Tuesday, April 30, 1991 Daily Nebraskan Could this be NU's year?

This is it. The big one. The football season everyone has been wait-ing for. Gather 'round, everyone, and get the kids out of bed.

This is important, damn it!

Ah-hem . . . drumroll, please . . . the Cornhusker football team is going to win the national championship this season.

No more excuses. No more whining. No more patsies on the schedule. This is it, baby. The 1991 Huskers are going to be

unstoppable. They're going to pass more than usual . . . maybe even on first down. Ooooh . . . ahhh!

It's going to be a hot fall this year in Lincoln. Coach Tom Osborne is hot. He'll be tanned, rested and ready for another major Division I onslaught. Even if some of his players can't remember what time --- or days --- to show up for football practice, he'll be primed.

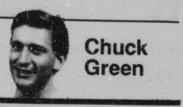
No prisoners will be taken this year by the Huskers. This is serious business, and the Blackshirt death squads will be out for blood.

Nebraska's schedule is hot, too. No more Minnesota, Northern Illinois or Montana Cub Scout Troop 451. Next season is chock full of Washingtons and Arizona States and Oklahomas and Colorados. Even Colorado State, a bowl winner last season, will make an appearance at Memorial Stadium.

But it won't be bowl time for the Rams in September. The Huskers will butt heads with them until the paint peels from their helmets.

Speaking of helmets, some of those crazy Huskers had X's on their helmets throughout the spring, and even during the Red-White game. How can you lose with that kind of frolick-

name on the scoreboard in '91. It will be a regular tic-tac-toe on the gridiron.



Footballs will fly in Memorial Stadium, and an unusual number of them will be thrown by Husker quarterbacks. Most of those passes will be caught by wingbacks and split ends with blistering speed. But back to the Blackshirts, a.k.a.

the defensive starters. Gone are Mike Croel, Kenny Walker, Pat Tyrance and the regular names in the defensive backfield. Most of them are off the National Football League.

Your teammates here will carry on your tradition, as always.

ning backs that much closer and generally making life miserable for players and coaches who come to Lincoln looking for a win at Nebraska's expense

Not this year. Recess is over.

This team will look a lot like the 1971 Huskers, revered by many especially in Nebraska - as the greatest college football team of all time. But 20 years later, the Huskers will be a trip down memory lane. They'll play alike.

Sometimes they'll walk alike and talk alike . . . what a crazy pair. Any way you look at it, '91 will be

remembered throughout the college football community as "The Year of the Husker.'

ing, fun-loving spirit? There will be X's on Nebraska's helmets and O's under the other team's Add to all that the fact that Ne-braska won't be ranked highly to start off the season, and you've got the off the season, and you've got the main ingredients of a national championship scason.

and Washington, with their legions of returning starters, will be the August favorites of coaches and sports writers alike to compete for the right to party hearty in January, with their index fingers pointing to the humid Miami or Tempe skies

But they'll all be sadly mistaken. The Huskers will go about their business quietly, demolishing teams, ranked and unranked throughout September and October, then taking aim at the Big Eight crown and a trip to the beach.

Before anyone knows what happened, Nebraska will be 11-0 and ranked atop the Division I heap.

After the smoke clears from the Orange Bowl game, the Huskers will be dancing on Biscayne Boulevard Good luck, guys, and take care. and being fitted for their national championship rings. Yessiree, this is the year the Husk-

The Husker defense that is left has crs finally win the big one. People a lot to prove, to itself and its critics. around here have been saying it for, They'll be hitting a little bit harder, oh, about 20 years now, and have covering opposing receivers and run- always ended up disappointed for one reason or another.

But this is the year the Huskers take all the marbles. Right? Right ...? Uh-huh.

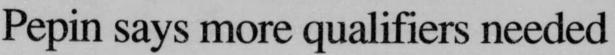
And this is also the year Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny will break dance on the Sower's head atop the State Capitol on Christmas morning while eating a plate of nachos and sour cream

Recess IS over. The Huskers will lose four games, including the bowl game, and finish third in the conference

But don't fret. Eight wins in a season is a great accomplishment. There are lots of teams and coaches who would love to have Tom Osborne's record in January.

