

## Junior college recruit chooses Tulsa over NU

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

One day after Nebraska recruit and junior college All-American Ben Davis committed to Arizona, the Cornhusker basketball team missed out on another junior college player.

Ray Poindexter, a 6-foot-11-inch, 220-pound forward from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, committed to Tulsa on Monday, NEO coach Lonnie Spencer said Tuesday.

"Ray just felt more comfortable staying closer to home," Spencer said. "Both schools did a good job of recruiting him. He really liked Nebraska coaches (Gary) Bargen and (Danny) Nee but decided Tulsa was a better choice."

Poindexter, who made his official visit to Nebraska last weekend after making more than one unofficial visit to Lincoln, averaged 12.5 points and 7.3 rebounds per game at NEO last season.

He was scheduled to visit Tulsa this weekend.

The Huskers are still waiting on Chris Sallee, a 6-foot-10-inch, 225-pound center from Phoenix South Mountain Community College. Sallee, who also visited Lincoln last weekend, averaged 20 points and 13.2 rebounds last season.

Sallee also broke the school record for blocks, averaging 2.5 per game.

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— Spencer  
Northeast Oklahoma A&M coach

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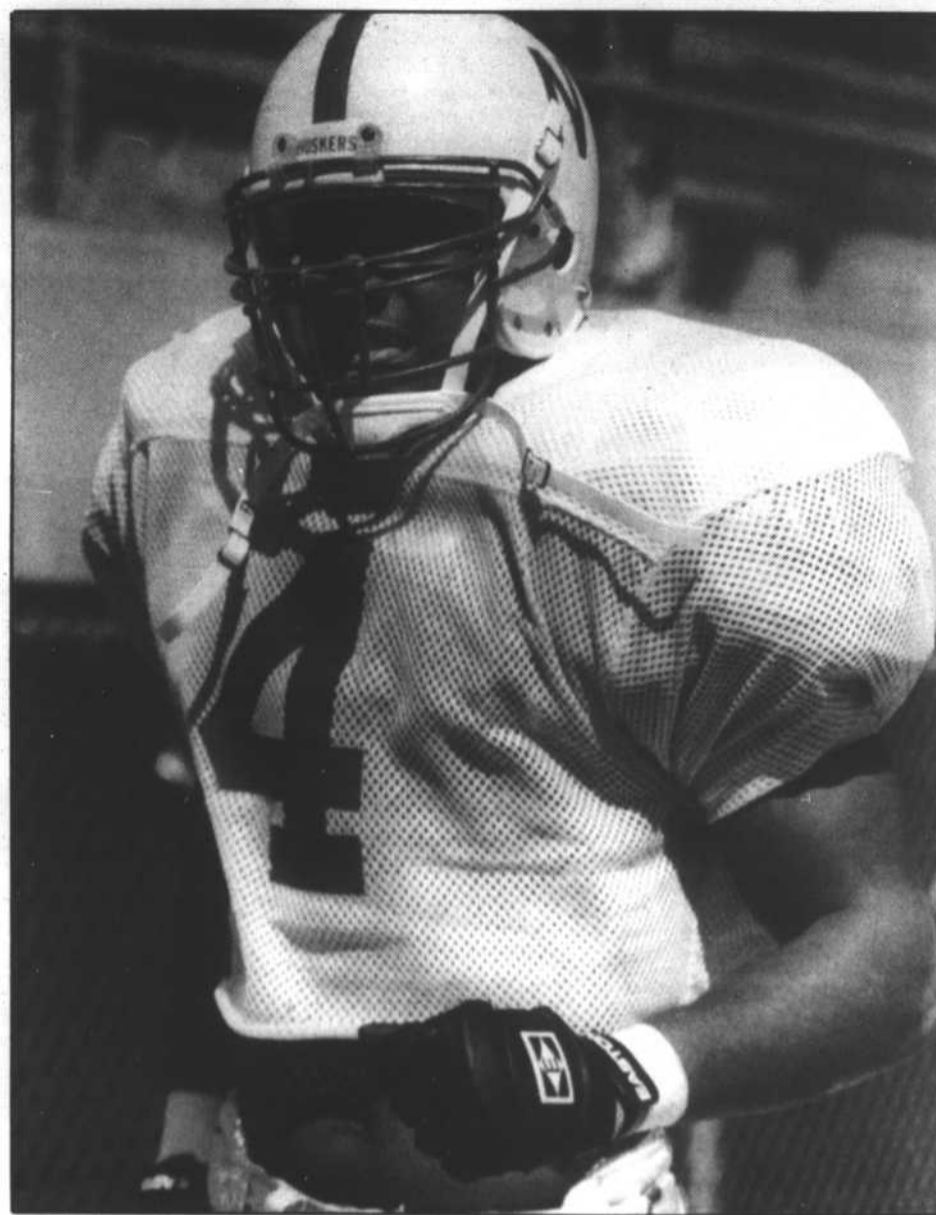
South Mountain Athletic Director Doug Ferguson said Tuesday that Sallee was "very close" to committing to Nebraska.

