

## Osborne: Summer conditioning key to '95 title hopes

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska football team has an attitude.

The Cornhuskers' approach to spring practice, which ended Saturday, differed from last year.



Osborne

But the Huskers hope it will produce the same results as last year—a shot at a national title, linebacker Donta Jones said.

"We got an attitude that we have to work together," he said.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he was impressed by what that attitude produced in spring practice. But he cautioned against judging

his team by what it did in the spring.

"My impression is that we have a chance to have a little better football team," he said. "But that doesn't necessarily transfer into a better season."

Osborne said the summer would be even more important to his team than spring ball.

"A lot depends on what the players do in the next two or three months," he said. "We need to be a lot better conditioned come fall."

Husker players said they planned to act on their coach's advice.

After taking a couple of weeks off to heal from the spring, the Huskers will be back in the weight room, quarterback Tommie Frazier said.

"I'm going to hit the weights and condition hard," he said.

Jones said another national championship shot might depend on the Huskers' conditioning habits during the summer.

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— Osborne  
NU football coach

"We have to work pretty hard in the off-season," Jones said.

After the Red team's 43-19 win in the Spring Game, Osborne said it was evident that the Huskers worked hard during the spring.

"We had an aggressive spring," he said. "Everybody worked hard and hit hard."

"We made a lot of progress as a team."

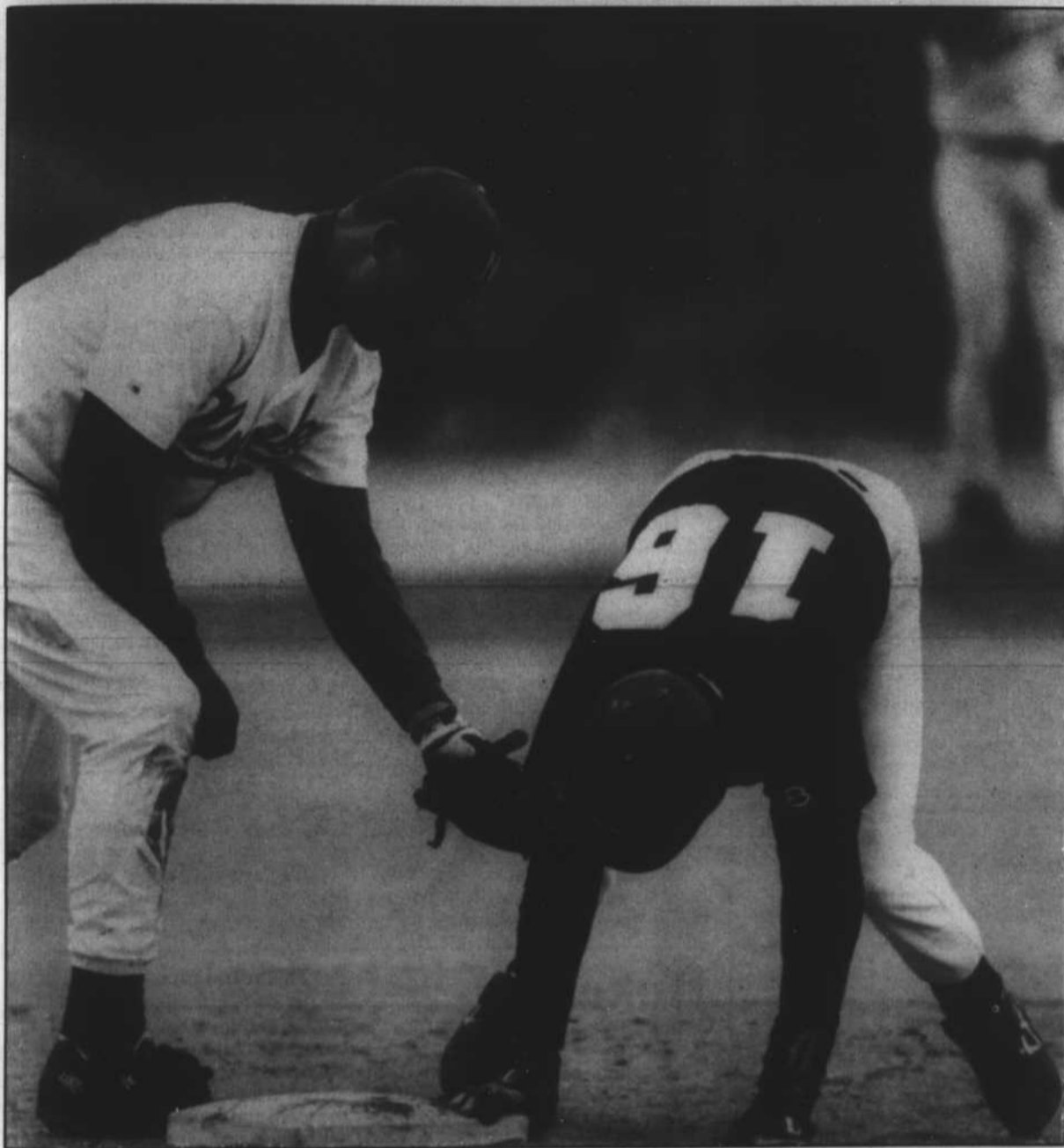
But one area that needs further improvement before the Huskers' Aug. 28 opener

against West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic is the kicking game, Osborne said.

Nebraska is searching for a replacement for three-year starter Byron Bennett at kicker. Bennett also punted last season.

The Husker kickers missed three extra points Saturday, and one pass for two points failed.

"The kicking game still needs work," Osborne said. "We need to find someone who's a good holder."



