

Alberts has tools to make an impact

By Chris Hopfensperger
Staff Reporter

Last spring, Trev Alberts was an Iowa high school senior who was planning on making his childhood dreams come true by playing football at the University of Iowa.

That was before Nebraska called. "I had done just about everything but commit," Alberts, a redshirt freshman for the Cornhuskers, said. "I had told them (Iowa) I planned on coming, and they planned on having me, because I hadn't been recruited by Nebraska."

Alberts said that all changed when someone sent Nebraska an article about him. He said the article prompted Husker recruiters to request his highlight tape, and also prompted a visit from former Nebraska linebackers coach John Melton.

"Coach Melton called my coach and told me they were interested in me," Alberts said. "It was about three nights later when he came to my

house and offered me a scholarship. "That's when I decided I might want to look at Nebraska."

Alberts said he wasn't sure where he would be playing when he was recruited, as he was told he could be playing inside or outside linebacker. He began his career as the inside position, but moved outside last fall. He has since battled for the fifth and final spot on the traveling squad behind Mike Croel, Travis Hill, David White and Dan Svehla.

Alberts said the Nebraska coaches had a good reason for moving him.

"They needed to move one of us," Alberts said. "I was taller and skinnier than most of the other guys, so it was me."

Alberts said he likes his new position.

"I enjoy playing outside a lot more than inside. It's just a lot more fun," he said. "You get to rush the quarterback."

"Inside all you're doing is getting beat up all the time."

Alberts said he also is enjoying spring football much more than last fall, when he was a redshirt.

"Spring ball gives you the opportunity to show what you can do," he said. "The coaches look at everyone, and evaluate everyone. It's a lot easier to impress them and, hopefully, move up."

Alberts said his redshirt season had its advantages.

"I was going against the No. 1 offense every day," he said. "Even though sometimes I was just holding bags, I still was able to get the feel of how the varsity went, get adjusted, and get my confidence up to where I felt I could play against someone of that caliber."

Alberts said one thing he wasn't prepared for is Saturday's spring game, which will be witnessed by the largest crowd he has ever played in front of. A crowd of about 30,000 is expected for the contest, which begins at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

"I've never played in front of that many people," Alberts said. "I'm a

little nervous about it.

"Really I just want to continue learning the system. That's my biggest problem right now is learning the plays."

At 6-foot-4, 210 pounds, Alberts has the tools to make an impact for Nebraska, Husker outside linebackers coach Tony Samuel said.

"Trev has real good speed and very good balance. He is a strong and bright kid," Samuel said. "He's got a chance to be a pretty good player."

Samuel said he isn't surprised by Alberts' success.

"I expected this," he said. "Trev didn't expect it, but I did."

"Right now, he just needs a lot of repetition and that's what he is getting in spring ball."

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Red-white scrimmage gives Osborne chance to scrutinize starting prospects

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Saturday's annual red-white scrimmage will be, as usual, a time for Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne to see what he has to work with next fall.

One of the most scrutinized spots will be the race for quarterback. Gerry Gdowski, last year's starter, will graduate this May and was drafted by the National Football League's New Orleans Saints.

Mike Grant and Mickey Joseph, both juniors, are listed as the top prospects at quarterback. Grant will start for the red team, while Joseph will start for the whites.

Both players have shared the No. 1-spot on the depth chart throughout most of the spring drills. Grant re-injured his shoulder during the first week of drills, aggravating an injury he suffered late last season.

Grant said he doesn't expect the shoulder to affect his play Saturday.

Another area of concern is the offensive backfield. Last year's starters at fullback and I-back have used up their eligibility.

Leodis Flowers is all alone at the top of the latest Husker depth chart in the I-back spot, with Scott Baldwin, Terry Rodgers and George Achola

behind him.

Tim Johnk and Omar Soto share the No. 1 position at fullback.

Nate Turner and Tyrone Hughes are the top two contenders at wingback, while Jon Bostick and Mark Dowse will battle for the No. 1 spot at split end.

Defensively, one of the biggest concerns for Husker coaches is rebuilding the interior line. All three starters from last season have used their eligibility.

Kenny Walker is listed at the top spot at right tackle, while Joe Sims is the No. 1 player on the right side. Pat Engelbert is at the top of the depth chart at middle guard.

David White and Mike Croel are listed at the top at the outside linebacker positions, while Pat Tyrance and Mike Petko are the No. 1 players on the inside spots.

Nebraska's secondary returns all four starters from last season, but the No. 1 spots are not solidified. At right cornerback, Tahaun Lewis and Tyrone Legette are the top contenders, while Bruce Pickens is the No. 1 player on the left side. Reggie Cooper and Tyrone Byrd are the safeties.

Earlier this week, several players missed practice because of injuries. Turner had a hip pointer and a bruised

groin; offensive tackle Terry Eyman had a thigh bruise; offensive tackle Tom Punt suffered a shoulder injury; and split end Vernon Powell suffered a bruised shoulder.

None of the players are expected to miss the red-white game.

NU

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In another Husker two-out rally, Nebraska countered when Kristin Davidson scored from second after an errant throw to first by shortstop Karyn Rice on a ball hit by Michelle Cuddeford during the fifth inning.

Aside from giving up the home run, Wolforth said he was pleased with Skegas, who upped her record to a career high of 19-6.

Skegas gave up five hits, struck out three and surrendered an intentional walk.

"That one pitch was a rise ball, and she has had some trouble with

that," Wolforth said, "but she kept us in it."

Nebraska has now won five straight, going into home dual games with Iowa State and Oklahoma on Saturday and Sunday to close the regular season.

On those days, Nebraska plays Oklahoma State at noon and Iowa State at 4 p.m. Kansas also will play dual games with those two teams to conclude the conference regular season schedule.

The tournament's top seed will be decided this weekend as Oklahoma State leads the conference, Kansas is second and Nebraska third.

All games this weekend are free to University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who show their student ID cards.

Calvin

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won in three sets in the first round. At No. 1 doubles, Tyggum and Collins defeated Sonja Panajotovic and Elke Schaumberg of Colorado, 6-4, 6-2. Guba and Flannery skunked Missouri's Allison Felton and Courtney Carithers, 6-0, 6-0, at No. 2. Quinn and

Coutretsis completed the round with a 6-1, 7-5 win over Colorado's team at No. 3.

The Huskers are only five points away from bettering their 1989 point total of 77. Nebraska could add 27 more points.

If any Huskers win titles today, they would be the first individual champions for second-year coach Gregg Calvin.

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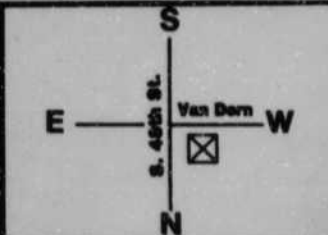
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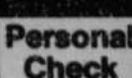
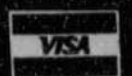
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