

## Grant will start; Turner and Brown recover from flu

From Staff Reports

Second-string cornerback Jon Crippen may miss Saturday's game at Kansas State because of a pulled quadriceps, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said after practice Thursday.

Crippen, who apparently pulled the muscle after Wednesday's practice, will be examined before the team leaves, and a final decision will be made then, he said.

Wingback Nate Turner and I-back Derek Brown both returned to practice after sitting out Wednesday with the flu, Osborne said.

Mike Grant, who was hampered in the Oregon State game by a knee injury, will start at quarterback Saturday and is at full speed, Osborne said. "He's running a lot better," he said. "He's moving more like I thought he can. It seemed like early in the (Oregon State) game he didn't run so well."

"I don't think he had run full speed for so long that he seemed like he had trouble with his balance."

## Men's tennis team to travel two roads

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team will open its fall season short-handed this weekend, and Coach Kerry McDermott said that could be good.

Most Cornhuskers will play in the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association regional indoor tournament in Wichita, Kan.

No. 1 singles player Matthias Mueller, though, will be playing in a Los Angeles tournament with 15 of the other top 41 ranked players in the country.

"It kind of works out good, giving some players an opportunity to play in this tournament," McDermott said.

Karl Falkland and Todd Broadrick will join returning starters Scott Randolph, Steve Barley, Anthony Kotarac and David Moyer in Wichita.

The tournament is split into singles and doubles with no team

scores kept. All players will play in the same single-elimination brackets with the singles finalists and doubles winners being invited to February's ITCA national indoor tournament.

In California, Mueller will have nothing to lose. He's the lowest-ranked player at No. 41, so any win would be a bonus.

"It will give him a chance to play some guys from USC and Pepperdine and some of the top teams," McDermott said.

And Mueller, a baseline specialist whose game is geared toward slower surfaces, won't have to play on the quick indoor courts in Wichita. Hard-hitters Broadrick, Kotarac and Moyer will benefit from those courts.

"If we get a couple guys to the quarters (quarterfinals) in the singles and one or two doubles teams to the quarters, it will be a good tournament for us," McDermott said.

## Injury, illness plague gives NU softball team chance to look at depth

By Erik Unger  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team will play in Creighton's six-team, three-day tournament this weekend with just 10 players.

Nebraska has been hit hard with injuries and illness, causing the low numbers. The Cornhuskers still will have pitchers Marie Bowie and Stephanie Skegas, although Skegas is troubled with tendinitis in her pitching elbow.

"It will be a good look at our depth," Wolforth said.

Sore arm and all, Skegas was strong in her last outing Tuesday against Nebraska Wesleyan. She was close to throwing a perfect game when it was called by the umpire because of rain. Skegas needed just one more out in the fourth inning for the game to count officially.

Wolforth is not as worried this weekend as one might expect given the situation. He said some players may play out of position, but added that that would help the Huskers in the long run.

And, he said, except freshman third baseman Amy Erlenbusch, the players that are available are experienced. All of the other players have at least one year of experience.

In addition to Nebraska and Creighton, entered in the tournament are the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kansas, College of St. Mary and Southwest Missouri State.

With Kansas and Creighton finishing in the top 20 at the end of last season, however, it is not a good time for Nebraska to be without a solid bench. Regardless, those two teams will expose what Nebraska will need to work on in spring practice, Wolforth said.

"It is important to play Division I teams to see where we are at," he said.

After playing games against Nebraska Wesleyan, Kearney State and Wayne State when it was hard to motivate the players, Wolforth said playing Creighton and Kansas is a great way to conclude the fall season.

"We are excited because it is the final week of the season and we get to play Creighton and Kansas," he said.

## JV coach: Air Force match will be team's premiere game

By Todd Cooper  
Staff Reporter

It may not be the toughest, but today's game between the Nebraska and Air Force junior varsity teams usually is the biggest game of the year for the Cornhuskers, Coach Bill Weber said.

Weber said the Huskers' Sept. 7 game against Snow Junior College was the toughest because it was the first of the season, and there was limited time to prepare. The team's premiere game probably will be today against Air Force, he said.