"I am pretty sure he's going to go there," Ferguson said. "I talked to him, and he had a great visit up in Lincoln. You guys are getting a real ballplayer in Chris. He improved 180 percent from his first to second year here."

Ferguson said Sallee would probably sign a letter of intent later this week.

Husker assistant coach Jimmy Williams visited Sallee in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday.

Nebraska, which signed four players during the fall signing period, has three scholarships to give during the spring period.

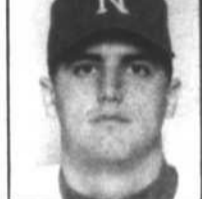


Nebraska linebacker Troy Dumas warms up by backpedaling before practice Monday. Jon Waller/DN

## NU right fielder shakes slump, helps team reverse dismal start

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Editor

For Nebraska right fielder Matt McKay, the story of the Nebraska baseball team's season draws a striking parallel to the story of his own season.



McKay

Like the Cornhuskers, McKay opened the season with great expectations.

After hitting .255, including nine homers and 33 RBIs, while playing first base in his first year with the Huskers, the senior from Omaha Burke and

Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College was planning on an even bigger season.

But like the Huskers, McKay got off to a rocky start.

McKay began the season in right field but returned to first base after Troy Brohawn was injured in the season opener.

After putting up dismal numbers at the plate through 15 games, McKay found himself on the bench.

McKay batted only six times in six games at the Pepsi/Johnny Quik Classic in Fresno, Calif., in mid-March, and his confidence hit rock bottom.

"It was rough," McKay said. "I was striking out way too much, and I didn't feel comfortable at the plate. I hit a point where I wasn't playing, and when I got in the game, I was pressing at the plate."

McKay's batting average tumbled to .231 after the opening conference series against

## Huskers win again

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team extended its winning streak to 11 by beating 21st-ranked Kansas 9-1 Wednesday night in Lawrence, Kan.

Troy Brohawn, 3-1 on the season, held Kansas to one run on nine hits.

Meanwhile Nebraska, who improved to 25-16 and 9-7 in the Big Eight, exploded for five runs in the third inning and three runs in the ninth to win.

Darin Erstad homered for the Huskers.

The loss was just Kansas' third in 20 games at home this season.

The Jayhawks, third in the conference, and the fourth-place Huskers will square up again today at 3 p.m. in Lawrence before returning to Lincoln for three games at Buck Beltzer Field this weekend.

Missouri, but he finally broke out of his slump in a big way in the next series against Oklahoma State.

McKay went 9-for-19 with two homers in the five games against the Cowboys, and he won back his starting spot in right field.

"I got my confidence back against Oklaho-

See MCKAY on 11

## Closing the deal Senior looking to lead Blackshirts

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

When Nebraska football player Troy Dumas was in 10th grade, he made a big decision about his future.

"I decided if Nebraska ever offered me a football scholarship, I would take it," he said.

So when the Cornhuskers came calling, Dumas held up on his part of the deal. But he didn't stop there.

