

NU hosts 'Olympics'

Cornhuskers focusing on Sooner matchup

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The tennis Olympics is coming to Lincoln this weekend.

Saturday at 2 p.m. the Nebraska women's tennis team will face Oklahoma State, a team whose lineup includes one Pole, one Briton, one Canadian, one South African, one Italian and one Australian. The top-10 "Cowgirls" are almost Olympic-caliber, too, with four ranked singles players and two ranked doubles teams.

So how will the Cornhuskers, who also will play Oklahoma at 2 p.m. Sunday in their last dual before the Big Eight tournament, combat this international all-star team?

By sending out a Hungarian Husker, No. 1 singles player Ildiko Guba, onto the Cather-Pound courts.

"Ildy's been playing great tennis," Nebraska coach Gregg Calvin said.

Guba, a junior from Budapest, is 4-1 in Big Eight singles this year, her loss coming to Eveline Hamers of Kansas. Hamers' only loss was to 39th-ranked Monika Waniek of Chorzow, Poland, who just happens to be Oklahoma State's No. 1 singles player.

Guba has pushed Waniek in their two previous meetings. In their

matchup as freshmen, Guba said, she was up 5-2 in the first set and had two match points before losing 7-5. Last year she lost 6-3, 6-3.

Now Guba is playing better than ever, and she said she is in better shape physically.

"According to both coaches, Jake (assistant coach Scott Jacobson) and Gregg, I'm getting to a few more balls than I used to," she said.

Mentally, she has had to deal with three first-set tiebreakers in her first four conference matches. The two tiebreakers she won led to victories. The one she lost -- against Hamers -- led to a defeat. She said winning the tiebreaker is just about that crucial to the outcome.

"It's really important, because I know myself," she said. "If I lose the first set, especially in a tiebreaker, I'll be down the next couple games."

That's about all the opponent needs to win, so Guba said she could do without the tiebreakers.

"I'm not trying to make it a habit," she said.

Calvin said Nebraska will need to get close to tiebreakers to have a chance for a couple wins against the Cowgirls. In addition to Waniek, Oklahoma State possesses the 65th-, 67th- and 79th-ranked singles players

and the ninth- and 39th-ranked doubles teams.

"We need to get in position to win -- get to four-all and then have a chance," he said.

Oklahoma State hasn't lost a point in conference play, but Guba said the match against the Cowgirls is not Nebraska's primary focus.

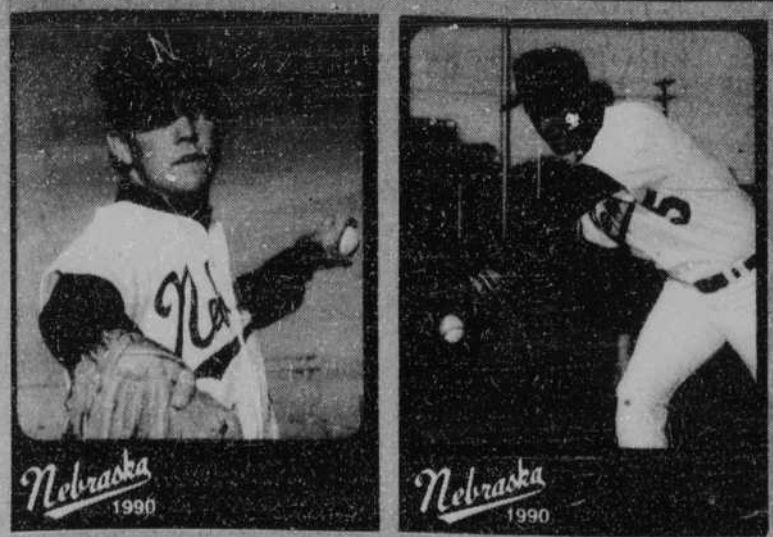
"What's more important for us is the one on Sunday," she said.

Nebraska is second in the Big Eight with 33 points in five matches. Kansas has 31 from six matches, Kansas State 28 from six and Oklahoma 26 from four.

Calvin said he is recruiting spectators for the match against the Sooners. Guba said she is optimistic that Nebraska can win, which virtually would assure the Huskers of second place entering the Big Eight tournament, April 26-27 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Guba said she isn't looking past this weekend, even though a couple wins and a strong showing in the conference tourney could earn her an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

"That wouldn't be bad. I could handle it, and I would take it, too," she said with a laugh. "That's going to depend on how I do against Oklahoma State."



