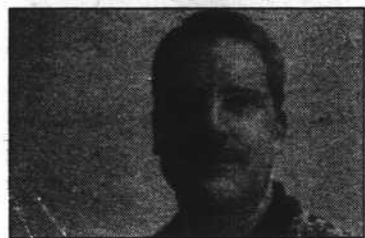


# SPORTS

Friday, October 27, 1995

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## SPORTS OPINION



### Nathan McKinney

## Preparation, patience keys to flyfishing

Nearly all outdoor enthusiasts at some time become enthralled with the graceful art performed by an experienced fly fisherman.

Dazed by the confidence established with each accurate motion of the fluorescent flyline, and motivated by the movie "A River Runs Through It," many self-proclaimed expert fishermen have picked up the flyrod only to find it a clumsy piece of wood incapable of enticing even the dumbest of fish.

The next move is to throw down the long foreign stick and resume the use of the more comfortable bait caster.

But take heart, fishing with a flyrod is not awkward and unproductive if preceded by the right amount of preparation.

The timing of this column is not a mistake. To prepare for next spring's rejuvenation of life celebrated on streams and lakes throughout the country, the expectant flyfishing person needs to begin now.

Flyfishing is more of a philosophy than a sport, and gaining the right mental attitude takes time.

The first requirement is mastering the vocabulary. Without a flyfishing vocabulary, it will be impossible to know the weight of the rod required; whether to use sinking or floating line; techniques in the use of nymphs versus dryflies; or even what to do with a frayed tippet.

After the vocabulary, and possibly the purchase of some gear comes an often overlooked, but possibly the most important element of building a flyfishing philosophy. The creation of flies.

As the winter snow barricades sportsmen into cubicles of confinement with insufficient space to practice the fluid motions of flyfishing, it's time to relax by the yellowish heat of a fire and succumb to the guiding hand of nature.

Each rap of thread around a lifeless hook can produce a final product of hair, feathers, legs, wings, life and soul. What is created can no longer be designated an artificial lure. To the creator, it has become a living, breathing addition to the chain of nature, destined to be consumed in a flurry of underwater predation.

When the summer sun is finally here, there will be nothing awkward about feeling the flow of the water carrying the fly over the haven of a fish, whose natural instincts dictate that it devour the insect drifting overhead.

As the hook is set and the long rod doubles over, you will suddenly understand the meaning of flyfishing. It's feeling the presence of the wild, and actually having a part to play within it.

McKinney is a senior law student and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

## Cleveland still alive after 5-4 win

CLEVELAND (AP)—This could be the start of the ultimate comeback.

Orel Hershiser and the Cleveland Indians, just one game away from losing the World Series, beat Greg Maddux and the Atlanta Braves 5-4 Thursday night, cutting the Indians' deficit to 3-2.

Albert Belle's two-run homer in the first inning, in addition to a brushback pitch to Eddie Murray that led to a rare, bench-clearing incident in the Series, energized Cleveland early.

The Indians, who made a habit of rousing rallies all year, went on to beat the best pitcher in baseball, send-

ing the Series back to Atlanta. Maddux stopped Cleveland on two hits in the opener, but Hershiser outpitched the three-time Cy Young winner this time, allowing five hits and two runs in eight innings.

"It was an unbelievable game," Hershiser said.

The Braves still have two more chances to win their first title since moving to Atlanta. Game six will be Saturday night, with Dennis Martinez starting for the Indians against game two winner Tom Glavinc.

Hershiser, who walked one and struck out six, is 8-1 lifetime in the postseason, with four wins coming

this year.

Jim Thome, who singled in the go-ahead run in the sixth inning, hit a solo homer in the eighth to give Indians a 5-2 lead. Ryan Klesko homered for the third straight day—a two-run shot off Jose Mesa with two outs in the ninth. But Mesa earned the save by striking out Mark Lemke, ending the fourth one-run game of the Series.

Maddux, signed by the Braves last year to help bring them the championship they've chased without success, clearly was not as sharp from the start.

He walked the second batter of the

game, Omar Vizquel, after walking no one in the opener. With two outs in the first inning, Belle homered into the Atlanta bullpen in right field for the second straight day.

That brought up Murray, and on an 0-1 pitch, he was knocked down with a high fastball.