"I wasn't going to come in and sit around and be third- or fourth-string," he said. "I was going to come in and do what I could do, and the rest would take care of itself."

Once again, Dumas came through. He was one of only three true freshmen to see playing time for the Huskers in 1991.

Playing as a freshman was a rewarding experience, Dumas said.

"That was very exciting," he said. "It puts

me at a loss for words, because coming from Wyoming, a lot of people like myself don't get a chance to venture out of state."

Now the 6-foot-4-inch, 220-pound senior from Cheyenne, Wyo., has set his sights on another goal.

Dumas, at the top of the depth chart at Sam linebacker, wants to help the defense reach its potential.

"This defense has the ability to be dominating," Dumas said. "We want to be the best. I'm impressed. From what I have seen, we have the quickest defense since I've been here."

That quickness has shown this spring, especially in Saturday's scrimmage.

Nebraska's No. 1 offense ran into a brick wall Saturday, totaling minus 8 yards in its first three possessions.

But it may be too early to tell how good

See DUMAS on 11

## All aboard for wild ride toward last-chance national title

Francis Allen was kind of wild in Bob Devaney's eyes.

When Devaney hired Francis Allen as Nebraska men's gymnastics coach in 1969, the Cornhuskers were coming off a 2-7 season, including a sixth-place finish at the Big Eight championships.

Allen was an assistant coach for Jake Geier on that 1968-69 team.

Despite Allen's youthful exuberance — he was just four years out of college — Devaney hired Allen.

And he hasn't regretted it since.

"I threatened him a couple of times," Devaney said. "I used to threaten to fire him once in a while. But I don't think he ever believed it, and I didn't either."

Luckily for Nebraska, and the sport of gymnastics, Devaney didn't let Allen go.

Allen has contributed his fair share to the sport.

His accomplishments include:

- Seven national titles.
- Four Olympians and 30 individual national champions.
- Coaching the Olympic team twice, once in 1980 when the United States boycotted the Moscow games and once in 1992.

This weekend, when the NCAA Gymnastics Championships take center stage at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Allen wants to add a little bit more to his resumé.

He wants his eighth national title.

And it may be one of the last national title chances Allen will get at Nebraska.

Proposal 158 will eliminate men's gymnastics as an NCAA-sanctioned sport after the 1994-95 season. The proposal states that a sport must have 40 Division I schools competing in it to remain a sanctioned sport with a national championship meet.



Tim Pearson

Only 36 schools have men's gymnastics teams.

Coming up four short could leave Nebraska without a gymnastics program and Allen without a team to coach for the first time in 25 years.

But Allen doesn't think he'll be without a job.

"There are a lot of things that can happen," he said. "The NCAA has a year to make a decision. They could make a decision to have 36 schools vote to have gymnastics."

Athletic Director Bill Byrne has assured Allen that Nebraska will field a gymnastics team after the 1995 sea-

son.

Some schools that decide to retain gymnastics may choose to form their own league if the NCAA doesn't sanction gymnastics, Allen said.

While he doesn't know what the NCAA will do, Allen said, he has a good idea that it won't benefit the sport.

"I tell you that it sure isn't going to advance gymnastics," he said.

Whatever happens, Allen has left his mark on the Nebraska athletic program. Seven national championships in the last 14 years is amazing.

"Francis Allen has added a lot to our athletic program," Devaney said. "He's been the best during the time he's been here."

And this year's team may be Allen's best ever. His senior class — Dennis Harrison, Che Bowers, Sumner Darling and Burkett Powell — wants to go out as winners.

They were supposed to win the last two years, but they finished second both times.

And Allen has said all year that his team is the best in the nation.

"We're ready," Allen said. "We can win it easily, but we can also lose it."

The Huskers lost to both Stanford and Oklahoma this season, but they avenged those losses at the regional meet.

Nebraska's other loss was to No. 2 Ohio State. This weekend will give the Huskers a chance to avenge that loss.

Win or lose, you can be sure Allen's team will be prepared to compete.

And you can be sure Allen will make this year's championships as wild as ever.

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