

Track athletes find success over weekend

By Chris Hain
Staff Reporter

In two meets last weekend, the Nebraska men's and women's track teams went on a mission.

For two Cornhusker athletes, those missions were particularly successful.

The Huskers split into two squads; one went to the Mount SAC relays in Walnut, Calif., and the other traveled to the Kansas Relays in Lawrence, Kan. By doing so, the teams hoped to improve many of their performances

and reach NCAA qualifying marks.

Husker coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased with his team's performance over the weekend.

"We're making progress in most events, and that's the important thing," he said.

The highlight of the Mount SAC relays was Robert Thomas' school-record long jump of 26 feet 9 inches. It was the fifth time Thomas broke either a long jump or triple jump school record this year.

Thomas was the only event winner for the Huskers at the Mount SAC

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NU track coach

relays.

"Robert Thomas had one of the best jumps in the country," Pepin said.

Among other athletes competing

at Mount SAC, Pepin said, senior Fran ten Benschel had one of the best 3,000-meter times turned in by a collegian this year but could not pull out the win. Distance counterpart David Itteffa was slowed after being involved in a burning accident the night before.

At the Kansas Relays, bad weather hindered many of the events, but not Krista Mader in the women's shot put.

"It was great to see Krista Mader, on her last throw, win the shot at Kansas," Pepin said.

Mader, a junior, threw 48 feet 2 inches.

The Husker track team will be splitting up again this weekend, sending part of the team to the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, and part to the Nebraska Wesleyan Invitational.

The Drake Relays will attract 5,000 high school and collegiate athletes from across the country. Former Olympian Gwen Torrence will participate in an exhibition race.

Pepin said the meet was a spectacle.

"It's one of the great collegiate meets in the country," he said. "Teams come from all over."

Huskers take third in tennis standings

Regular season ends with wins

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

With the stage set, the Nebraska men's tennis team is hoping that its next performance will help steal the national spotlight.

The Cornhuskers completed their regular season this weekend by defeating Oklahoma and Oklahoma State in separate duals to clinch third place in the Big Eight standings. The duals were both played in Oklahoma.

Coupled with the solid team finish, three Huskers earned regular-season-champion honors. Matthias Mueller garnered the title at No. 1 singles, Jan Andersen captured the no. 3 singles title, and Mueller and Anthony Kotarac, ranked 19th in the nation, took the No. 1 doubles crown.

