

NU recruits center from Arizona college

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team hauled in its first recruit of the spring signing period late Tuesday night.

Chris Sallee, a 6-foot-10, 235-pound center from Phoenix South Mountain Community College, signed a letter of intent to play for the Cornhuskers next season.

Whether or not Sallee will be eligible to play at the start of the season is yet to be known.

Prior to coming to South Mountain in 1992, Sallee spent one semester at Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College. He then transferred to South Mountain and played two seasons.

“Nebraska will love what he does. He learns quickly and has a lot of improvement still left in him.”

— Young
Phoenix South Mountain Community College coach

The NCAA has ruled that Sallee is eligible to play 1 1/2 years at a Division I school.

But South Mountain Athletic Director Doug Ferguson said Sallee was appealing the rule in hopes of receiving a full two years of eligibility.

“It looks like he has a pretty good chance of getting the full two years,” Ferguson said.

Sallee, whose main sport was soccer until last year, averaged 20 points and 13.2 rebounds per game last season for South Mountain.

“Nebraska will love what he does,” South Mountain basketball coach Willie Young said. “He learns quickly and has a lot of improvement still left in him.”

Young said Sallee spent much of the 1992 season on the bench with a nagging ankle injury. He averaged 5.8 points and 4.6 rebounds in 19 games.

But he worked hard during the off-season, Young said, and dedicated himself to basketball.

“He chose basketball over soccer,” Young said. “He was on a mission last year. He had the type of season that has not been seen here. Chris will bring to Nebraska a positive work ethic before he ever begins to play.”

Young said Cornhusker assistant coach Jimmy Williams did an excellent job of recruit-

See RECRUIT on 8

Stai, linemen are preparing to ‘run over’ foes

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Last fall, Nebraska senior offensive guard Brenden Stai broke his leg in the Missouri game.



Stai

But he didn't realize what had hit him — or the Husker offense — until Nebraska's next few games.

Averaging 9.1 knock-down blocks a game, Stai helped the Huskers gain 302 yards of rushing per game through their first seven games. But after Stai's injury, the Huskers' rushing average dropped 41 yards per game.

“That was real frustrating for me because I've never experienced anything like that,” he said. “It was a complete shock but it hit me more when I was watching everyone in practice.”

“Then, the next week we played Colorado, and that's when it hit me smack dab in the middle of my chest. It is definitely something that I can use as a learning experience.”

It's something he's using this spring as extra motivation for the fall.

After weighing in at 310 pounds his sophomore year, Stai said he is back down to his ideal weight — 300 pounds.

“I think this is perfect for me because I've always had explosiveness off the ball,” he said.

