

# Lineman Graham flying high as Eagles come to town

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Playing Division I-AA North Texas may not excite some Nebraska players and fans, but center Aaron Graham is one Cornhusker that can't wait.

The 6-foot-3, 285-pound sophomore will be playing against his hometown college from Denton, Texas.

"It's kind of ironic I come all the way up here to Nebraska and we end up playing (North Texas)," Graham said. "I know a lot of players on their team and some cheerleaders, so I'm really looking forward to it."

"I'm also looking forward to it because it's the first time I'll get in there in a starting role."

Graham will be alternating with senior Ken Mehlin at the center position. Mehlin will start and Graham will take over in the second quarter.

"The way we're going to rotate is perfectly fine with me," Graham said. "I'm just glad that I can be part of such a good offensive line."

Not only is Graham excited about being a part of the line, but he is just as excited about blocking for Heisman Trophy candidate Calvin Jones.

"It would be great if Calvin would win the Heisman Trophy," he said. "It's something to put in your scrap-

book and say that you blocked for the Heisman Trophy winner. I think that is a dream of most linemen."

And Graham said that dream helped him decide to choose Nebraska over Texas schools.

"My main emphasis was to go somewhere with a great offensive line program," he said. "I wanted the best coaching possible at my position and the offensive line history here is just superb. It has a great history of centers and it's my goal to be part of that list."

Graham said it was not easy adjusting to Nebraska, but he is grateful for his high school coaches for preparing him for college ball.

"It took me awhile to develop," he

said. "I was fortunate enough to have good high school coaching, and I knew my transition wouldn't take as long as some other players."

Although Graham has made the transition, he still doesn't have a lot of experience playing in front of a Memorial Stadium crowd.

"It will be tough," he said. "If we had about 50 plays on offense and 10 different ways of blocking, that would be 500 different blocking schemes in front of 76,000 people."

"But I'm looking forward to it." As are his Huskers teammates, Graham said.

"We're tired of hitting around on each other," he said. "I think we will

66  
*It's something to put in your scrapbook and say that you blocked for the Heisman Trophy winner. I think that is a dream of most linemen.*

—Graham  
sophomore center

99  
be OK but we need to control the football. We can't afford any turnovers."

# Cornhuskers blaze trail past Hawkeyes

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team started a fire that Iowa couldn't put out Wednesday night.

The Huskers jumped out to early leads in each game and never looked back, sweeping the Hawkeyes 15-5, 15-5, 15-8 in front of a crowd of 2,108 at NU Coliseum.

Husker coach Terry Pettit said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"We gave a good effort tonight," Pettit said. "When Iowa struggled, we didn't back off. We maintained our poise when Iowa was struggling."

In the first game, the Huskers scored 10 unanswered points after Iowa scored the first point. Nebraska increased its lead to 14-1 en route to a 15-5 first set victory.

Sophomore middle blocker Allison Weston, who had eight kills and three service aces, said the quick start gave the Huskers some early momentum.

## Match stats

Nebraska defeats Iowa

15-5, 15-5, 15-8

### Team leaders:

BLOCKS:	4	Stricker, Weston
ASSISTS:	35	Nikki Stricker
KILLS:	10	Billie Winsett
HITTING PERCENTAGE:	.467	Kelly Aspegren



"We played outstanding," she said. "We came out on fire. It was probably shocking for Iowa to come into this

See SWEEP on 8

# Aspegren drops jump serve, gets big jump on her season

By Stephanie Borgmeyer  
Staff Reporter

Jumping is usually an important part of a volleyball match, but Nebraska outside hitter Kelly Aspegren proved that theory wrong Wednesday night.

Although being recruited as a jump server, Aspegren abandoned her jump serve during the Cornhuskers' straight set victory over Iowa Wednesday night.

But the 5-foot, 11-inch junior didn't miss a beat, posting four ace serves

and nine kills in her first collegiate start.