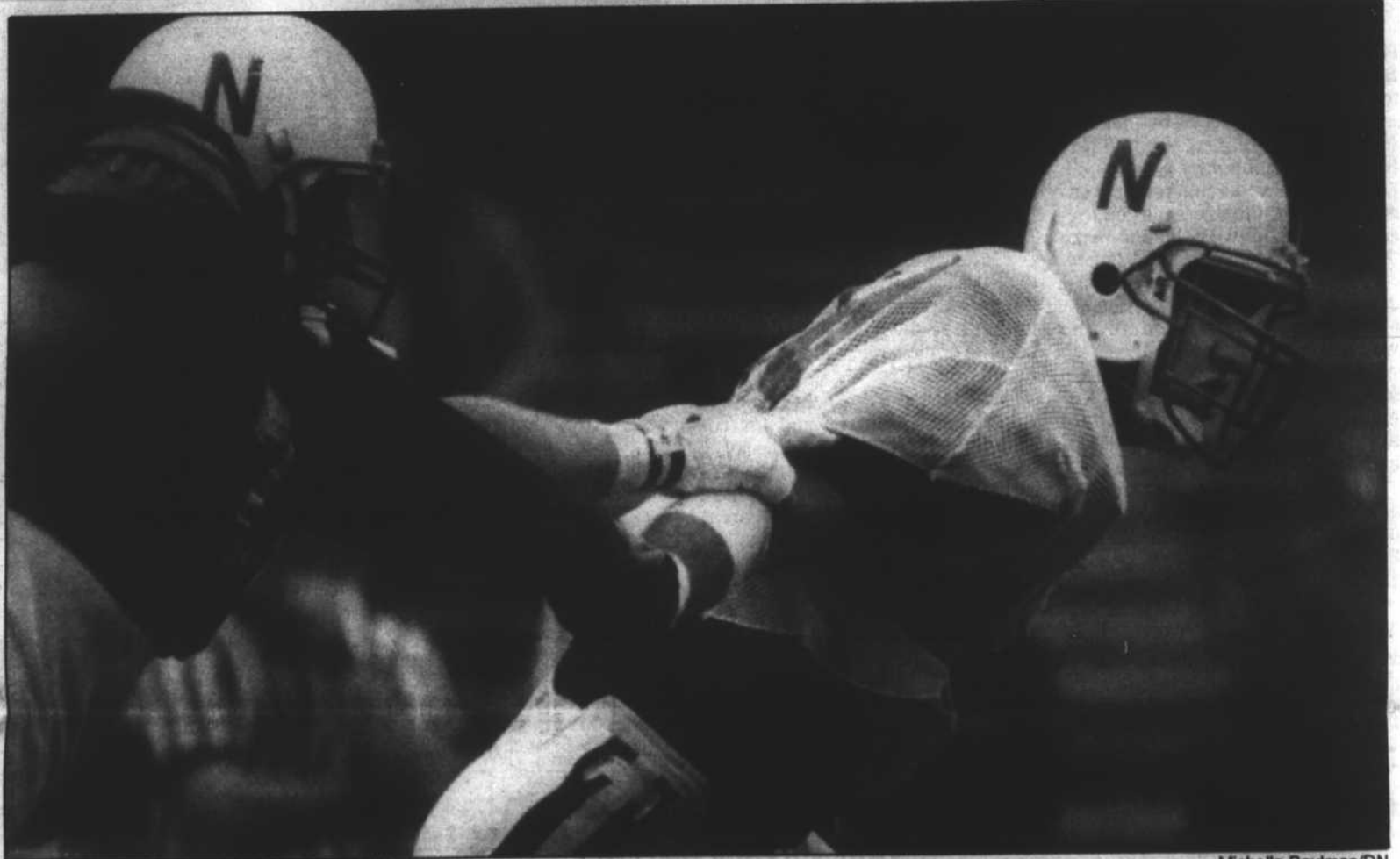
Coach Kerry McDermott said he was proud of the performances and was especially pleased with the play of freshman Andersen.

"He's very good and has a lot of room to improve," McDermott said. "He'll definitely be our No. 1 player next year."

Andersen proved that by winning both his singles and doubles matches in the Huskers' 4-3 victory over the Sooners on Sunday. Andersen also won both of his matches in the win over Oklahoma State.

Even with Andersen's heroics, the Oklahoma match stood tied at 3-3 with only Andy Davis left on the court. Just as he had done three weeks earlier against Drake, Davis defeated Phillip Farmer 7-6, 7-6 to break the tie and give the Huskers the victory.

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Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska linebacker Trev Alberts grabs the jersey of offensive tackle Lance Lundberg during a scrimmage at Memorial Stadium Saturday.

All-American hopeful feels heat

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

The pressure of trying to live up to All-American expectations — Trev Alberts knows all about it.

Nebraska's starting right outside linebacker will be trying to fulfill the All-American talk when he starts his senior season in the fall, but the hype has already begun.

"I don't think there's any question," said Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "I think Trev Alberts is an All-American-

type player, and I would be disappointed if he wasn't an All-American next year."

Alberts and the Cornhuskers are finishing up the last week of their spring season, which will be capped by Saturday's annual Red-White game at Memorial Stadium.

Alberts, who is a contender not only for All-American honors but also for the Butkus Award, said with all the attention he has been getting this spring, he appreciated Travis Hill a lot more.

Hill earned All-American honors as outside linebacker last sea-

son for the 9-3 Huskers, but now Alberts said he must assume Hill's leadership role.