Josh Bullock

Kevin French

Innocent hobby ruined by baseball card boom

As if stories of that towering home run against Oklahoma State weren't enough to make the grandkids ga-ga, now the Nebraska baseball players have their own set of baseball cards to remember the glorious 1990 season.

What towering home run? What glorious season? What grandkids?



Paul Domeier

Give them time. If the grandkids come, the home run and the season will grow, too.

The Nebraska sports information office is selling packs of cards for \$2.50. Assistant sports information director Chris Anderson said the team also had cards available from the 1988 team.

I hope no one is speculating with these cards. I hope no one looked for the mistakes of a glove on the wrong hand or a right-handed batter batting left-handed (they aren't there -- I checked). I hope no one has bought the cards and locked them away for the day Bobby

Benjamin or Doug Tegmeier reaches the major leagues.

I grew up right at the start of the baseball card boom, and I'm glad. The boom has messed up baseball card collecting for the kids. Occasionally, I read about massive card shows and the outrageous prices for certain Honus Wagner's, but I bought my packs at the one store in Beatrice that had them at the time, because I loved baseball and baseball cards. I even chewed the gum.

A friend and I combined collections for our viewing pleasure and initialed the cards for identification, not realizing or caring what that did to the value. Luckily, my friend's dad smoked cigars, so I had boxes to store my most prized possessions in.

The cards were Topps, the only kind at the time and still the best. Topps cards were made of a cross between construction paper and cardboard, and disintegrated in water. Of course, no self-respecting kid would ever risk those precious pieces of paper near water, food, baby sisters, cleaning mothers or any other natural card predators.

In 1981, I discovered I could order a complete set, with no du-

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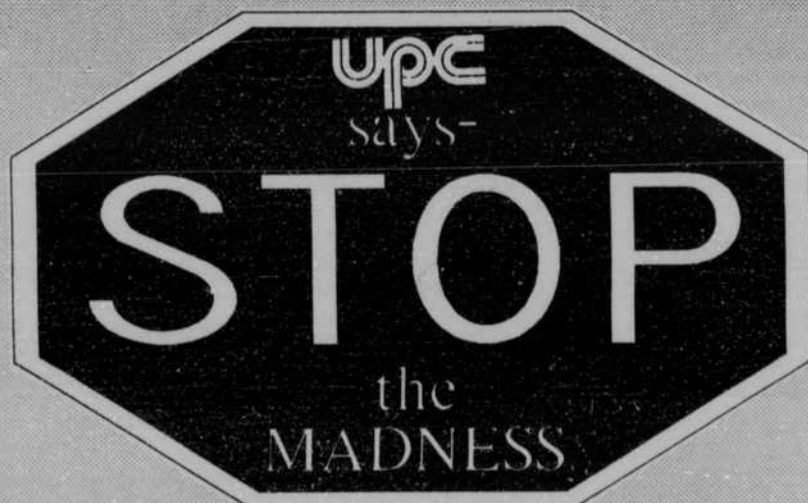
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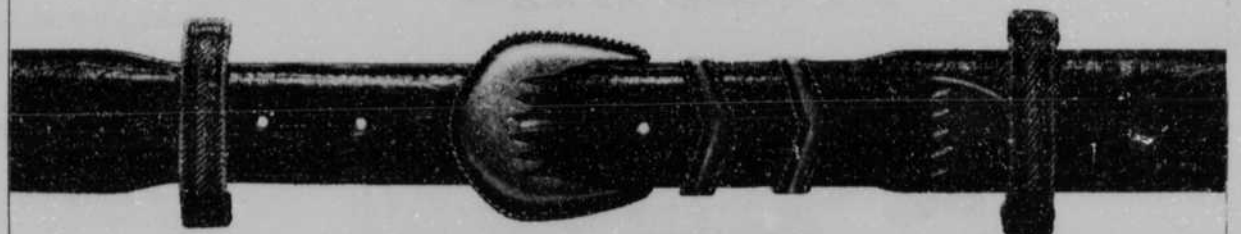
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