

## Up in the air

### Leader unknown for passing offense

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska football team previewed its new offense spattered with passes and a youthful defense in Saturday's annual Red-White Game to end spring practice.

The Reds defeated the Whites 43-21 in front of 23,102 people at Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers' next action will be in Memorial Stadium, Sept. 7 against Utah State.

Nebraska's starting cast, however, remains to be set.

Four players — Mike Grant, Tom Haase, Mickey Joseph and Keithen McCant — continue to vie for the starting role at quarterback.

Coach Tom Osborne, who watched the game from the pressbox, said Haase had the best scrimmage, but the position would not be set until the fall.

"There's no decision being made," he said. "I think we have four guys who can play pretty well in a ball game right now."

The composition of Nebraska's offense depends on the quarterback, Osborne said.

With Joseph at quarterback, the Huskers may call the same number of pass plays but throw less because of

his ability to pull the ball down and run, Osborne said.

"We're going to throw the football more and not because of anyone's insistence," he said.

The absence of senior Leodis Flowers from the last week of spring football opened the I-back door to sophomore Derek Brown, senior George Achola and redshirt freshman Calvin Jones.

Brown opened the show with a 44-yard touchdown romp on the seventh play of the game, putting the Red squad up 7-0. He finished the day with 131 yards and a touchdown on 12 attempts.

McCant, who completed five of 10 passes for 65 yards, directed the second drive. The senior from Grand Prairie, Texas, completed four of his first five passes, leading the team to the 1-yard line.

McCant finished off the drive with a 1-yard run to even the score.

"Keithen has had a good spring," Osborne said. "Today there were two or three things mentally that maybe he could have done a little better."

Osborne said Haase led Nebraska's army of field generals.

The first of eight quarterbacks to see action, Haase rushed for 65 yards and two touchdowns on 14 carries.

He completed 10 of 16 attempts for 162 yards, a touchdown and no interceptions.

Osborne said it was the first spring game he could remember without a turnover by either squad.

"We did have two or three passes that could have been picked (off)," Osborne said. "We threw to the wrong people. They just didn't catch the ball."

Fullback Lance Lewis had the day's only fumble, but it was recovered in the end zone by tackle Ray Reifensath for a touchdown.

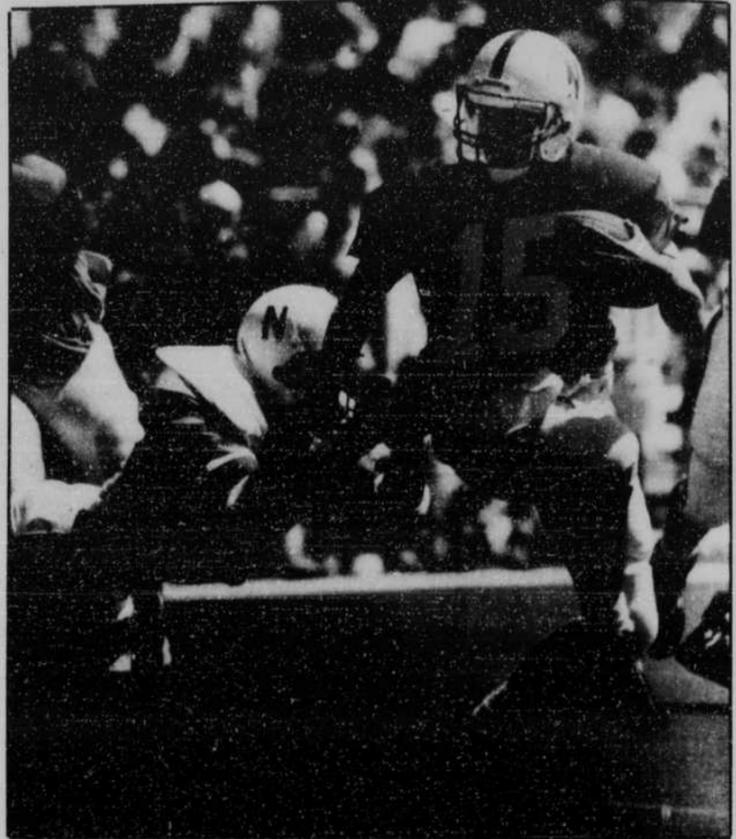
The day did not go off without any problems. Osborne said most of his concerns leaned toward the defense.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride agreed.

