

Opener to provide challenge for men's tennis

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team isn't taking the easy way out to start off the fall season.

The Cornhuskers opens their season this weekend at the Notre Dame Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

Coach Kerry McDermott said the result of the invitational, which runs from Friday through Sunday, should tell him a lot about his team.

"There are so many different opponents that it is sort of the highlight of the fall," he said. "It's a great tournament to get in. We get to see our players perform and get a better idea of where we stand."

The 16-team tournament will feature such schools as Notre Dame, Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Ball State and Wake Forest.

"We're ready to get into some competition, especially those freshmen," McDermott said. "With all the NCAA rules, it really makes you enjoy playing someone else. We can only practice 144 days out of the year and compete in 25 matches."

"They do so much conditioning before anything even starts, and all they can do is look forward to competing with someone else. I think everyone is looking forward to it."

McDermott is looking forward to seeing how his three highly-regarded freshmen — Marcus Bergerheim, Chad VanHorn and Thomas Wheat — will fare in their first action.

Bergerheim, who is from Göteborg, Sweden, will "probably hold down

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KERRY MCDERMOTT

Nebraska men's tennis coach

the No. 1 spot," according to McDermott.

"He's a very good player," McDermott said. "I think this weekend will open his eyes to what college tennis is all about."

McDermott said the eyes of all the freshmen would be opened early in the season.

"So many of those freshmen are used to playing No. 1 on their high school teams, and they have a hard time once they get to college," he said. "It's hard for them to adjust to fighting just for a spot on the team. They have to realize not everyone can play the No. 1 spot."

Although it is still early, McDermott said he was confident the Huskers would improve their last season record of 7-20.

"I feel like we're going to have a better team than last year," he said. "We're all looking forward to getting into some competition to see where we stand. We're taking eight or nine guys down there (to South Bend). I'd like to see us get some guys in the semis or finals, but I don't really know where the guys are just yet."



McDermott

The Weekend In Nebraska Sports

Friday

Soccer Baker College at Whittier Fields, 4p.m.
Men's Tennis Tom Fallon Invitational, South Bend, Ind.
Volleyball LSU Invitational, Baton Rouge, La.

Saturday

Volleyball LSU Invitational
Football UCLA at Memorial Stadium, 2:34p.m.
Men's Tennis Tom Fallon Invitational
Cross Country Woody Greene Invitational at Pioneer's Park
Softball Husker Fall Classic at NU Softball Complex

