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Stelling leaves the shadows, shines as NU team leader

By **Tony West**
Staff Reporter

Theresa Stelling spent almost all of last fall's cross country season in the shadow of Fran ten Bensel, a three-time All-American and the ninth-place finisher at last year's NCAA Championships in Bloomington, Ind.

But since ten Bensel's graduation in May, Stelling has moved to the front of the women's team and into the limelight.

Cross country coach Jay Dirksen said he couldn't be happier with Stelling's leadership this season.

"She's an absolutely great leader," Dirksen said. "She was certainly overshadowed by Fran last year and Lisa Graham before that. But I think this year she's taken on the responsibility as a leader more."

This year, Stelling finally is leading the Nebraska women's cross country team, but she still is concentrating on her own improvement. Stelling said she wanted to continue to focus on her personal goals as well as the team's.

"I want to make it to nationals and become an All-American," Stelling said. "I think I can achieve it, if everything goes right."

Just making it to nationals wouldn't be good enough for Stelling, though, she said. She wants to improve on her finish from the past two years. As a sophomore, Stelling finished 109th in 1991; she was 75th last year as a junior.

"My placing is improving every year at nationals, and I think I can improve on it again this year," Stelling said.

Stelling has made an effort to prove

that she is well on her way to that improvement this season. At this year's Minnesota Invitational, Stelling finished second. Last year she was 11th at the same meet.

Stelling's improved leadership and performance please Dirksen, he said. But he is most impressed by one other attribute Stelling has brought to the team.

"(The other runners on the team) really have a lot of respect for her," he said. "In fact, the other day one of the younger runners came up to her for help in balancing her checkbook."

That respect is something that may just lead the women's cross country team to the improvement it needs to succeed, Dirksen said.

"There's no one that works any harder than her," he said.

"I think we can make it to nationals," Stelling said.

Huskers simulate game crowd noise

From Staff Reports

In preparation for Saturday's game against Colorado, the Nebraska football team used simulated crowd noise while practicing at Memorial Stadium on Wednesday.

Coach Tom Osborne said defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers returned to practice after missing one day with the flu.

Linebacker Ernie Beler, who has a sore shoulder, was held out of practice and linebacker Ed Stewart left practice early, also suffering from a sore shoulder, Osborne said.

He said none of the injuries appeared to be serious or would prevent the players from playing Saturday.

Huskers to face game as one more obstacle

By **Derek Samson**
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Cornhuskers have posted a 7-0 record by approaching each game as their most important, players said, and that was what they intended to do again Saturday, despite recent increases in intensity surrounding Nebraska's game with Colorado.

Several Nebraska players said the upcoming battle with Colorado was just another obstacle they needed to hurdle to finish the season undefeated.

"When you play in the Big Eight, you play so many teams year after year that every game is a big game," linebacker Trev Alberts said. "Every team plays you tough at some point, so Colorado is really no exception."

"We're looking forward to playing against a team with great players like what Colorado has. That's what college football is all about."

Alberts said Nebraska's annual game with Colorado was turning into a rivalry because the Buffaloes had emerged as one of the nation's top programs.

"Any time you have a team that is ranked high, it is going to be treated as a rivalry," he said. "For the last few

years Colorado has been that team that is ranked high."

Offensive lineman Ken Mehlin said there was a different atmosphere when Colorado was involved.

"It is a lot more of an intense feeling than some of the other games," Mehlin said. "That is what I remember most about the past games with Colorado, and that intensity seems to rub off into practice before we play them."

But Colorado coach Bill McCartney's designation of Nebraska as the Buffaloes' key rival hasn't necessarily rubbed off on Nebraska players.

Tight end Trumane Bell said the Colorado games couldn't be compared to Nebraska's longtime rivalry with Oklahoma.

"I really couldn't say it is that big of a rivalry because I approach every game as my own personal rivalry," he said. "As far as our schedule goes, I guess you could say this game is right up there, but I don't think it is as big as Nebraska-Oklahoma was."

I-back Calvin Jones said the Cornhuskers did not need any extra emotion for Saturday's game.

"There is no need for a lot of rah-rah because we know what's on the line and what is at stake," Jones said.

Finley

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It's not real. Oh, the pain. Dreams are so damn unreal.

Now the Husker Du's need to focus on Colorado. The CU Golden Felons are coming into the game with a formidable ground attack and ah, ah, a formidable ground attack. Really, let's cut the crap: Is Kordell Stewart really going to hurt us?

I watched Stewart, and if he doesn't quit throwing that ball around, somebody is going to lose an eye.

My only real concern with the game Saturday is that the Huskers

will be looking past Colorado to the Iowa State game still two weeks away.

All right, enough of wussy sports-writer wishy-washiness. I've got a prediction: I say Nebraska will beat the Snuffaluffagoes by 10 and go on to the Big Eight championship. I also predict I'll lose consciousness at some point during the game.

In fact, I say bring on Notre Dame. It's not that I care about beating Lou Holtz or tearing down that Irish mystique — it's that I want to see this Husker juggernaut take out that "Rudy" guy.

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

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