

New goalposts tough for new place-kicker

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Football is not getting any easier for Cornhusker place-kicker Byron Bennett.

Two years ago, before his freshman season, Bennett injured his knee in the first days of fall practice.

"I hurt it during two-a-days. It was a bad snap and I picked the ball up and began to run with it," Bennett said. "I made a cut and (the knee) went out."

Bennett was out for nine months. Last fall, while handling the kick-off duties, Bennett took heat for his tackling.

In Nebraska's 31-7 win over Oregon State, Bennett was forced to stop Beaver return man Dwayne Owens. He did it by grabbing Owens and swinging him toward the sideline, into the legs of Husker coach Tom Osborne.

It was one of Bennett's two unassisted tackles of the season.

Next year the NCAA will do its part to make Bennett's life a little bit tougher by moving the uprights 4 feet 10 inches closer together.

Regulations that narrow the width of the goalposts from 23 feet 4 inches to 18 feet 6 inches go into effect next season. Bennett said the 58-inch change will make a big difference.

"You're going to see a lot more missed field goals this year," he said, "from everybody in the nation."

The reduction, Bennett said, makes a 35-yard field goal this year as tough as a 40-yard shot last season.

With the departure of Gregg Barrios, who finished his career with five school records, the sophomore from Rowlett, Texas, will take over the

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NU women's tennis coach announces plans to leave

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's tennis coach Bob Hampton has announced his resignation as coach of the Cornhuskers, but he will stay with the team for the remainder of the season, including today's Big Eight matchup at Iowa State.

Hampton said he is leaving primarily because of his family.

"It's difficult to support my family with the salary they're paying me here," Hampton said. "My family comes first before anything else."

The first-year coach, whose 10-month contract ends in June, said he has five choices for his next coaching position. Hampton said he will reveal his decision later.

Nebraska's recruiting class will have to come from Hampton's successor, since Hampton indicated that three and possibly all four of his recruits will be following him to his next stop.

Concerning the Huskers' battle with the Cyclones, Hampton said he was



Hampton

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Tennis team travels early

The Nebraska men's tennis team will travel to Iowa State today, a day earlier than expected.

The Cornhusker schedule had the game set for Thursday. The Iowa State schedule did not agree, and the Iowa State schedule won.

"This is an inconvenience, but overall it might not be that bad," Coach Kerry McDermott said. "This will give us an extra day to rest up for the weekend."

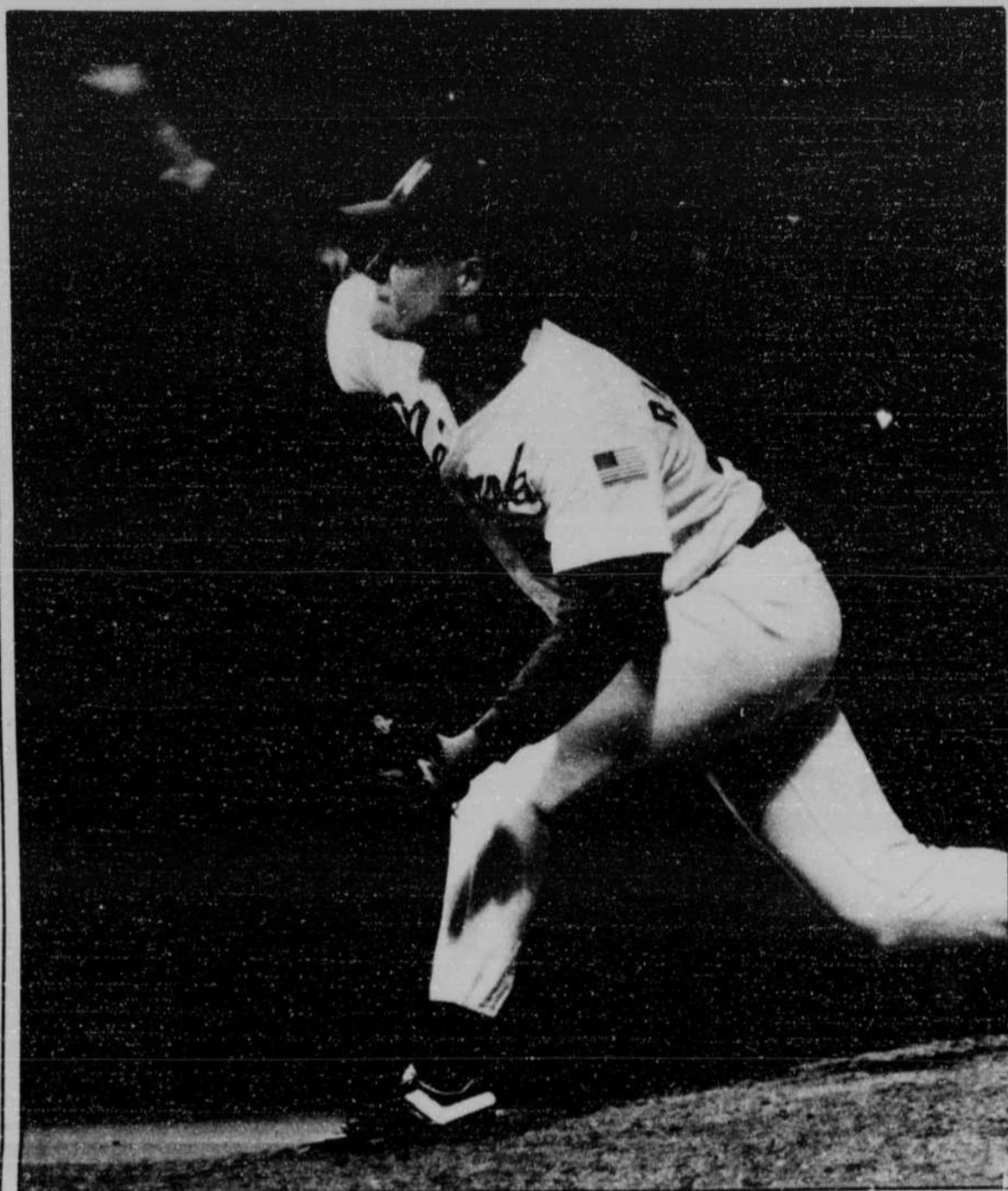
The weekend includes home matches Saturday against Missouri and Sunday against conference-favorite Kansas.

