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Nebraska's Jon Vedral catches a snap on a field goal attempt last Saturday during a Cornhusker scrimmage. Vedral is Nebraska's top returning receiver from a year ago. *Matt Miller/DN*

# Wingback wants to lead

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

*"I just want to be known as a player who always gets the job done."*

**JON VEDRAL**  
Nebraska wingback

Even though Jon Vedral's normal position is wingback, he doesn't mind holding on extra points and field goals or being the guy who falls on fumbles for touchdowns.

In fact, it's Vedral's all-around play that has made him an impact player for the Nebraska football team.

"We call him the pit bull because that's the way he plays," receivers coach Ron Brown said. "He's one of the toughest receivers we've ever had here."

But Vedral does not want to be remembered as a receiver or the man who holds kicks.

"I just want to be known as a player who always gets the job done," Vedral said.

Since walking on in 1992, the 5-foot-11-inch, 205-pound senior-to-be, has been getting the job done as one of the Cornhuskers' most versatile players.

Last season, he caught 14 passes for 272 yards and a team-leading five touchdowns while alternating with Clester Johnson at wingback. He was also the holder for kicker Kris Brown and picked up one tackle as a member of the special teams.

Vedral recovered fumbles for touchdowns against Kansas and Kansas State. Now the Huskers' No. 1 wingback, he has made major strides since this time a year ago.

The native of Gregory, S.D., said he was unsure of himself going into the spring of 1995. But after playing a big part in all 12 games last season, he is more experienced this spring than the Vedral of old.

"It's a lot easier coming into the

spring knowing what you are doing," Vedral said. "I had a good spring, and it helped me going into the season last year."

In 1994, an inexperienced Vedral — who later earned a scholarship and now owns the all-time school record in the pro-agility run with a time of 3.78 seconds — had only one reception. But he led the special teams with 11 tackles and also completed two passes, one of which was a desperation two-point conversion to kicker Darin Erstad against Oklahoma State.

As a junior, he started only one game, but that will change in 1996.

He and senior split end Brendan Holbein will be the leaders of a group of inexperienced receivers. Behind Vedral at wingback are sophomores Lance Brown and Shevin Wiggins and junior Sean Wieting.

Of the four wingbacks, only Vedral has seen substantial playing time. With two receptions last year, Brown is the only other wingback to catch a pass.

With that inexperience, Vedral said he would have to step forward and assume the leadership role vacated by Johnson.

"Hopefully I'll show some leadership here and there," Vedral said, "and I can help the new guys learn because I have a lot of experience."

Holbein started nine games last season at split end and leads a group that includes junior Jeff Lake and sopho-

more Kenny Cheatham.

The Huskers will welcome three true freshman receivers next year, any of whom could compete for playing time. J.R. Edwards of Lincoln Southeast, John Gibson of Papillion-LaVista and Khari Reynolds of Mays Landing, N.J., signed with Nebraska in February.

Brown said the talent of all of the receivers was good.

"We have a lot of youth, and we have a lot of ability," Brown said. "I'm very optimistic about them, but it will depend on their ability to mature over this spring and heading into the fall."

At tight end, junior Tim Carpenter is listed No. 1, but he suffered a knee injury on April 6 and has missed the final three weeks of the spring. Carpenter's injury has allowed sophomore Sheldon Jackson and junior Vershan Jackson to play more.

Even with the loss of two-year starter Mark Gilman, the tight end position is in good shape, Brown said.

"It is as good as we've had talent-wise in a number of years," Brown said. "They are very young, and it's a very good group."

All of the receivers, Vedral said, are very talented and can lead Nebraska to a third straight national title.

"We want a third straight title, and I know that's all that's on my mind because I don't want to lose," Vedral said.

# Win gives golfers respect

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska men's golf coach Larry Romjue has been looking all season for one of his golfers to step forward and win a tournament.

On Tuesday at the Shocker Classic at Tallgrass Country Club in Wichita, Kan., Romjue had three players finish the tournament with the top score. Junior Jacques Paiment and freshmen Steve Friesen and Josh Madden all finished the 54-hole tournament with a score of 221.

Madden won the individual title by firing a birdie on the first hole of the playoff. On Madden's second shot he hit the pin, nearly scoring an eagle, which allowed him to have a short tap-

in putt for the win.

Having the three top scores, the Cornhuskers were able to walk away with the team championship. The Huskers outscored second-place Drake by 17 strokes, 896-913. The Huskers finished 19 strokes ahead of conference rival Iowa State, 23 ahead of Kansas State and 25 ahead of Kansas.

"This was a good win for us," Romjue said. "This was a good tournament for us, and it helps because we don't get that many wins."

Romjue said the tournament was also beneficial because it gave the Huskers a chance to compete against their climate contemporaries.

So far this season, the Huskers have competed against warm-weather schools, but most of the schools in the Shocker Classic came from climates similar to what Nebraska is forced to practice in every day.

Another reason the tournament was positive for the Huskers, Romjue said, was because it should give them momentum for the Big Eight Tournament, Monday and Tuesday in Hutchinson, Kan.

Beating Iowa State, Kansas and Kansas State in Wichita should have earned Nebraska respect from the rest of the conference opponents, Romjue said.

Winning the Shocker Classic also has helped the Huskers chances for regionals, May 16-18 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"This should help us quite a bit," Romjue said. "This should be the thing that put us over the edge. The players knew what was at stake and that this was an important tournament for regionals."

"We performed accordingly with our experienced players, plus the new players are playing like experienced players, and that made a difference."

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