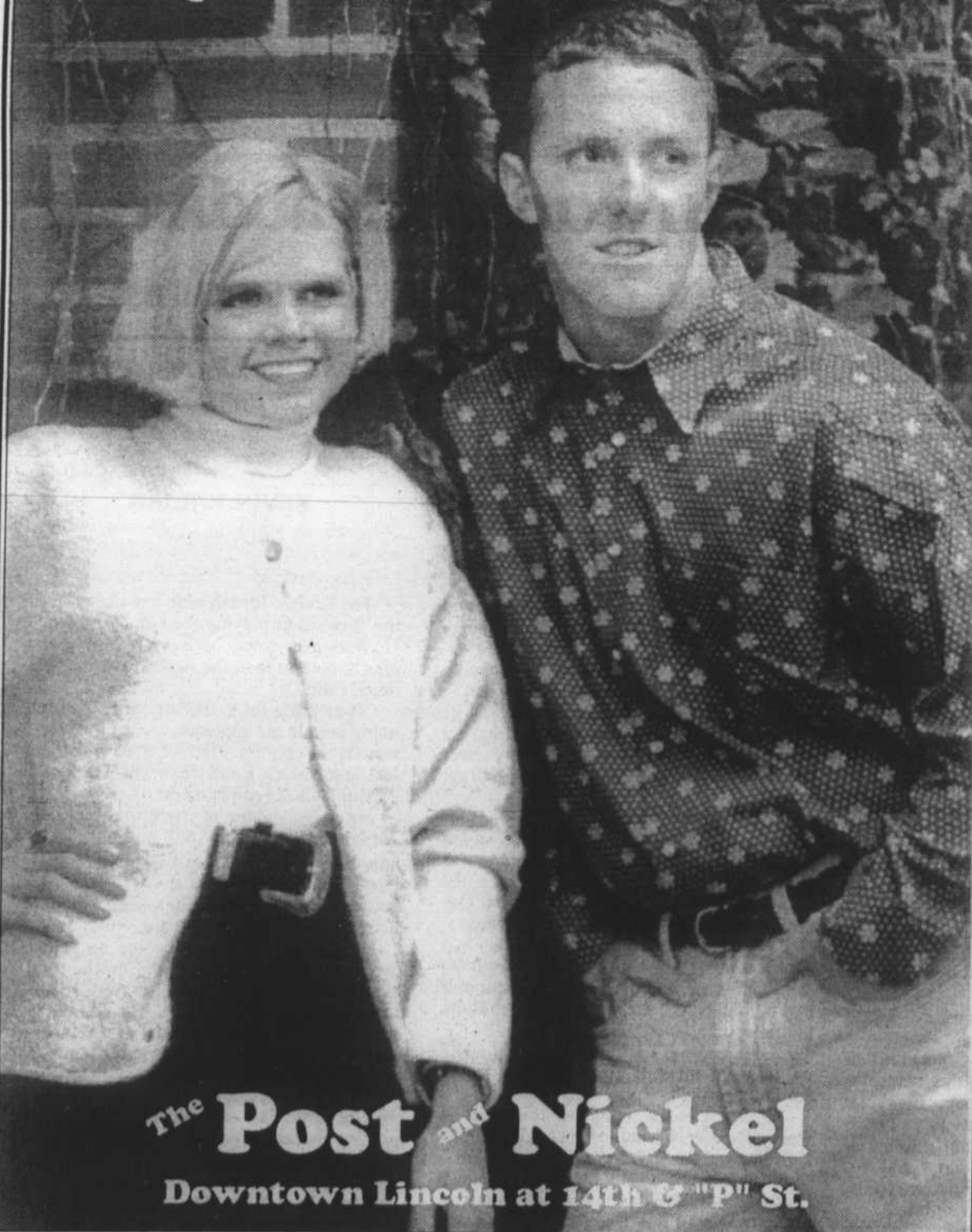
Sunday

Softball Husker Fall Classic
Men's Tennis Tom Fallon Invitational
Soccer Park College at Whittier Fields, 1p.m.



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Prairie Stomp

A Country Western party on East Campus. The stomping starts tonight, Sept. 16 at 8 pm, and it's FREE to everyone.

Our Young Black Men Are Dying But Nobody Seems to Care

This is a play like no other you have seen before! Sept. 23, 7:30 pm at the Nebraska Union. Tickets available at the door.

International films fall 1994

The Wedding Banquet is showing at the Mary Rieppma Ross Theatre. Sept. 25, 3, 5, 7 & 9 pm. Tickets at the door.

Willie & Jackie

A comedy duo with Willie Barcena and Jackie Guerra. Sept. 27, 7:30 pm at the Nebraska Union. FREE for UNL Students w/ID.

Jack Thompson

This lecture will be on Gay Rights & Censorship in Music. Sept. 28, 7:30 pm at the Nebraska Union. FREE for UNL Students w/ID.

Say So

Artsy Pop Music For People Who Aren't Mad About Much. Come and see this musical duo. Sept. 29, 7:30 pm at the Culture Center. FREE to UNL Students w/ID.

The Eagles

Monday October 3, 7:30pm at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Contact TicketMaster for ticket information.



University Program Council

Events Hotline: 472-8150

Edwards

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won't lack any emotion. "You can't help but like playing in those hostile environments," he said. "It's fun to go into someone else's place and take the fans' out of the game. A lot of us on the team knew we had the opportunity to win last year, and we didn't get the job done."

"We're very excited about this. Personally, I've never played a No. 1 team before. It's a great opportunity for us to go in there and prove ourselves."

LSU

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Kruger, who lettered for the Huskers in 1975 and 1976, coached at the University of Nebraska at Omaha before taking over the Terps' program in 1988.

Pettit said he is not concerned over how long Nebraska's win streak continues.

"We know the level we have to play at the end of the season," Pettit said. "We work toward that. Obviously we have to win our matches along the way, but ultimately we are dealing with the big picture, not preparing for the next opponent."

As the current Nebraska team has gained experience, Pettit said, it has been able to work towards more long-term goals.

The Huskers' lineup consists of five returning starters and Christy Johnson, who is considered by the coaches to be just as experienced as the returning starters.

"It goes in cycles," Pettit said. "The more inexperienced your team, the more you have to prepare on a week-to-week basis for who you are playing. When you have a more experienced team, you can focus on things that will get you where you want to be at the end of the season."

"Teams usually move in three- or four-year cycles and, we are now moving toward a more experienced unit."

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