"I gave up my jump serve to focus more on my outside hitting and defense," Aspegren said.

Aspegren said eliminating the jump serve gave her focus she needed in her first start at Nebraska.

"I was really nervous when the match began," she said. "But after awhile I felt a lot more relaxed and ready to play."

Aspegren said she has felt more at

See ASPEGREN on 8

# Ex-Huskie coach would help women's gymnastics team

There are only two things that I can count on each year: An NCAA football scandal and my grandmother Edy bursting into my room at 2 a.m. with an empty bottle of ripple in her hand, demanding money for a new wig.

Whereas the latter can be handled with a little family counseling, the former has become a preoccupation.

The scandal du jour hails from the home of Pearl Jam — Seattle — and surrounds the University of Washington football team and its ex-coach, Don James, the self-professed king of grunge.

No, I only kid the unemployed, but there certainly is a "grungy" element to James, who quit as coach of the Huskies following sanctions imposed by the Pacific-10 Conference after Washington violated NCAA rules.

I don't mean grunge in a despicable way or in that Nirvana sort of way.

I'm talking about that "get in the dirt and fight" definition.

James, despite looking frighteningly like Jack Lemmon, has that air of guts and glory about him. In fact, I had "Hail Varsity" ringing in my ears as I watched the James-coached Huskies beat up on Nebraska for two straight years.

Actually that probably had more to do with a congenital ear defect I have, but my point is this: James exudes a winning spirit and has the vitality to drive a program to perform with vigor — whether that be at collecting booster money or at football.

So I got to thinking, how could Paul Azinger be allowed to win the Professional Golf Association championship wearing 14 shades of brown? Don't they have a dress code?

But when I regained my train of thought, it hit me: I want Don James here at Nebraska.



Beau  
Finley

Not as a football coach because we have enough of those. We need him in a position where he can uplift a program. We need him in a place where we can feed vampirishly off his energy and sap his spirit for the betterment of an ailing UNL athletic program.

Then it hit me — I'm sure getting hit a lot; I feel like Robin Ventura — James could be our new women's gymnastics coach.

I would bet Coach Francis Allen would like to give up his chores with the women's program and get back to his old jobs of mentoring the men's team and bad-mouthing the rest.

Not only would James help revitalize a troubled program in the midst of turmoil but he may be able to popularize a sport that has not had the crowd appeal of other Nebraska sports.

James could mix a little football mentality into women's gymnastics. The hybrid may just sweep the campus as students flock to see it.

Imagine this James-style revision to the sport:

The uneven parallel bars would feature each team planted on one of the beams and then through strategic combat, the team which is removed from their respective bar would be declared — in Chicago Bears fashion — "da loser."

It would be a big charge to the fans to see gymnasts like Jennifer Hawkinson and Kristi Camp head-butting each other to psyche up for a particularly difficult routine. Hell, it might help them. You never know.

