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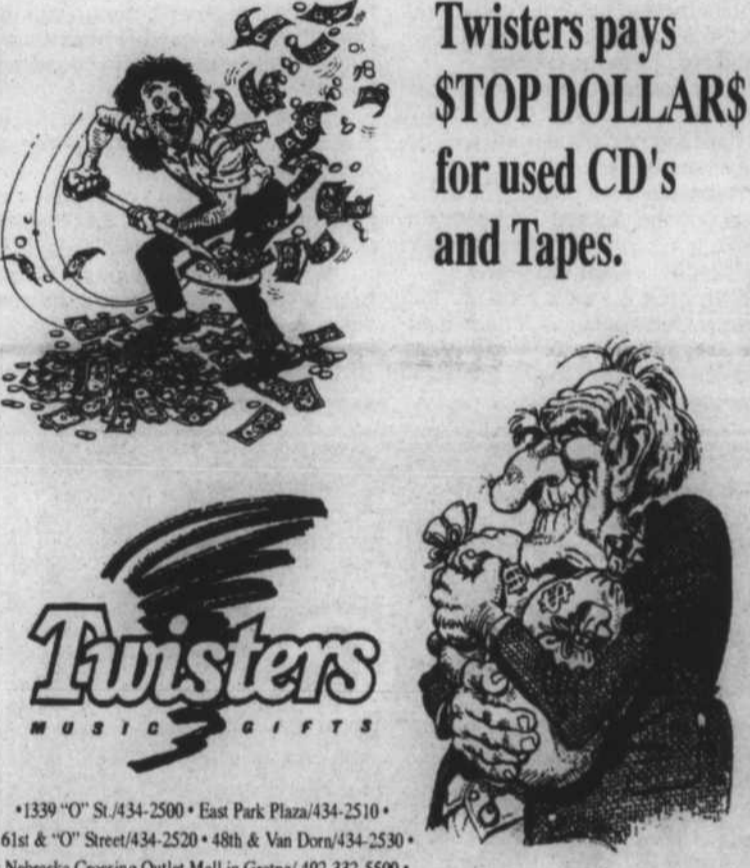
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# Wistrom excited for home opener

By Mitch Sherman  
 Senior Reporter

When the first- and second-ranked Nebraska football team plays host to UCLA Saturday in its home opener, it will mark the first time Grant Wistrom has ever been to a game at Memorial Stadium.

However, Wistrom will have a perspective different than those of most of the new faces at the game. He will be on the field.

The 6-foot-5, 230-pound outside linebacker from Webb City, Mo., said he had been looking forward to this game since before his arrival in Lincoln.

"It's just going to be crazy," Wistrom said. "I can't imagine what the atmosphere for that game is going to be like."

Wistrom, who was named by SuperPrep as the Midlands region defensive player-of-the-year last year, chose Nebraska over Michigan. He is the only true freshman on the Nebraska team to see action so far this season.

Cornerback Octavious McFarlin probably will be the only other Husker freshman to skip a redshirt year.

After an impressive fall camp, Wistrom began his move up the depth chart. He made it all the way up to the

*"I can't wait until the game here at Memorial Stadium. That's just going to be unreal."*

**GRANT WISTROM**  
 Nebraska linebacker

No. 2 spot at left outside linebacker prior to Nebraska's season-opening trip to East Rutherford, N.J., for the Kickoff Classic.

"That was a big surprise," he said. "I just walked into the meeting room, and my name was up there on the board behind Dwayne Harris. I was really excited about that."

Wistrom said he was excited just to make the trip to New Jersey.

"It was definitely amazing just seeing all those people wearing red and cheering for your team," he said. "I can't wait until the game here at Memorial Stadium. That's just going to be unreal."

Back home in Webb City, he said, most of the town was tuned in to see the Huskers' 31-0 win over West Virginia. Wistrom treated them to a sack, the first of his career, late in the second quarter.

"The night before," he said, "I

thought it would be great to have a sack playing on national television in my first game as a freshman. And when it came, I can't explain the feeling that came from that.

"My brother said the phone was just ringing off the hook after the game and during the game."

In two games, Wistrom has made five tackles, including two and a half behind the line of scrimmage, which ranks him second on the team to defensive tackle Christian Peter.

He said the chance to play early helped lure him to Nebraska, even though a redshirt year was not out of the question.

"They told me I would have a chance to come in and make the traveling roster," Wistrom said. "But a lot of coaches were telling me that, from a lot of different schools. I wasn't sure how much I could believe that or how much of that was just recruiting talk."