Jay Calderon/DN

First baseman Alvie Shepherd attempts to put a tag on Missouri first baseman Jay White during the second game of the Huskers' doubleheader with Missouri Wednesday. Nebraska, which won both games over Missouri, will take on Creighton today at 3:30 p.m. in Omaha.

## Huskers claim two from Tigers

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team found the cure to shaking its three-game losing streak Wednesday:

Forty-degree weather.

The Cornhuskers swept Missouri 5-1 and 11-5 in front of 103 people at Buck Beltzer Field.

Nebraska improved to 12-10 in the Big Eight and 28-19 overall, while Missouri dropped to 9-11 in conference play and 30-16 overall.

"You have to lay it aside in this kind of weather," Nebraska coach John Sanders said. "It's kind of like a mud wrestling match. You're out there slopping around just trying to stay warm."

Sanders said the cold weather was just another obstacle the Huskers had

to overcome.

"There's some pressure to play in weather like this," he said. "The guys have to focus."

Following a one-hour rain delay, Nebraska beat Missouri 5-1 in the opener behind a complete game from Alvie Shepherd, who improved his record to 2-3.

The 6-foot-7 right-hander struck out nine Tigers and allowed seven hits, while going 3-for-4 with a run scored and an RBI.

The victories were the Huskers' first since April 20, when they beat Kansas 5-2 in Lawrence, Kan. Nebraska dropped three straight games to the Jayhawks last weekend in Lincoln.

Sanders said the sweep was impor-

See SWEEP on 8

## Dukart approaching hitting streak record

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska senior third baseman Derek Dukart became two steps closer Wednesday night to owning Nebraska baseball's longest hitting streak.

Dukart, who went 5-for-8 with three RBIs, extended his hitting streak to 25 games in leading the Huskers to a doubleheader sweep of Missouri.

Dukart is now only three games away from tying Kenny Ramos' Nebraska record of 28 consecutive games

with a hit.

"I'm really confident now," Dukart said. "I go up thinking I'm going to get a hit every time."

Dukart passed Robin Ventura's streak of 24 consecutive games in 1986 to move into a three-way tie with Monty Farias (Oklahoma State, 1988) and Otto Kaifos (Kansas State, 1987) for fifth on the Big Eight's all-time list.

See DUKART on 8

## 1993-94 sports highlights provide relief from finals

OK, folks.

Forget about finals. Close the books. Turn off the night light.

It's time to shine the spotlight on the highlights of the '93-'94 sports year.

Consider this jog down memory lane a cure for brain bog.

Because, more than anything, '93-'94 proved that the people who persevere often inspire.

Unfortunately, they also retire.

The fall semester began with the end of a few inspirational careers.

Nolan Ryan and George Brett called it quits on three decades of professional play in early October.

But their legends live on.

No one will soon forget the mark the lone Ranger made on a generation of fans. Ryan taught that it's possible to remain active — and fire a fierce fastball — at 40. Likewise, Brett showed how to complete a career on top.

Michael Jordan took Brett's example to heart. When Jordan decided

to land after a quick gravity-defying NBA career in October, he said he was going to watch the grass grow and then go cut it.

Few took him literally. Nobody thought Jordan would be tearing up the turf in right field as a member of the Chicago White Sox baseball organization.

And when he showed up for spring training in February, few took him seriously. Jordan offered a simple, yet profound, explanation for his attempts to succeed at a sport he hadn't played since high school:

"I can accept failing," Jordan said, "but I can't accept not trying."

After leading the Double-A Birmingham Barons in batting during most of April, Jordan has proven that neither the prospects of failing — nor his dad's tragic, inexplicable murder — can keep him grounded.

It seemed like nothing could keep the Nebraska basketball team down after winning the Big Eight Tourna-



Todd Cooper

ment Championship.

Then came Penn. Nebraska's fourth-consecutive NCAA Tournament loss at the hands of the Quakers cast a deep shadow over the Big Eight tournament title.

Nevertheless, Pike's peak and the Huskers' play in the Big Eight Tournament provided one of the most exciting moments in Husker hoops history.

But no other Nebraska sporting event could match the excitement of this year's Orange Bowl.

Who could forget the one-armed bandit, Trev Alberts, relentlessly pursuing and pounding Florida State quarterback Charlie Ward?

Who could forget Tommie Frazier's performance, which stole the show from the Seminoles' draft-dodger?

And who could forget Tom Osborne's classy response Jan. 2, when instead of joining the crowd and crying about the officiating, he commented on the character of his players?

Courage was all over a different playing field earlier this month.

While waiting for a doubleheader to resume after a rain delay, Bob Offenbacher, father of Nebraska softball player Amy Offenbacher, suffered a heart attack.

Nebraska assistant coach Lori Sippel and trainer Chris Oelling administered CPR to Offenbacher until paramedics arrived.

Two weeks later, the elder Offenbacher is resting comfortably at home. But his attitude toward life wasn't the only one affected.

"It really does change your outlook," Amy said. "It's not as impor-

tant anymore to be winning or losing."

April Yarmus, a freshman tennis player from Mesa, Ariz., echoed that perspective.

While her mom's battle with bone cancer loomed overhead, Yarmus upset the 54th-ranked player in the nation and went on to finish the season with a team-leading 14-4 record.

And all along, she promised to keep fighting for her mom.

"My mom's illness has made me look at things differently," Yarmus said. "I realize how fortunate I am to be able to play sports or even just to walk. It gives you a new perspective and shows you what is really important."

And it — along with the rest of the year's inspirational stories — makes getting through finals seem incredibly easy.

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