

# Grant emerges as No. 1 quarterback

## Confidence is key to team's success

By Nick Hytrek  
Senior Reporter

Saturday's scrimmage marked the end of two-a-days for the Nebraska football team. It also marked the emergence of Mike Grant as the man to beat in the starting quarterback race.

Grant entered fall practice listed at the top of the depth chart with redshirt freshman Tony Veland. But after two scrimmages, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Grant had established himself as the top quarterback.

"If we had to play tomorrow, Mike would be the guy," Osborne said. "I haven't really seen anyone else step up real solidly."

A redshirt last season, Grant said confidence had been the big difference for him this season.

"I'm capable of playing and doing the job right now," Grant said. "I think I'm gaining confidence. What I'm really trying to do is build confidence of my teammates in me and also build confidence in the coaching staff that I can do the job."

The desire to be the starter has also inspired him to improve his game, he said.

"I want to be the guy," he said. "I don't want to do it on merit. I want to do it on performance."

Grant completed 2 of 7 passes for 19 yards Saturday and threw one interception. He also had 36 yards rushing. His main competitor for the starting job, Tony Veland, was 1 for 7 passing for three yards.



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska quarterback Mike Grant, right, is pursued by defensive tackle Kevin Raamaekers in a scrimmage Saturday afternoon. Grant has moved into the lead in the race to become the Cornhuskers' starting quarterback for the Sept. 5 opener against Utah.

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## AP Top 25

TEAM	RECORD	Pts.	Prv.
1. Miami (40)	12-0-0	1,511	1
2. Washington (12)	12-0-0	1,453	2
3. Notre Dame (6)	10-3-0	1,405	13
4. Florida	10-2-0	1,252	7
5. Florida State	11-2-0	1,239	4
6. Michigan (1)	10-2-0	1,236	6
7. Texas A&M (1)	10-2-0	1,135	12
8. Penn State	11-2-0	1,122	3
9. Alabama (1)	11-1-0	1,093	5
10. Syracuse	10-2-0	949	11
13. Clemson	9-2-1	719	18
14. Georgia	9-3-0	686	17
16. Iowa	10-1-1	594	10
17. Stanford	8-4-0	543	22
18. UCLA	9-3-0	527	19
19. Ohio State	8-4-0	415	-
20. California	10-2-0	377	8
21. Tennessee	9-3-0	283	14
22. Mississippi State	7-5-0	239	-
23. Georgia Tech.	8-5-0	175	-
24. Brigham Young	8-3-2	141	23
25. Texas	5-6-0	140	-

Scott Maurer/DN

## Defense outshines offense in scrimmage; Osborne satisfied with team progress

By Nick Hytrek  
Senior Reporter

After Saturday's scrimmage, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne was disappointed.

But at the same time, he was also happy with what he had just seen.

Osborne had watched the top two defensive units hold the top two offenses to only two touchdowns, and the defense's performance pleased him, he said.

"I think our defense is better by quite a bit at this stage than they were last year," he said. "I think they are more experienced and the secondary played very well today."

"Overall, I thought our first defense did pretty well."

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*I would have liked to see a little more pizzazz offensively today than what we saw. We've got the elements of a good offense and I think we'll get it put together.*

— Osborne  
NU football coach

And despite the lack of offense, Osborne remained optimistic.

"I thought our first offense, if you just put the regular guys in there — the ones with experience — they could probably move the ball pretty well," he said. "But we had a tough time after that. We played a lot of people,

a lot of quarterbacks. We tried to give everybody a chance."

Jon McMillen led all quarterbacks with 62 yards on 6 of 12 passing. Mike Grant was 2 of 7 for 19 yards and Tony Veland finished with three yards on a 1 for 7 performance. Grant threw one interception.

Osborne said the scrimmage showed that the team still has a lot of work to do before the season opener, Sept. 5, at home against Utah.

"We still have some confusion, but we've got two weeks to hopefully get some of it straightened out," he said.

The defense kept the offense scoreless until the fifth possession, when Derek Brown scored a touchdown from a yard out. The only other scores by the top two units were a four-yard touchdown run by fullback Corey Schlesinger and Tom Sieler's 32-yard field goal.

Brown and Marvin Sims were the leading rushers in the scrimmage. Both

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## Huskers 11th in AP poll

From Staff Reports

Nebraska led all Big Eight teams in the first Associated Press Top 25 poll of the season, but the Cornhuskers still couldn't crack the Top 10.

The Huskers pulled in 820 points in the voting system, which awards 25 points for a first-place vote. Colorado is 12th with 737 points and Oklahoma 15th with 662 points.

Washington, Nebraska's third opponent of the season, is ranked second behind Miami.

## Cross country teams seek successful year

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

As he enters his tenth season, Nebraska cross country coach Jay Dirksen has his hands full with contrasting teams.

On one hand, the Nebraska women's team is loaded with talent and experience. On the other hand, the men are inexperienced and young.

The women have nine returning letterwinners to lead the squad. The men's team consists of 10 freshmen and sophomores.

Yet Dirksen, whose teams begin practice today, is looking for success out of both squads.

"The women are just tremendous," he said. "It's a team with unusual depth and great talent."

The Cornhuskers lost only three members from last year's women's Big Eight Championship team.

"I don't think we'll miss them too much," he said.

Dirksen is expecting senior Fran ten Benschel, last year's conference champion, to lead his women's team to a Big Eight Championship.

"She's a hard worker and very talented on top of that," he said.

## 1992 Cross Country Preview

Coach	Jay Dirksen (10th year)
Letterwinners returning	Men-4 Women-9
1991 Big Eight finishes	Women-1st Men-5th
First meet	Woody Greeno Nebraska Invitational Sept. 19th

Scott Maurer/DN

Last year, ten Benschel became the first Husker — man or woman — to win an individual conference title since 1970.

Dirksen is also counting on junior Julieanne Campbell and sophomores Theresa Stelling and Michele Schaefer to make his team the best in the Big Eight.

Schaefer's 14th-place finish last season at the Big Eight meet was the

highest of any freshman in the conference.

Stelling and Schaefer, he said, have the ability to run with the best in the conference.

As for any conference opposition, Dirksen said he expected the greatest threats to come from Kansas and Kansas State.

"Kansas could be a challenge," he said, "but I think we will be favored to win the Big Eight."

Dirksen said the men's team had a few more question marks entering the season.

"They're quite young and I'm not sure what I can expect from them," he said.

The team, he said, will be led by senior Kevin Clark and junior David Itteffa.

Dirksen said he expected Itteffa, who finished 10th in the Big Eight conference meet last season, to be one of the top runners in the league again this season.

"He's had some really good performances in the past and his potential is just awesome," Dirksen said.

Clark, a junior from Auburn, finished 28th at the Big Eight conference meet last season.

Sophomores Kevin Miller and Renier Henning will also have the chance to contribute to the team.

Both runners, he said, are ready to compete at a higher level.

Dirksen said he hoped to see the men continue to improve throughout the season.

"By the end of the year," he said, "I think we'll be in the top half of the conference."