Husker senior Steve Barley said the squad is confident after beating Oklahoma 6-3 Sunday.

"If we play as well as we did against Oklahoma, we're going to beat Iowa State soundly," Barley said.

The Huskers beat the Cyclones 7-2 last season.

— Jeff Singer



Michelle Paulmen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska pitcher Trey Rutledge hurls one toward home plate during the Cornhusker's game against Wayne State Tuesday.

Huskers win in last inning again

By David Moyer
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team salvaged a victory in the last inning for the second straight night Tuesday, scoring in the bottom of the ninth to defeat Wayne State 7-6 at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Huskers had scored two desperation runs to defeat Northern Iowa 5-4 Monday, and Nebraska needed similar salvation

against the Wildcats.

The Huskers won on a one-out, bases-loaded single by Cory Kulhanek. The Huskers used an Eddie Anderson single, a Gary Tackett double and an intentional walk to Shawn Buchanan to load the bases for Kulhanek, who got a reprieve for a costly error earlier in the game.

"I was just trying to put the ball in play and get a fly ball," Kulhanek said. "Mainly I wanted to stay out

of the double play."

Husker coach John Sanders said the Wildcats, 12-12, played well and deserved a lot of credit. But he looked to the pitching as the key to the game. Nebraska pitchers Trey Rutledge and Dave Matranga combined to allow only one earned run on six hits.

The Husker defense almost spoiled the pitching performance,

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Cornhusker basketball team to be home-grown

On College Basketball Signing Day 1991, Cornhusker fans have this to celebrate: Home-grown talent finally is staying on this side of the state line.

No longer will Nebraska fans have to wonder about what could have become of Bobby Local had he played basketball and played it at the University.

No longer will we watch guys (i.e., Kansas' Ron Kellogg and Cedric Hunter, both from Omaha) come back wearing road uniforms and triumphantly smoke the Bob Devaney Sports Center nets.

And no longer — thank goodness, no longer — will we have to hear lambastings by backwoods barbers and butchers that "That damn basketball coach can't even recruit his own state."

That's because today, the start of the spring period for basketball recruits to sign national letters of intent, Husker coach Danny Nee has unveiled a rock-solid groundwork for a future team made primarily of Nebraskans.

The departure of Omaha-native Rich King from last year's team left only one native Nebraskan, Atkinson West Holt's Bruce Chubick, on scholarship. Another player, sophomore Eric Piatkowski, lived in Nebraska when he was young but graduated in South Dakota.



John Adkisson

That left one red-blooded Husker out of 12 scholarship players. Until, that is, Nee took to Nebraska's highways and landed some home boys.

Today's the day when Nee makes official one big addition sure to make every hay-pitcher proud. Jason Glock, the all-time leader in state tournament history, will become a full-fledged Husker. He will join Omaha South's Terrance Badgett, who signed last fall.

They'll both be home-state heroes. It's not that being from Nebraska automatically makes a player Mr. Wonderful. Bill Jackman, a heralded player from Grant, came to Nebraska only to become a towel-waving team captain.

And it's not as if non-Nebraska players don't contribute. Five of last year's top six scorers (Carl Hayes, Tony Farmer, Piatkowski, Clifford Scales and Beau Reid) were from out-of-state, and with today's addition of a couple of big-name junior college players, that trend

may continue.

But the fans love the home boys. Center or guard, fast or slow, the roar you receive at Devaney is bound to be bigger if you're a Nebraskan.

Having at least a couple of home players also helps build an attitude and stronger ties with the state. As a native Nebraskan, you get defensive when some opposing player rudely calls your home state a barren wasteland or "Siberia with 7-Eleven's."

So with turnstiles clicking last year at a record pace, Nee did as much politicking as he did recruiting by signing the two from Nebraska, and he's smart.

Some fans may think Glock, at 6 feet 4 inches and from a Class B school, is too small and too slow to play the college game. He wasn't heavily recruited, and he said "Yes" immediately to Nebraska when the Huskers came calling.

But those fans were probably the ones moaning when small-town boy Chubick came to Lincoln. This past season he proved his detractors wrong by pulling down rebounds, and yes, even skying for a dunk or two.

Glock, after a highly probable redshirt season next year, could be as impressive as Chubick in his debut season.

And then there's Nee's Omaha connection. Badgett has the potential to be an impact player immediately, and could erase old memories of Kellogg's departure.

Two Omaha-area juniors — Bellevue West's Erick Strickland and Omaha Benson's Andy Woolridge — have been mentioned among the names of the top underclassmen in the country. It's no secret that Nee, or any coach, would want both playing for him.

If those two choose to make Lincoln their home, check out this scenario: In two years, four of Nebraska's top eight players could be home-grown products, not including Piatkowski.

Nebraskans will be playing for Nebraska. Before Rich King exploded for 40 points against Northern Illinois this season, Kellogg (in a Kansas uniform) held the record for most points in a game in the Devaney Center with 39.

King, perhaps prophetically, took the craser to that mark. Now, on Signing Day 1991, Nee is poised to eradicate all memories of letting the good ones flee the Cornhusker state.

This batch of home cooking is looking good.

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