

SPORTS OPINION



**Tim Pearson**

## Herbie goes job-hunting in Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — For the answers to life's biggest problems, you only have to make a trip to the biggest mall in the United States.

The Mall of America provides all of the solutions.

If you're looking for a place to get married, the Chapel of Love is the perfect place.

If you're hungry for pasta, Hulk Hogan has the recipe.

The Hulkster opened up Hulk Hogan's Pastamania at the mall in June. For all you Pastamaniacs, Hogan's place is the place to be.

But the ultimate question still awaits us.

If you want to find out if Herbie Husker sells, go to the Custom College Shop.

The shop has everything from every major college — including Nebraska.

Stocking caps, socks, throw rugs with football fields on them, golf bags, umbrellas, mouse pads, tattoos and golf balls.

And they all have Nebraska on them. There were even Nebraska basketball T-shirts. Even basketball sells out of state. Amazing.

But Herbie is dying — depending on the way you look at it.

For retailers, Herbie is alive and well, said Rigena Osborne, a College Shop sales clerk.

"People who know about (Herbie's death) want to buy stuff while he's still here," she said.

But the sad fact is that Herbie is being phased out slowly.

Out of the hundreds of Nebraska items at the store, only five had Herbie's lovable mug adorning them. One pennant, a Herbie doll and three sweatshirts.

That's it. Either people are just gobbling up Herbie by the mouthful, or the Nebraska athletic department is making Herbie's demise a slow, painful death by gradually pulling him from the shelves.

"They're already starting to change a lot of it," Osborne said.

Change isn't always good; just look at Hulk Hogan's venture into the pasta ring.

"We feel pasta is the perfect fit for the Hulkster," co-owner John Cafarella told the Bloomington Sun-Courier, "because pasta provides power and energy, which is exactly what the man personifies."

Didn't Herbie personify power and energy at Cornhusker football and basketball games?

If Hulk Hogan can sell pasta, then Herbie certainly can sell pasta.

Face it, Nebraska sells. If Nebraska sells, Herbie deserves some — or most — of the credit.

"When we get new items, Nebraska is among our top sellers," Osborne said. "We always know we can sell Nebraska."

Or maybe Herbie could open up a corn joint at the Mall of America — Herbie Husker's Cornamania.

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

# Osborne asks fans for fairness

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

At his weekly press conference Tuesday, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne defended wingback Riley Washington, who has been charged with attempted second-degree murder.

Nebraska wingback Riley Washington, who will return to court Friday for his preliminary hearing, has Nebraska coach Tom Osborne in his corner.

The junior from Chula Vista, Calif., pleaded not guilty Aug. 31 to the attempted second-degree murder charge against him in connection with the Aug. 2 shooting of Jermaine Cole.

But before the hearing continues, Osborne wants to clear up some rumors about Washington.

"The word 'gang-related' is being thrown around," Osborne said. "A lot of times when the word 'gang-related' is thrown around, people think that it is just bad people, and it is OK if they shoot each other."

Osborne, however, said Washington and former Nebraska wingback Abdul Muhammad — who was with Washington and former Husker Willis Brown when the shooting occurred at the Kwik Shop on 2710 W St. — didn't exactly fit the gang member stereotype.

"From what I understand, gang members don't go to college, and most don't finish high school," Osborne said. "There have been no positive drug tests from either of them. There has never been a hint of anything to do with drugs. Usually gang members have some sort of involvement with drugs."

"There have been no cases of theft. Usually to support themselves, gang members do something to earn money

See WASHINGTON on 11

# Huskers earn tourney title with Pacific 'kill'

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

The No. 2 Nebraska volleyball team took to the road for the first time this year and earned its first tournament title of the season.

The 3-1 Cornhuskers defeated eighth-ranked Pacific 15-13, 15-10, 15-3 Saturday night to win the Asics/UOP Invitational.

On Friday night, Nebraska swept Santa Clara 15-4, 15-11, 15-2. Senior

outside hitter Billie Winsett led the Huskers, knocking down 14 kills.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he was pleased with how Nebraska played.

"Pacific is one of the best volleyball programs, and anytime you can win 3-0, you did some good things," Pettit said.

The first game against Pacific was crucial to a good match, Pettit said.

Throughout the first game, neither team led by more than three, with

Pacific taking an early 5-2 lead and Nebraska leading 14-11. Nebraska opened that lead after the score was tied at 11.

Winsett broke the tie, hitting a kill to give Nebraska a 12-11 lead. On the next two rallies, Pacific was called for a double hit, and Winsett hit another kill to give the Huskers their biggest lead.

After fighting off three game points, Pacific pulled within 14-13 when Winsett hit the ball into the net. After

a Winsett kill earned a side out, Kate Crnich ended the game when Pacific blocked Crnich's kill attempt out of bounds.