Murray took a couple of steps out toward Maddux and pointed at him as plate umpire Frank Pulli got between them. Both benches and bullpens then emptied, though no punches were thrown.

"I think it fired us up," Thome said. "I think it fired up the crowd."

## Tough teams help NU gear up for Final Four

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Editor

The Nebraska volleyball team has had just about all it can take of the Big Eight Conference.

The Cornhuskers have hardly broken a sweat since an Aug. 26 loss to Stanford, winning 17 straight matches—all three-game sweeps—and outscoring eight conference foes 360-140.

The No. 1-ranked Huskers, 18-1, are ready for a challenge. And they're going to get it. Saturday's 7 p.m. match against Iowa State at the NU Coliseum and next Wednesday's home match against Kansas State are tune-ups for Nebraska's three-match preview to the NCAA Tournament.

A week from Saturday, the Huskers travel to Austin, Texas, to play seventh-ranked Texas. The Huskers return home to play host to No. 14 Notre Dame three days later, and on Nov. 12, 22-0 Florida, ranked No. 3, visits the Coliseum.

"It's perfect for us," senior Christy Johnson said. "We have never had three matches like that right before the NCAA Tournament."

Johnson, an All-American setter from Millard North, said she had been savoring her fifth and final season in the Nebraska program. Her value to the Huskers, coaches around the Big Eight have said this fall, is difficult to put into words.

"In my opinion," Colorado coach Brad Saindon said, "she is the one

that makes this team go. She's the spark. Without Christy Johnson, this team is not what they are. Luckily, they do have Christy Johnson.

"I think she is terrific. I'd take one just like her. I'd take her clone. I'd take her cousin. I'd take her sister."

Just because Nebraska hasn't been playing top-notch competition over the past month, Johnson said, is no excuse for sloppy play on the court, during matches or practices.

"As one of the seniors, we take it upon ourselves to raise the level," she said. "If the team has a bad practice, it's our fault."

Johnson, the Husker captain, said she would rather not run over Texas, Notre Dame and Florida without feeling some pressure. She said she would be pleased if one of the three matches were extended to five games.

Nebraska has not played a five-game match since Nov. 27, 1993, a loss to Colorado in the Big Eight Tournament. Johnson redshirted that season.

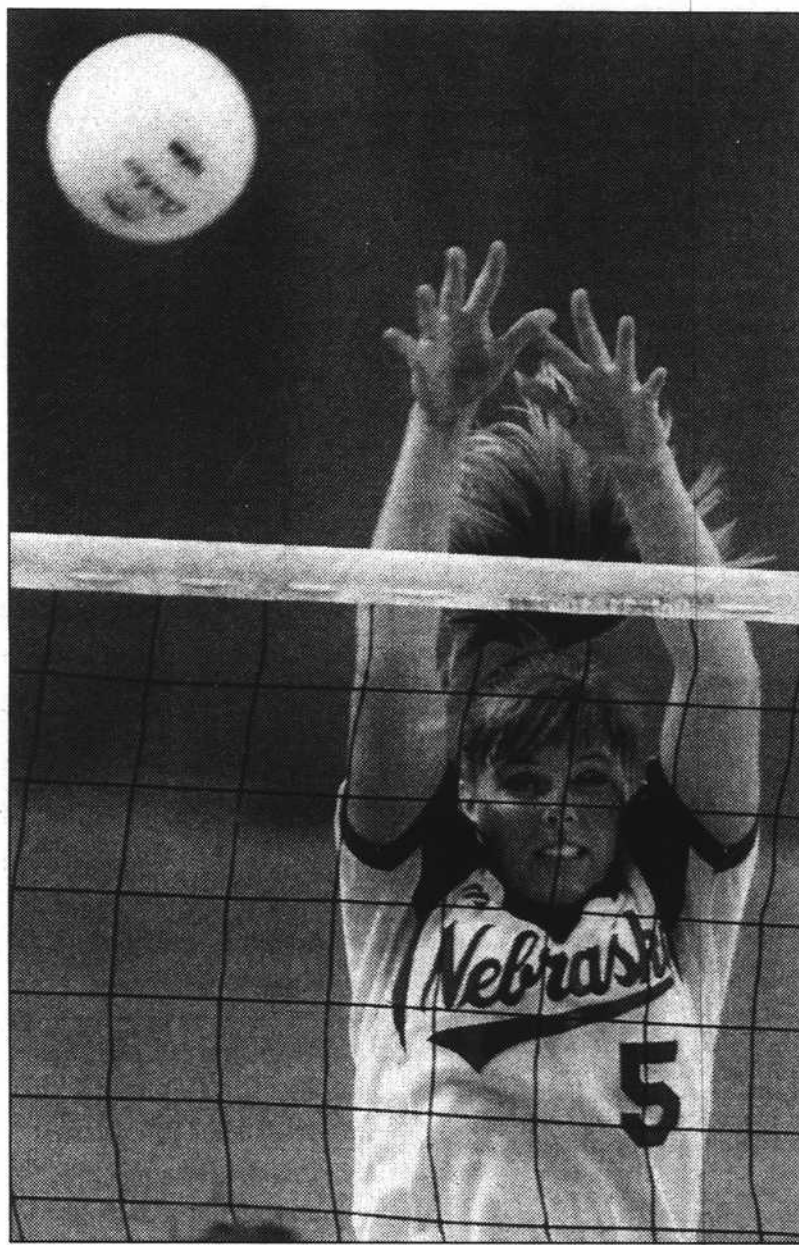
"I would really like to have that experience under my belt before we hit the Final Four," she said.