"We're the least prepared we've ever been at the end of the spring ball," McBride said. "Usually by the end of the spring I have a feeling, but I don't have any feeling about whether we're going to be good or not."

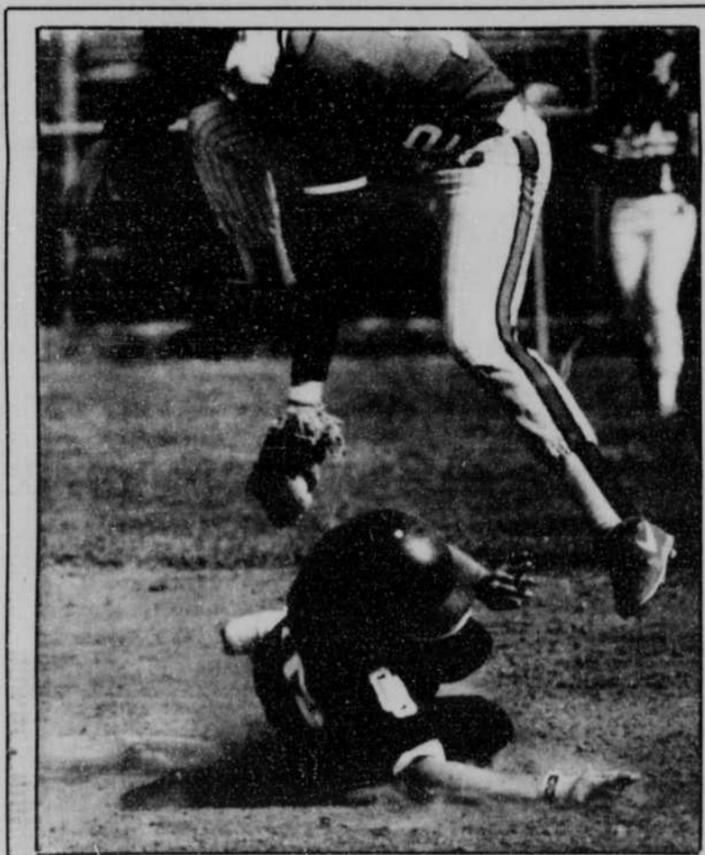
"It's scary." Offensively, the two teams combined for 853 yards.

McBride said the defense was hurt by the NCAA cutbacks in the number of days of spring practice and the number of days in pads.



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Tom Haase, first-string quarterback at the end of the spring, struggles to break free from Ed Stewart. Haase completed 10 of 16 passes for 162 yards and ran for 65 yards Saturday.



Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska Shae Sloan tries to apply the tag while leaping over Stefanie Killian at second base in Sunday morning's game. Killian was safe.

## Late run saves day

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team's last home performance of the year was one run from being a sad swan song.

The Huskers, after being upset by Oklahoma earlier in the day, eked out a late run to knock off Kansas 1-0 Sunday at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

Nebraska moved its record to 21-16 and secured the fifth seed in the six-team Big Eight tournament, which will start Thursday in Oklahoma City, Okla.

"A win is a win is a win," Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said. "I'm just happy we're going into

the tournament with a win."

Nebraska battled No. 18 Kansas through six scoreless innings behind the pitching of junior Marie Bowie. Through six innings, Bowie gave up four hits while stranding six Kansas runners.

"She put us on her shoulders and carried us," Wolforth said.

In the top of seventh, Ann Halsne led off with a single down the left-field line. Pinch runner Jennifer Stevens stole second and a two-out double by Khara Trenka brought in the only run.

Senior pitcher Stephanie Skegas retired Kansas in order in the seventh.

See **SOFTBALL** on 10

## Husker women take fourth

By Jeff Singer  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team earned fourth place behind the strength of its doubles teams at the Big Eight championships Saturday and Sunday in Oklahoma City, Okla.

All three doubles units earned third place finishes to help secure the Cornhuskers' final position.

"Our doubles teams did a really good job," said Bob Hampton, who has resigned after one season as Nebraska's coach. "All fall we worked on our doubles, and it finally paid off this weekend."

The No. 1 doubles tandem of Nancy Tyggum and Rachel Collins surprised the tournament's top-seeded team from Kansas with a 6-3, 7-6 win to earn third place.