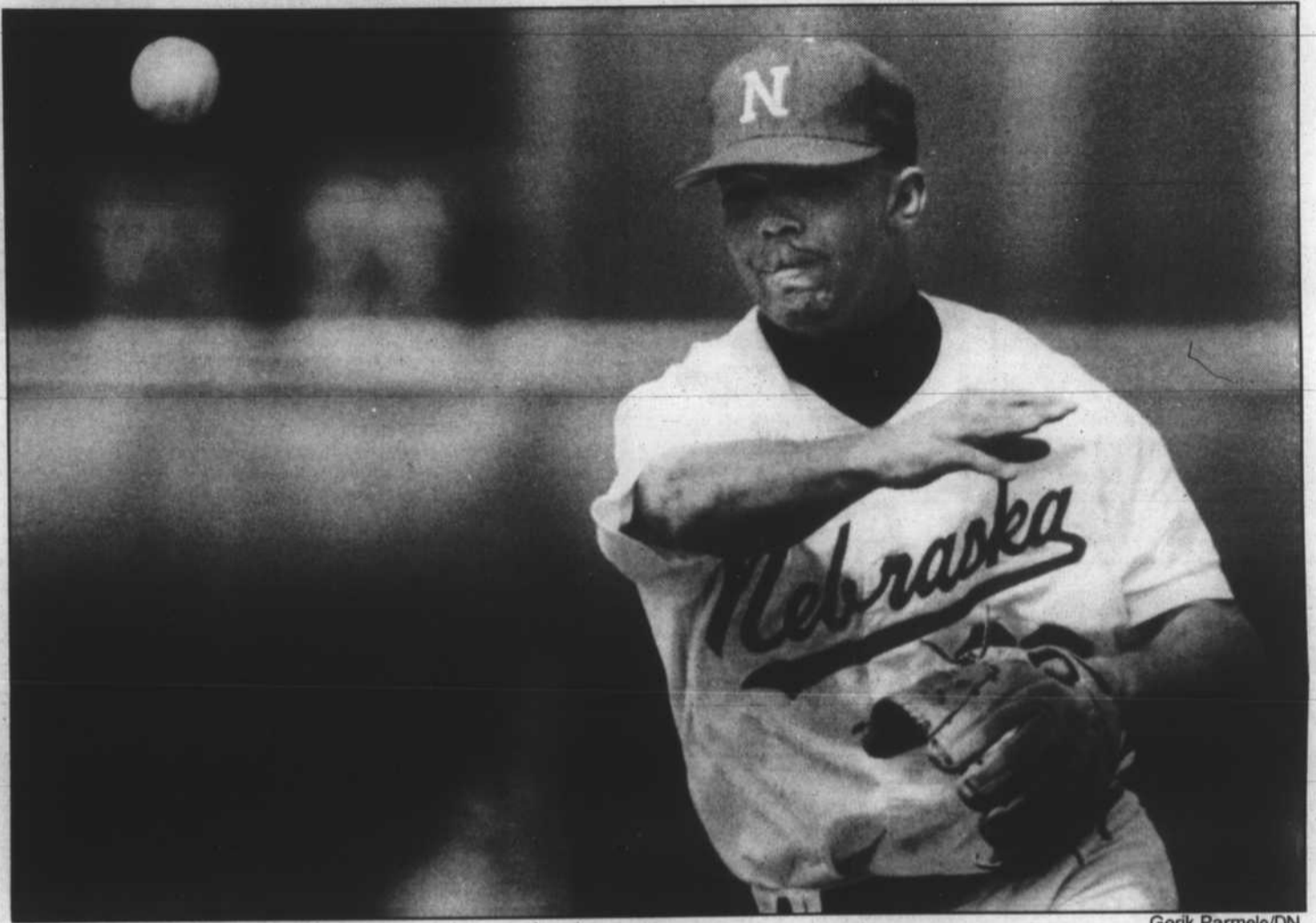
With second-team All-American and first-team All-Big Eight tackle Zach Wiegert lining up next to him on the right side, Stai said, Nebraska's running game should be as good as ever.

“Personally, I think we're just going to run over everybody,” Stai said. “All the experience we have and the serious talent we'll have in the backfield with Lawrence Phillips, Clinton Childs and Damon Benning, it'll be tough to stop us.”

Barring injuries, Coach Tom Osborne said, the offensive line should not be an area of concern.

“They're somewhere close to the very best that we've had,” Osborne said. “Right now, Wiegert, Stai and (Rob) Zatechka have a chance

See STAI on 8



Gerik Parmele/DN

Shortstop Darin Petersen and the Huskers won their 12th-straight game Wednesday with a 5-2 victory over Kansas. With the win, the Huskers jumped to third place in the Big Eight.

Baseball team cruises to 12th-straight win

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team won its 12th-straight game by beating No. 20 Kansas 5-2 in Lawrence, Kan., Wednesday.

With the win, Nebraska, 26-16 and 10-7 in the Big Eight, moved ahead of Kansas, 27-13 and 11-9, into third place in the Big Eight.

Nebraska scored two runs in the first inning and three runs in the third, and held on to win. The win was the second in a row over the Jayhawks, who lost their fifth home

game of the season.

Sophomore left fielder Darin Erstad went 3-for-4 with two RBIs in helping Nebraska win its 14th game in 15 outings.