Or so I'm told ... and told ... and told . .

In ingredients of a national cham-onship season. Miami, Notre Dame, Oklahoma Green is a senior news-editorial major, a Daily Nebraskan senior sports reporter and a copy desk editor.



By Chuck Green Senior Reporter

After one of Nebraska's best-ever performances at the Drake Relays, track and field coach Gary Pepin is still restraining his optimism about the Comhuskers' chances at the NCAA outdoor championships.

The Husker men and women each captured two event titles in the Relays last weekend, but did not qualify any more athletes for the NCAA outdoor championships, which will be held May 29-June 1 in Eugene, Ore.

"It does concern me. It always does," Pepin said. "You always want more qualifiers than you have. But there's just not much you can do. I don't sit around and dwell on it."

But, Pepin said, he hopes more Huskers will use the season's three remaining meets - two of which are

women's jumping events. But, Pepin said, Nebraska suffered from a lack of competitors at Drake. The Huskers were without entrants in both the long jump and high jump.

"It's not a true concern, where we have weaknesses, but we do hope we the favorites to can make more improvement," Pepin championship.

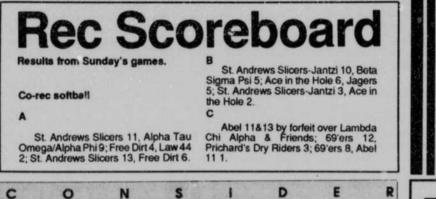
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said. "Time is running out." Pepin said Saturday's triangular with Washington and Washington State won't be easy to qualify at, either, because of the weather and the competition. Washington State is one of the favorites to win the NCAA men's

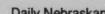


1991 Standings	Bas	eb		TT	1
Standings	through	1 Su	inday	C	2
AMERICAN LE	AGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB 1	The Week
Toronto	12	8	.600		4-3
Boston	10	7	.588	.5	4-2
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	2	3-3
Detroit	8	9	.471	2.5	2-4
Cleveland	7	9	.438	3	3-3
Baitimore	6	10	.375	4	2-4
New York	6	10	.375	4	2-3
West Division					
Chicago	11	5	.689		4-2
Oakland	12	7	.632	.5	4-2
Minnesota	9	10	.474	3.5	6-1
California	9	10	.474	3.5	1-5
Kansas City	8	9	.471	3.5	3-3
Texas	7	8	.467	3.5	3-3
Seattle	8	11	.421	4.5	2-5
NATIONAL LEA					
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB 1	The Week
Pittsburgh	13	6	.684	-	5-1
St. Louis	11	8	.579	2	4-2
New York	11	8	.579	2	3-3
Chicago	9	11	.450	4.5	2-5
Philadelphia	7	12	.368	6	3-3
Montreal	6	13	.333	7	1-5
West Division					
San Diego	11	8	.579	-	3-3
Cincinnati	10	8	.556	.5	4-3
Los Angeles	10	9	.526	1	4-3
Atlanta	8	8	.500	1.5	4-2
Houston	8	10	.444	2.5	3-3
San Francisco	8	11	.421	3	2-5

Major League

Amie DeFrain/Daily Nebraskan





 to qualify. at nome

The Huskers will travel to Seattle Saturday for a triangular with Washington and Washington State

After that, Nebraska will host the Twi-Light Invitational on May 11 and the Big Eight championships May 19-20.

"We just need some good weather and some good performances, and we'll be just fine," he said.

In the men's competition at Drake, Anthony Adkisson won the 100-meter dash in 10.49 seconds and Stephen Golding won the 110 high hurdles in a personal-best time of 13.9 seconds.

The women's 3,200 relay team won in 8:37.25 — the second-best time in school history — and the 1,600 relay won in 3:34.89. The Huskers came close in other

events. The men's and women's 400 relay teams were second.

Overall, Pepin said, the Husker teams had "a terrific meet."

"The meet went pretty much as expected," he said. "We did well in the events we've done well in all year, and we didn't do so well in the other ones. It was one of the best meets Nebraska's ever had out there, so it's hard to cut it down.

"But there still are areas we need to work hard on.'

One area in particular is the

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