"Rachel and I played very well," said Tyggum, a senior. "Beating Kansas as the No. 1 seed was definitely one of mine and Rachel's biggest wins."

The other doubles wins were No. 2 Ildiko Guba and Ann Flannery, who won 6-0, 6-2 in the final round, and No. 3 Tina Coutretsis and Heidi Junius, who won 6-2, 6-3.

Coutretsis said she wasn't all that satisfied by finishing third at No. 3 doubles.

"I look at third place as OK," Coutretsis said. "But when Heidi and I are on, we can beat anyone."

Overall, Nebraska ended the tournament with 73 points, 57 behind repeating champion Oklahoma State.

"After we got some big first-round wins, we could've taken over second place," Hampton said. "But we had

some key three-set losses that kept us in fourth."

The singles results weren't as good for Nebraska as were the doubles. The lone third-place finisher was Collins at No. 4 singles.

Meghan Quinn was fourth at No. 6 singles, Guba fifth at No. 1, Tyggum sixth at No. 3, Flannery seventh at No. 2 and Coutretsis seventh at No. 5.

Even though the Huskers didn't bring home any performance titles, they did gain an important award. Tyggum was awarded the conference's sportsmanship award for the player who best represents the sport on and off the court.

"It was a real honor to get that award," Tyggum said. "I think it represents the team as well as the university well."

## Coach: NU tennis team has 'average' season, tournament

By Jeff Singer  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott said his squad's "par" fourth-place finish at the Big Eight championships was typical.

"Just like our season, the tournament was average," McDermott said. "We didn't have any highlights or any big downfalls."

Nebraska's singles finishes serve as an example for the tournament Thursday and Friday in Oklahoma City, Okla. No Husker won an individual title, and no one finished last.

Joey Salerno earned the best finish for any Husker, second place at No. 4 singles.

Anthony Kotarac finished third at No. 6, Steve Barley fourth at No. 2, Scott Randolph fourth at No. 3, Matthias Mueller sixth at No. 1 and Karl Falkland sixth at No. 5.

McDermott said Mueller's surprising sixth place might keep him from receiving an NCAA tourney bid.

"He's got a slim chance of making the NAAs," McDermott said. "His performance at the tournament sure didn't help out his chances."

McDermott said Salerno's second place was good, as was Kotarac's third place. Kotarac had Nebraska's lone victory during Friday's second day of competition.

Mueller and Randolph finished fourth in No. 1 doubles, while Salerno and Kotarac ended up fifth at No. 2 and Barley and David Moyer finished in seventh and last place at No. 3.

Overall, the Huskers ended with 58 points, one ahead of Colorado for fourth place, but 36 behind conference champ Oklahoma State. The Cowboys finished with 95 points, two ahead of Kansas, to help them repeat as Big Eight champions.

McDermott said the Nebraska finish isn't as bad as some might think.

"We achieved our tournament goal and finished in fourth," McDermott said. "It was a satisfying end to our season."

McDermott said the main reason his team wasn't in the running for the conference crown was because of a lack of team unity.

"Tennis is as much an individual sport as a team sport," McDermott said. "Our main problem this year was that we didn't act as a team when we needed to."

He said this will lead to some changes for future Nebraska tennis teams.

"This is the first time in my 11 years that the team didn't make any type of improvement," McDermott said. "We're going to be making some changes to improve our unity and work ethic."

## Rain halts play; NU, KSU tied

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team was well on its way to the second of its needed three wins over Kansas State before rain halted play Sunday in Manhattan, Kan.

The Cornhuskers split a doubleheader with the Wildcats on Saturday and led Kansas State 9-3 in the first game Sunday when the game was halted with no outs and runners on first and third in the top of the sixth.

The game will resume today at 2 p.m., with the final game of the series to follow. The Huskers need a sweep today to remain in contention for the Big Eight tournament.

Nebraska took the lead with a grand slam from Jeff Rhein and a three-run home run from Shawn Buchanan. Josh Bullock was pitching for the Huskers.

Nebraska had a similar power outburst on the way to an 18-7 victory in the first game Saturday. The Huskers got four home runs in that game, including the first homers of the year for Vince DiGrandi and Eddie Anderson.

See **BASEBALL** on 10