Thoughts of life after volleyball, Johnson said, have begun to creep into her mind as her final college season begins to hit its stretch run.

"I have thought about it a little bit lately," Johnson said. "It's a little bit scary, because I don't know what I am going to do when I am done. But I am excited because I feel like I have learned so much that I can take a team there with me."

"I can teach them. I'm excited that the final year I am playing we have one of the best teams Nebraska has ever had. We can really do something special here in my last year."

### Volleyball



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska setter Christy Johnson attempts to block a ball earlier this season. Johnson, the Nebraska team captain, said this Husker team has a chance to be among the best in school history.

## Meet should bring out best

By Vince D'Adamo  
Staff Reporter

After a one-week hiatus, the Nebraska Cornhusker men's and women's cross country teams are back in action. Both teams travel to Lawrence, Kan., today for the Big Eight Cross Country Championships.

The meet is at the Rim Rock Farm, beginning with the women's race at 3 p.m. and followed by the men's race at 3:45 p.m. Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen said this meet always brought out the best of each runner.

"The quality is unbelievable," Dirksen said. "There's always a high standard of competition at this meet."

On the women's side, Dirksen

said top-ranked Colorado was a formidable foe. The Buffaloes also catch Dirksen's attention on the men's side, along with defending national champion Iowa State and Oklahoma State.

The Huskers, who did not have a meet last week, are anxious for the meet, Dirksen said.

"We really worked hard a week ago," he said. "But we took it easy this week."

The Husker men are hoping for a strong finish, said Dirksen, who looks for team captain Brady Bonsall to rise to the occasion.

"We'd like for him to finish in the top 10," Dirksen said. "Brady will definitely be ready for the best runners."

Balazs Tolgyesi, Alex Lamme, Mike Mason, David Olson, Lou Petricca, Aaron Scheer and Jim

Vance will join Bonsall at today's meet. Bonsall and Tolgyesi finished 16th and 17th at last year's conference meet. Dirksen said he was optimistic about the team's chance.

"Our men have been running well," Dirksen said. "I think we have a real good chance."

On the women's side, Nebraska is looking for its seventh conference title in the past nine years. Nora Shepherd placed first in the Huskers' last meet. She finished 11th at last year's conference meet.

Also competing are Christina Blackmer, Sherri Bonsall, Sherri Elwood, Sandy Fein, Heather McMahon, Lindsey Miller and Melissa Wilson.

"Our women are running the best I've seen them run all year long," Dirksen said.

## Soccer team hopes to end on sunny note

From Staff Reports

The 10-6 Nebraska soccer team looks for a bright ending to its season this weekend in sunny California.

Southern California will put its 7-7-1 record on the line, playing host to the Cornhuskers today at 4 p.m. Nebraska will play at UCLA on Monday.

USC has a 4-0-1 record at home this season. Nebraska is 2-3 away from Lincoln.

After last weekend's wins over Brigham Young and Texas, the Huskers moved up three spots to fifth in the Central Region rankings. Southern Methodist, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt and Colorado College are ranked ahead of Nebraska.