Sophomore Lisa Reitsma, who had 13 kills against the Tigers, said the first game was critical.

"We knew it was going to be a close match, and to win we had to win one of the first two games," Reitsma said.

See UOP on 11

# Rivalry with Creighton builds after weekend loss

By Mike Kluck  
Staff Reporter

A mean look turned to one of disappointment for the Nebraska women's soccer team as it dropped its first game last weekend.

But the Cornhuskers intensified their rivalry with Creighton after their 1-0 loss to Creighton Sunday night at the Abbott Soccer Park Complex.

The Huskers, in only their second year of varsity competition, said the 1-0 Bluejays were one of their main rivals because of the proximity of the two schools.

But freshman midfielder Becky Hogan said the rivalry didn't compare to the brutal rivalries in Utah, her home state.

"Whenever Creighton comes up, the players just get a mean look comes across their face," Hogan said. "I understand what it's about, but it was just a game. They weren't talking trash or anything."

But Creighton coach Ira Philson saw the contest as more than a game. He said the rivalry helped with recruiting.

"I guess the one great thing I can say is ... I can keep my job now," Philson said with a laugh. "They (Bruce Rasmussen and Mary Higgins,

Creighton's athletic directors) told me that if I didn't beat Nebraska, I would lose my job."

Philson said the victory over the 0-1 Huskers helped in the competition for fan and marketing support. He said it also helped to increase support for soccer in the state.

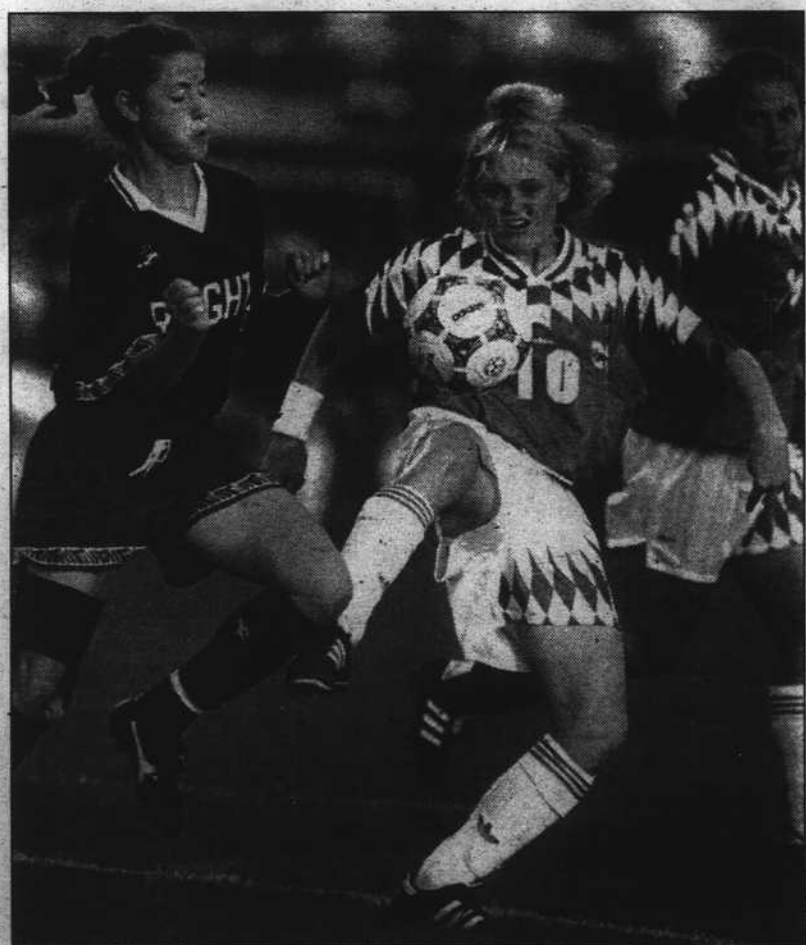
Nebraska coach John Walker said he was disappointed in the performance of the Huskers, but pleased with the support of the 1,100 fans. Walker predicted Nebraska's attendance would be one of the highest in the country for the weekend.

But Walker said his team came out flat in the first half.

"Usually, we can set the tone physically as far as winning balls in the air, being first to knock-downs and things like that," Walker said. "We definitely didn't do that, and it was a combination of two things, being a little flat on our part and obviously good play by Creighton."

Hogan said the Huskers, who are playing 10 freshmen, still needed to learn how to play together.

"Early in the season, we don't really know each other," Hogan said. "It's hard to blend all the talent together. We don't know each other's style quite yet."



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska's Stephanie Vacek battles for control of the ball with a Creighton defender during Nebraska's 1-0 loss on Sunday night.