"If there's anything I can say is I miss Travis a lot," Alberts said. "He took a lot of pressure off me; now it's kind of a different story and I feel a lot more pressure."

Last season, Alberts helped put the pressure on opposing offenses.

The native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, earned first-team All-Big Eight and second-team All-American honors in 1992 with 73 tackles, which ranked third best on the team, to accompany his 3.5 sacks. He also

topped Nebraska with 12 tackles in the Huskers' Orange Bowl loss to Florida State.

Last season's numbers have put Alberts on nearly all of the pre-season All-American lists, but he said he was more interested in the team's accomplishments than his own.

"I'm not really focusing on trying to be an All-American or a Butkus winner or anything like that," Alberts said. "I can honestly say if those things come, obviously

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Memories of Nebraska athletics will always be special

I'm not sure when it all started. Maybe I was born with it, or maybe it was a learned trait. But getting all caught up in the Husker hoopla always has been a part of me.

My first real memory is probably a common one.

It was the 1984 Orange Bowl. When the Huskers came a two-point conversion away from winning a National Championship, I didn't go to school the next day, I felt too sick. Instead, I laid in bed and dreamed about what could have been if only Jeff Smith had caught that pass.

Ever since that day, I have been obsessed with the Huskers. I collected autographs, memorized statistics and studied the depth charts.

I'm planning on graduating here in a couple weeks, and I still haven't outgrown the phase.

I came to this university in 1989, hoping for excitement and victories out of my beloved Huskers.

I got them both.

Oh sure, we never won the big one during my four years at UNL, but my life would have been somewhat empty without the sports.

Without the nervous jitters before the Colorado football games, and without some of the last-second heroics on the basketball court, college just wouldn't have been the same.

As a freshman, I would listen closely as the professors did roll call, just to see if there were any famous athletes in my class that I should feel privileged to be near. Whenever there was, I'd call home and share the good news with my brother.

As a sophomore, I got all hyped up for the Colorado game. I bought a Husker version of the Terrible Towel, and brought it to class with me all day Friday. I also bought a t-shirt that said "No Fifth Downs at Nebraska" and proudly wore it all day.

As a junior, I would doodle in my



Susie Arth

notebook during class trying to devise new plays for Tom Osborne or a new starting lineup for Danny Nee.

As a senior, I kissed the turf on Memorial Stadium after the Huskers beat Colorado. I still have an orange peel tucked away in my scrapbook to remind me of all the fun.

During the past four years, there have been so many great sports moments. It is probably unwise to reminisce for too long, but some of the memories will always remain.

One of the worst memories goes back to the 1991 football season, when Nebraska traveled to Colorado to play

the Buffaloes. The Huskers had lost to Colorado the year before, and I was certain Nebraska would win this time.

But Husker kicker Byron Bennett missed a field goal in the final seconds of the game, and the Huskers left Boulder with a 19-19 tie.

Former Husker tight end Johnny Mitchell will always come to mind when I think about my years in college. His talent amazed me, and I was heartbroken when he announced he was leaving Nebraska for the NFL.

Other vivid football memories were provided this last season. Freshman quarterback Tommie Frazier had taken control of the Husker offense, and the Huskers were rolling. They soundly beat both Colorado and Kansas, and Frazier looked like our long-lost star. But tragedy hit both at Ames, Iowa and in the Orange Bowl, and the Huskers lost 27-13 to Florida State.

Good times sprouted from the Bob Devaney Sports Center over the past

four years, too.

All the wins over Kansas were great, but Jamar Johnson's last-second three pointer in overtime two years ago had to be the greatest. Terrance Badgett's steal and jam this year ranks a close second.

The excitement built up during the off-season last year, when Nebraska got its best ever recruiting class. With the talent Danny Nee snagged last year, the basketball team will be in good hands for years to come.

So although I will leave UNL without a bowl victory or an NCAA tournament win, the sports will be my best memories.

I have a feeling my Husker phase will continue on long past my May 8 graduation.

And when it will all end, I have no idea.

Arth is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.