Today's 2 p.m. game at Memorial Stadium will be big because Air Force has had the upper hand the last four years, winning 38-34 last season and taking games in 1986 and 1987 by a combined total of eight points. Nebraska's win came in 1988, 35-16.

"It'll be a big challenge for us," Weber said. "These kids from Air

Force will be very disciplined. They always play hard and they never beat themselves."

When they do self-destruct, Air Force has the ability to make it up with quick strikes, Weber said.

"They traditionally score in big chunks," he said. "They may get a long pass here or a bootleg or something to get back in the game."

Those big plays are set up by Air Force's wishbone attack -- a formation Weber's team has not seen this year.

"It's always tough to simulate it in practice because of the speed of the thing," Weber said. "The teams that you play that run the wishbone are so good at executing it."

"The real pressure is in the secondary, you have to support quickly on the run and not let them throw an option pass deep."

Weber said he hopes Nebraska's passing efficiency improves in key

situations this week. Quarterbacks Matt Jones and John McMillen were 13 of 22 for 222 yards against Bethany on Sept. 24. Those stats, however, were racked up only when the Huskers were willing to throw.

"We hope to be a little bit stronger throwing it when we need to," Weber said. "One of the areas we needed to improve was the passing situations -- second- and third-and-long."

Jones and McMillen have been preparing against the scout team for possible Air Force blitzes, Weber said.

"We're having them give us some pressure that we didn't really spend a lot of time on the first few weeks," he said. "If they had a chance to look at any films the first two games, they'll see that the blitz bothered us at times."

Weber said Nebraska will stick with its offense against any blitzing.

"We're going to have to test the waters initially to see what we can do moving the ball on the ground," he said.

## Wildcats

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sota, in that they have two capable quarterbacks," he said. "Watson can come in and they don't seem to drop off at all. Watson appears to be a little bit better runner."

"They seem to want to run a few more options when he's in there."

The Wildcats' rejuvenated offense is averaging 440.5 yards a game. Their defense has held opponents to 15.3 points a game -- third in the Big Eight.

But what really sticks out, Osborne said, is Kansas State's turnover ratio. He said the Wildcats lead the nation in takeaways, a factor that can win a lot of games.

"You can take all the total offense, total defense, kicking, and

all those other stats, and if the turnover ratio is bad enough you still lose the game," Osborne said.

The Wildcats have only six turnovers, while having the benefit of taking the ball away 19 times. The Huskers are even at 10.

"We probably need to do a better job of getting it from other people and we need to do a little better job taking care of it," Osborne said.

## Snyder

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play poorly, Kansas State must play perfectly and it must have some luck.

"The good Lord is going to have to be wearing purple that day," he said.

The football gods have given Nebraska 21 straight wins over Kansas State, including a 58-7 rout last year.

The Wildcats probably will be without quarterback Carl Straw, who injured an ankle against New Mex-

ico. Junior Paul Watson would start in his place.

Against New Mexico, Watson completed 6 of 11 passes for 114 yards and rushed for 66 yards and two touchdowns. Saturday would be Watson's sixth career start.

"He's had ample amounts of experience," Snyder said.

Running back Pat Jackson leads Kansas State with 377 yards and five touchdowns in 83 carries. Jackson has gained more than half of the Wildcats' rushing yards. Kansas State has averaged 261.8 yards a game passing, 178.8 rushing.

Brooks Barta with 34 tackles and four sacks and Elijah Alexander with 29 tackles lead a defense that has given up 390.3 yards a game.

The Cornhuskers are coming off a lackluster 31-7 victory over Oregon State. Snyder says that could be bad.

"I can't recall that they've ever put together two bad ball games," he said.

And some of those positive supporters have indicated that, he said.

"Condolences are in order for this week," Snyder said. "That seems to be the feeling for a few people."

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Big Eight Coaches Show

## Soccer players improve record

From Staff Reports

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's soccer club travels to York on Saturday to play York College, and then returns to the East Campus field Sunday to play Kansas.

The team raised its record to 4-2 last Saturday.

Trish McGill scored two goals in the contest, while Kristi Halik, Ann Smith, Susan Lahmann and Kim Phillips each scored once.

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