# Walker hopes success carries over

By Matt Oiberding  
 Staff Reporter

Nebraska soccer coach John Walker hopes the success his team had last weekend in Missoula, Mont., will carry over to the Huskers' games this weekend.



**Walker**

Both are NAIA Division II schools, but Walker said that doesn't mean they won't be able to compete with his team.

"We have to assume every team we play is a good team and that they're gonna want to play hard," he said.

But Walker said the Huskers have a new-found sense of confidence after defeating two Division I opponents away from home.

That confidence could come in handy in Sunday's 1 p.m. contest against Park College.

Park College is a traditional NAIA soccer power, Walker said, and has been a Top 20 team in recent years.

He said he knew little about Baker College, but he expected a tough game from them as well.

Walker said he was "relatively happy with the performance of the entire team" last weekend, but there are things that need to be worked on.

The most important thing, he said, was for his team to continue to play with "sustained intensity."

*"We have to assume every team we play is a good team and that they're gonna want to play hard."*

**JOHN WALKER**  
 Nebraska soccer coach

He said the team has played hard in every game, but there have been lapses, which he hopes to avoid this weekend.

Walker also said that he was generally happy with the defense but would like to see a little more sophistication in his team's attack.

# Softball team seeks win in weekend tournament

By Clay Short  
 Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team has high hopes of national recognition this year.

But before the Cornhuskers get into national and Big Eight competition, they have a local score to settle.

Nebraska will play host to the Husker Fall Classic Saturday and Sunday. At 9:30 a.m. Saturday, the Huskers will go against the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Classic will consist of three local teams — UNO, Northern Iowa and Creighton.

Coach Rhonda Revelle knows what caliber of a program awaits her team Saturday in the Lady Mavs.

"UNO is Division II, but they are in the top five of Division II, so they are the best of the best," she said. "Their coach, Mary Yori, was named the NSCA (National Softball Coaches Association) Coach of the Year last

year in Division II, so they are very respected nationally.

"Plus they come in here very motivated."

Creighton will also come in very motivated to face the Huskers, who have had the Bluejays' number the last couple of years. Nebraska and Creighton will play at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

"I think Creighton will be very hungry. They want to beat us very bad," Revelle said. "We have beaten them in the past, and they will be very hungry on Saturday."

Northern Iowa, while being a local team, is the "dark horse" of the tournament, Revelle said.

The Huskers will take on the Panthers in a 1:30 p.m. contest Saturday.

"I really haven't seen them that much. I remember from seasons past that they are very competitive, and they are also excellent hitters," Revelle said.

# Thursday's practice smooth; Osborne says players healthy

From Staff Reports

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Thursday's practice went smoothly, and his team is looking forward to Saturday's matchup with No. 13 UCLA.

The Cornhuskers worked out for a little less than two hours in their second-to-last preparation for Saturday's home opener.

"Everybody's ready to go," Osborne said. "We seem to have a good attitude."

Osborne said wingback Clester

Johnson and split end Brett Popplewell both suffered sprained ankles in Wednesday's practice, but returned Thursday and weren't hampered.

Osborne also said the kicking game would probably remain the same with sophomore Darin Erstad kicking the longer field goals and senior Tom Sieler handling shorter duties.

Against Texas Tech, Erstad missed on two opportunities from outside the 40.

The Huskers will have one final walk-through today before Saturday's game.

# HuskerVision will highlight football party

From Staff Reports

Weekend-long festivities will begin tonight for the Huskers' nationally-televised home football opener against UCLA.

The Nebraska athletic department will sponsor a free Kickoff Celebration on Friday evening in tribute to the best fans in the nation. The carnival-like atmosphere starts at 6 p.m. on Stadium Drive on the west side of Memorial Stadium.

Husker coaches and athletes will make appearances Friday evening. There will also be clowns, face painting and live music.

The program will move into Memorial Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Festivities inside the stadium will include a performance by the Cornhusker Marching Band, and the unveiling of the new HuskerVision video boards. The evening will be capped off with a fireworks display.

ESPN's college football analysts, Chris Fowler, Lee Corso and Craig James will also be in Lincoln this weekend doing live broadcasts east of Memorial Stadium.

ESPN "Sportscenter" will air live from Lincoln on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and "College Football GameDay" will be live at 10:30 a.m. Saturday and throughout the afternoon. Fans are encouraged to attend the live telecasts and support the Huskers.