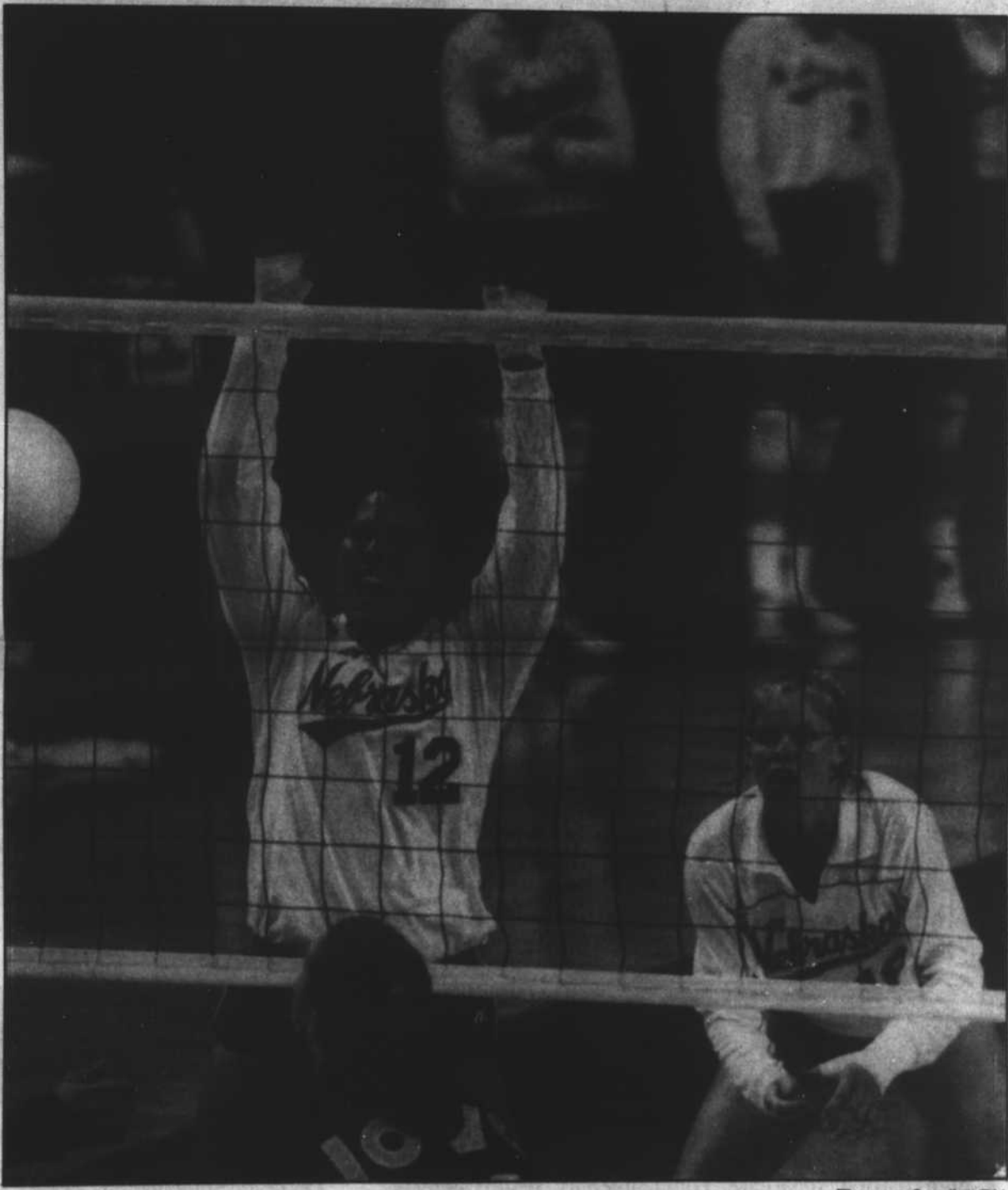
Or instead of putting that chalk stuff on before a routine, gymnasts should take some cortisone and put some "stick-um" on their hands. That would eliminate those embarrassing falls.

See, Jamesian gymnastics has some very practical attributes.

Basically the thinking behind this plan is to take a not-so-popular sport like gymnastics, which showcases beauty and grace, and corrupt it with things that appeal to the masses, like human injury. It's a fairly simple principle.

And besides that, it'll give everyone something to ponder as we wait for gymnast Nicole "Broderick Thomas" Duval to call a press conference and declare the Devaney Center "Her house" and the 1993-94 season "the Hell Raisin' Tour."

Beau G. Finley is a first-year law student and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.



Therese Goodlett/DN

Nikki Stricker finishes a block while Allison Weston looks on during Wednesday night's match against Iowa at the NU Coliseum. Stricker led the Cornhuskers with 35 assists as Nebraska defeated the Hawkeyes in straight sets 15-5, 15-5, 15-8. The Cornhuskers will face West Virginia and Pittsburgh in this weekend's Penn State Invitational at University Park, Penn.