

## NCAA cuts will affect all Huskers, coach says

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

With the conclusion of spring practices last Saturday, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne was disappointed with the numbers of his players.

It wasn't their statistics that concerned Osborne, but rather the number of players who were allowed to compete due to cutbacks by the NCAA.

This season, only 88 players will be given scholarships as compared to the previous allotment of 95. Next year, the scholarships are expected to drop to 85.

Osborne said the cutbacks aren't only hurting his team, but the entire college football world as well.

"We're like a lot of college football teams right now; we've got some spots where we're thin," Osborne said. "It's probably more true today than it was five years ago."

Osborne said he puts some of the blame for the diminishing numbers on the recent push for gender equity.

"I'm all for opportunities for women—I'd hate to see it done at the expense of opportunities for men," he said. "I don't quite see the rationale there. You'd think there would be a better way to do it than to eliminate the people that generate revenue."

Talk of additional cuts has Osborne concerned as well.

Proposals of reducing entire football teams to 105 players, cutting scholarships to as few as 45 and further limitations on time and coaches allowed for recruiting will hurt the Cornhuskers, Osborne said.

"There is going to be a point where you're going to hurt the level of competition; there will come a time where the product is watered-down and not as quality," Osborne said.

And if the football team can't put a team on the field that can continue in their NCAA records of 31 straight winning seasons and 188 consecutive Memorial Stadium sellouts, Osborne said it will affect all of Nebraska's athletic teams.

"The concern is that we're being asked to fund the entire athletic program at the University of Nebraska," he said. "If we lose scholarships and can't be competitive and can't fill the stadium, it's going to hurt."

"At the present time, we have no student fees for the athletic program; if football no longer generates \$10-11 million and basketball \$3-4 million dollars per year, then we won't be able to fund the 19 sports that don't make money."



Staci McKee/DN

Creighton's Michelle Esser collides with Nebraska's Sandra Brown as Esser successfully made it back to first base after an attempted steal. Brown was injured on the play but returned to the game.

## Late blast finishes NU sweep

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team used a solo home run from Tobin Echo-Hawk in the bottom of the ninth inning of the second game to sweep Creighton in a doubleheader 2-0 and 3-2 Wednesday night.

Echo-Hawk's first home run of the season couldn't have come at a better time for the Cornhuskers, as they have now won four straight and won the season series with the rival Lady Bluejays 3-2.

"This was the rubber game. I

think it feels good for the kids," Husker coach Rhonda Revelle said. "We're playing more now for pride, and so we can look back and say that we never quit."

Revelle said she had been working on mental aspects of the game with her team, which may have been the reason for Echo-Hawk's game-winning home run.

"We've been working in areas that they didn't cover in high school ball, like visualization," Revelle said. "I think all that mental stuff is so important."

Echo-Hawk agreed.

"Coach gave us a thing on mental imagery. I think it has helped a lot of people because we're concentrating more," Echo-Hawk said. "Truthfully, I thought in my heart that I'm going to hit a home run. I pictured it going over in a different place, but I imagined it happening."

Nebraska scored its first run in the first inning when Kris Vucurevic singled in Amy Offenbacher, who reached base on a double. The Huskers then added another run in the fourth when Denise McMillen's triple knocked

in Shac Sloan.

In the first game, Nebraska again struck early, earning its first run in the first inning when Vucurevic and Sloan hit back-to-back triples. The Huskers scored again in the fifth inning after McMillen reached home off of a Dusenberry single to put them up 2-0.

Dusenberry pitched a complete game in both contests to help Nebraska raise its record to 15-22.

"(Dusenberry) is not a heat pitcher. She is a finesse pitcher and she had them off balance," Revelle said.

## Softball catcher is team's biggest fan

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

In a season which hasn't exactly gone as planned for the Nebraska softball team, senior catcher Kris Vucurevic has been the team's biggest fan, Coach Rhonda Revelle said.

Vucurevic's encouragement for her teammates may have paid off.