Third baseman Derek Dukart went 1-for-3 and extended his hitting streak to 20 games.

Designated hitter Troy Brohawn went 2-for-5, and right fielder Matt McKay went 2-for-4.

Tom Bergan, 4-4, picked up the win for the Huskers. Jayhawk pitcher David Meyer dropped to 5-4 with the loss.

Nebraska and Kansas will play three games this weekend in Lincoln. The Huskers and Jayhawks will play single games on Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

Nebraska	203	000	000	—	5	11	1
at Kansas	010	010	000	—	2	6	2

E — Nebraska, Petersen; Kansas, English, Wilmot.
DP — Jayhawks 2. LOB — Huskers 6, Jayhawks 10.

2b — J. Dalton (7). 3b — A. Shepherd (2).
SB — Dalton (21); Kansas, D. Rude.

Talk show host lets guests, callers speak their mind

Let's talk talk.
Sports talk.
Yoooooou're on, America.
And I'm off.

Here's a static-free bulletin for the loudmouthed, opinionated sports talk show hosts everywhere:

Your shows have grown tiresome. You're doing little more than yapping. Yacking. Yammering.

Taunting pro players. Getting beat up by pro players.

Moaning about officiating. Crying about calls. Cutting off callers.

It's time to dial up a reality check: Your hot air is overheating the airwaves.

Unless, that is, you're Ron Barr. Barr is sports radio's Ted Koppel — with a personality. His show, “Sports Byline USA,” might as well be called “Sports Nightline.”

“My show's a little different from other people's,” Barr said Tuesday

before broadcasting live from the Nebraska Union. “We don't deal with just the Xs and Os. We deal with issues.”

“And we let our listeners talk with the people who have left their mark on others.”

On Tuesday night, more than 100 people at the Nebraska Union joined the thousands listening on 250 stations nationwide as Barr interviewed Nebraskans who had left their mark.

Tom Osborne, Ben Nelson, Johnny Rodgers, Trev Alberts, Tommie Frazier and Jaron Boone took turns behind the mike.

But they weren't there to get burned.

Barr is the anti-Jim Rome, broadcasting's big-mouthed bully who recently picked a fight with Jim Everett on ESPN II.

“I try to keep my opinions out of it,” said Barr, whose show airs week-



Todd Cooper

nights on KFOR. “My job is to give information to people. Then they can say, ‘You know, I felt this way, but now that I know this, I feel differently.’”

Mostly, Barr brings out the human side of athletes.

On Tuesday night, he drew endearing emotions from former Nebraska wingback and Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers.

Barr talked a bit about Rodgers' noted punt returns. But the talk show host spent most of his time probing Rodgers' return to school 20 years after his Nebraska glory days.

And Barr brought out the reason behind Rodgers' resiliency.

“Sports give you a good attitude,” Rodgers said. “They give you the attitude to never give up. It doesn't matter how many times you fall down; it's how many times you get back up that matters.”

Barr has received more than a few comments like that in the past.

He's elicited emotional responses from the likes of Lee Trevino and Billie Jean King.

And he has investigated issues from steroid use to gender equity to the pressure that surrounds athletes.

“I try to use this show as a social forum,” he said. “I take that part of the show very seriously.”

Not that he doesn't have fun with his callers. Barr sometimes adds cheesy controversial comments, like his declaration Tuesday night that the Big East crew who officiated the Or-

ange Bowl should stick to basketball.

But most of the time, Barr doesn't have to spark responses.

“There's a certain passion for sports out there,” he said. “People have opinions about everything. They may not express themselves about religion and politics.”

“But they will express an opinion about sports. And the beauty of it is no one's really wrong.”

Callers can't go wrong with Barr, unless they don't have a reason for their opinions.

“People don't want to embarrass themselves on national radio,” Barr said. “I'll let anyone have their say unless they don't have any reasoning behind what they say.”

“I don't need the wise guys.” Neither does radio. But it could use a few more professionals like Barr.

Cooper is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.