

Challenge expected, coach says

Losses could hurt tennis team at both ends

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Unexpected losses at the top and bottom of the line-up for the Nebraska men's tennis team threaten to push the Cornhuskers into the middle of the Big Eight standings.

Last spring Nebraska finished third in the conference, with one senior, No. 2 player Ken Feuer, and two top recruits expected.

But recruit Kiyoshi Ueda, who was transferring from Temple University and was projected by Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott for the second or

third spot, was late sending his transcripts. When the transcripts were processed Thursday, McDermott found out that his recruit didn't have the 2.5 GPA needed to transfer to UNL.

"It was a last-minute thing," McDermott said. "There was nothing we could really do about it."

The other recruit, Joseph Salerno of Omaha, has yet to complete his degree at Tyler (Texas) Junior College, and hopefully will join the team next semester. Salerno is expected to fit into the middle of the six-man line-up.

And junior Joseph Rahme, the Big

Eight champion at No. 6 singles, dropped out of school for a year of mandatory military service in his home country of South Africa.

After a few weeks of military training, McDermott said, Rahme will be travelling and playing tennis with an army squad. Rahme may return to Nebraska for his last two years, McDermott said.

"I'd like to think we could benefit from this," he said.

Number-five player Anthony Koratac probably will redshirt, McDermott said, so the Huskers are left with three players from last spring's

line-up: No. 1 Matthias Mueller, No. 3 Steve Barley and No. 4 Scott Randolph. Those three probably will take the top-three spots, and Dave Moyer, Karl Falkland and Todd Broaderick are the leading candidates for the next three spots.

"You've got a couple guys who can see themselves in the limelight," McDermott said. "They've got a chance to play and see some varsity action."

And Salerno or other recruits might come join in January.

"I hope everybody accepts it as a challenge," McDermott said.

Physical pain isn't what hurts the most for Huskers' injured starting wingback

By Matt Herek
Senior Editor

Being injured entails more than physical pain for junior wingback Nate Turner.

It hurts to be unable to play and sit on the sidelines while the team practices, said Turner, who broke his collarbone the second day of practice. He is not expected to suit up for another two weeks, missing the Baylor and Northern Illinois games.

He said he hasn't gone to many practices because it is hard to watch his teammates play while he sits idly by on the sidelines, unable to participate.

"I'm a football player. I have to play football," he said.

Turner missed three regular-season games last season with a pulled leg muscle. He also sat out the Fiesta Bowl because of a pulled quadriceps muscle.

Before fall workouts began, he told the Daily Nebraskan, that "it would be some kind of freak accident" if he got hurt this season.

Turner was hurt while diving for a pass without pads. He said it was an "instinctive thing" to try to keep his balance after catching the pass. He said his feet got caught in the Astro-Turf and he landed on his shoulder.

The Cornhuskers have an off-week before the Minnesota game, which

will be beneficial to him, he said, because "it will give me a chance to hit again" before the season's third game.

The Huskers have an open date because the Baylor game was moved to this Saturday to accommodate ESPN's televised coverage.

Coach Tom Osborne and receivers coach Ron Brown are "in my corner" and providing support, Turner said.

It's to the point, he said, where he can't worry about his history of injuries and just play football.

He said his attitude is improving, but the first week after the injury was "terrible."

Turner said thoughts of giving up football entered his mind, but soon left.

The recurring injuries are "like somebody letting the wind out of your sail," he said.

He also said that it will be "terrible" being on the sideline and not in uniform during the first two games.

But, he said he will be on the sidelines "yelling and screaming and keeping people in the game."

"I've gotta do what I can for the team," Turner said.

His part will not be as big as it was before, "but it's still a part," he said.

He said he is staying in shape by working out on the stair-stepper and doing other exercises. Also he is keeping up on the plays and attending

team meetings.

He said he expects his role on the team to go back to where it was when he left.

"Things can only get better."

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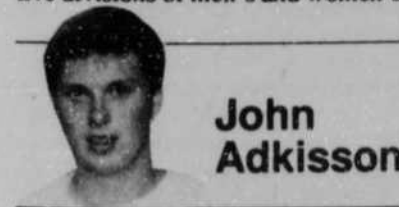
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Time is now for Capriati, Agassi to realize potential

As the world's best tennis players gather this week in New York City for the U.S. Open, the time has come for two super-hyped Americans to take their games off the magazine covers and onto the hardcourts.

Andre Agassi and Jennifer Capriati -- who both have boomed as the American "future" in their respective divisions of men's and women's



John Adkisson

tennis -- now must prove to fans that they are as good as their reputations say they are.

Agassi, the flamboyant, long-haired phenomenon from Las Vegas, has been seeded high in the last three U.S. Opens, but has failed to get to the finals each time.

There is no doubting Agassi's big first serve and extraordinary athletic ability, but what may be lacking in his game is the ability to hold up under pressure.

In this year's French Open, Agassi had a seemingly clear path to victory. Ivan Lendl skipped the tournament and top seeds Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg were both upset in the first round.

So with all major competition out of the way, Agassi made it to the finals and was considered a lock over Andres Gomez, a 35-year-old Ecuadorian who had never won a major tournament. Agassi crumbled, losing in the finals in four sets.

After his loss in the French, Agassi

decided to skip Wimbledon, partly because the All-England Club wouldn't allow him to wear his colorful outfits while playing.

Agassi needs to stop looking for excuses and find a way to win a major tournament like the U.S. Open, which he considers the most important tournament in the world. A hard-fought win over a top player like Lendl or Edberg may be what Agassi needs to get him over the hump.

Capriati, who just joined the women's tour earlier this year, has not yet had the chances Agassi has had. But she, like Agassi, has been a victim of media sensationalism, appearing at every turn.

Capriati served notice that she is on the rise when she defeated Zina Garrison in straight sets and took Steffi Graf to three sets in a tournament last weekend.

But in her first two major tournaments, Capriati has been blown out of the water by Graf and Yugoslavian teen Monica Seles. A display of confidence on the court could carry Capriati over the top.

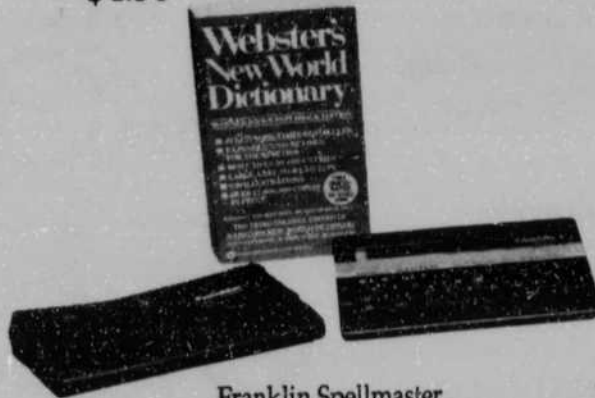
If the two, or at least one of the two, could pull out a win at the U.S. Open, it could be a shot in the arm for American tennis. With the likes of Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe and Chris Evert on their last legs, American youngsters could use some new role models.

And try as they might, Agassi and Capriati will never be known as tennis legends until they can win the big one against the big ones.

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

What Does It All Mean?

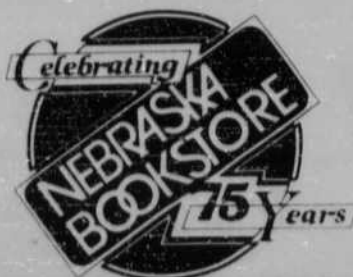
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