The Cornhuskers have reeled off four straight wins, including a doubleheader sweep of Creighton Wednesday night.

"Krissy is the one who keeps us going," Revelle said. "She's everyone's biggest fan. We haven't had a banner year, and I commend her for what she's done for this team."

A first-team All-Big Eight pick

her sophomore year and an honorable mention All-Big Eight selection last year, Vucurevic said she had hoped to do better this year.

Vucurevic, who was named to the Academic All-Big Eight team for the third time on Tuesday, went 2-for-3 with a triple and a run scored in the 2-0 victory over the Lady Jays in the first game. She knocked in a run with a first-inning single in

the second game, a 3-2 win in nine innings.

With four straight wins, Vucurevic said, she is hoping she can cap off her college career in a winning way. "We're capitalizing on the small things, which lead to big things," she said. "We have a chance of winning every game. We started strong, then fell back. Now I think that we will finish strong."

## Sportswriting a profession of highs, lows, bests, worsts

The creative art of sportswriting — it is one of the few jobs where intelligence and creativity take a back seat to patience and persistence.

Whether it entails needing 10 minutes on a five-minute deadline or getting dizzy from the constant runaround each sportswriter inevitably has to go through with coaches, players, etc., sportswriting is usually seen as a perpetual trial and tribulation.

But it can also be one of the most rewarding experiences a person can go through.

As my sportswriting career comes to an end, after years of carrying a notepad and recorder, it's obvious to me that if sportswriters don't have the best job in the world, it sure doesn't take long to read the list of who would be in contention.

In what other job can you sit down and talk to such Nebraska football dignitaries as Tom Osborne, Irving

Fryar and Tommie Frazier all on the same day?

Or in what other profession can you get Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, Kansas basketball coach Roy Williams or Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee to give you a phone call upon your request?

Or what kind of job would pay you to travel to such places as Norman or Los Angeles to watch a sporting event that you would pay big bucks to watch anyway?

So from my experiences, here are some of the best and worst aspects in the profession.

**Most quotable:** Hands down, the honor goes to Cornhusker basketball player Bruce Chubick. Here are a couple of his gems from the past year:

About playing in Stillwater's Gallagher-Iba Arena against Oklahoma State: "It's one of the toughest to play in — mainly because the



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crowd's right on top of you. They could literally spit on you anywhere you are on the court, and I'm not so sure they haven't tried."

After Nebraska struggled against lowly Sacramento State: "I felt like booing myself. The thing is, when we see ourselves playing like that, we've got to be strong enough to smack ourselves on the head a couple of times and say, 'Hey, we look awful.'"

**Least quotable:** Steve Emtman, former University of Washington defensive lineman and No. 1 draft pick of the Indianapolis Colts.

If there were ever any stereotypes

about defensive linemen, Emtman filled them all. It is often difficult to quote people when the majority of their vocabulary consists of grunts and groans and an occasional burp.

**Most enjoyable to talk to:** Nebraska legend Bob Devaney.

No matter if he's known you for two minutes or for 20 years, Devaney will always seem happy to talk and can usually mix in a story or two of his many experiences.

**Best sportswriting experience:** Going to Royals Stadium last year and getting to talk to Oakland Athletics All-Star first baseman Mark McGwire in Oakland's clubhouse.

McGwire and I, both graduates of Damien High School in California, got to talk for 15 minutes in Kansas City, with the majority of the interview taking place at a table with three people: McGwire, myself and former Oakland outfielder Jose Canseco.

**Worst sportswriting experience:** Being forced to attend the 1992 NCAA volleyball regional in Champaign, Ill.

After debating with my editor on whether I should be sent to Illinois for a volleyball match during dead week, I found myself at 6 a.m. on a bus filled with volleyball boosters on the 10-hour ride to Champaign.

A quick Husker loss ended the 36-hour trek, with 20 of those hours being spent on the fun-filled bus.

Clarence Darrow once said, "Working people have a lot of bad habits, but the worst of them is work."

Too bad sportswriting happens to be the exception.

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