winners. If the starters fail, the Yankees have a strong bullpen to come to the rescue. If Dave Winfield can return to form after a year off, New York will have an explosive offense to go with a steady defense. Boston The Red Sox have only two quality starting pitchers in Roger Clemens and Mike Boddicker, but the rest of the rotation is questionable. Starting pitching will kill the Red Sox by September. Cleveland The Indians made many moves during the off-season to improve themselves. Cleveland also had the best combined ERA of any pitching staff in the division last year and should be just as good this year.

strong pitching staff by signing Mark Langston. California led the American League in home runs last year but had poor run production. With pitching like this, though, who needs to score a lot? Oakland The A's lost three quality players in Storm Davis, Dave Parker and Tony Phillips. The key to their season will lie in overcoming the absence of those three. Oakland is strong in every other category but the rest of the division improved while the A's remained the same. Texas Nolan Ryan is back to lead the Rangers' staff. But after Ryan, the staff is weak. Texas has a solid offense with a lot of power but will not be able to showcase it against the superior pitching of the rest of the division. Seattle The Mariners finally are on their way up. With several young players they are not yet ready to challenge for the division title but will gain valuable experience for seasons to come. Minnesota The Twins' once-dominant pitching staff has disappeared and become a question mark since they traded Frank Viola to the Mets last year. Minnesota has a powerful offense, but will have to try to outscore opponents this year because of their pitching woes. Chicago The White Sox are young and have a lot of unproven players on their roster. Relief pitching is their strong point since they have many young starters. Home run production will have to rise for Chicago to have any success. Next week: The National League.



Nick Hytrek

think that maybe this just might be the year when they make it to the World Series. It also is the time of year when everyone has an opinion of who will win and who won't. So here are some personal predictions. First, the American League East. Baltimore The Orioles had the best defense last year, and that will continue into this season. Baltimore also had many young pitchers last year that will improve with a year's experience, especially Omaha-native Gregg Olson. The O's don't have a lot of power, but their pitching and defense will take them to the East title. Toronto Toronto is most people's pre-season pick. The Blue Jays are very similar to Baltimore in that they have strong pitching and defense, but they have the benefit of having more power in their lineup. The problem with Toronto is that it usually finds some way to screw up and blow its pennant hopes. New York The Yankee's biggest problem the past few years has been pitching. This year they have taken a step in the right direction and picked up three starters

that upset the Huskers 3-1 at the Florida State invitational. He said Miami is a team that Nebraska should not lose to and that he is looking for revenge against the Redskins. The Huskers enter the tournament with a 19-12 record after a double-header sweep Wednesday night of Wichita State. Nebraska crushed the Shockers 6-0 and 2-0.

said he seldom had those problems with his more-experienced teams. "They didn't get distracted," he said. "They just did whatever it took to win the ball game. More seasoned players realize they are going to make an error and just find a way to overcome it." In today's opener, Wolforth said he hopes to overcome Miami, a team

Invite

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to the player's youth. Nebraska's normal starting lineup includes two freshmen, three sophomores and another sophomore who sometimes pitches. Wolforth, now in his fourth year,

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Hytrek is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports reporter and columnist.

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