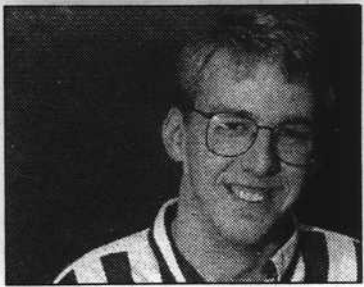


# SPORTS

Thursday, April 18, 1996

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## SPORTS OPINION



**Tim Pearson**

## Bowling teams deserve credit for winning

Maybe the Nebraska bowling teams deserve to be honored at Friday's "Night of Champions."

They at least deserve some credit.

The bowling teams at Nebraska have won four national titles in the '90s. Both the men's and women's teams took titles last season. The men's team successfully defended its title last weekend in Kansas City, Mo.; the women came two pins short of winning.

The Nebraska bowling program has gained respect nationwide. The bowling teams have been recognized as the top in the country. Bowlers come from as far as New York and Massachusetts to bowl at Nebraska.

Neither team, however, is sanctioned at Nebraska. The bowling teams don't receive the benefits that the golf or tennis teams now receive. The NCAA ruled last year that women's bowling could be included as a sanctioned sport. But men's bowling isn't sanctioned.

It all boils down to gender equity. Nebraska coach Bill Straub would welcome the chance to make bowling the newest addition to the athletic department. But he's not expecting a call from Athletic Director Bill Byrne anytime soon.

Nebraska now has 11 women's sports and 11 men's sports. Women's soccer was added two years ago to fulfill Title IX requirements for gender equity.

"If there are still gender equity concerns," Straub said, "we have a program that is sanctionable."

Bowling started as a club sport at UNL about 25 years ago. About 10 years ago, the program began to receive nationwide recognition. Straub, who has coached the UNL bowling teams since 1983, has been the catalyst.

"It certainly isn't what you call a club activity," he said. "But until the athletic department picks it up, we're right in the middle. It's parallel to golf and tennis."

"I think it's all going to come down to economics. If they can use our sport to help them, they'll pick it up."

For now, though, Straub will continue doing what he's doing.

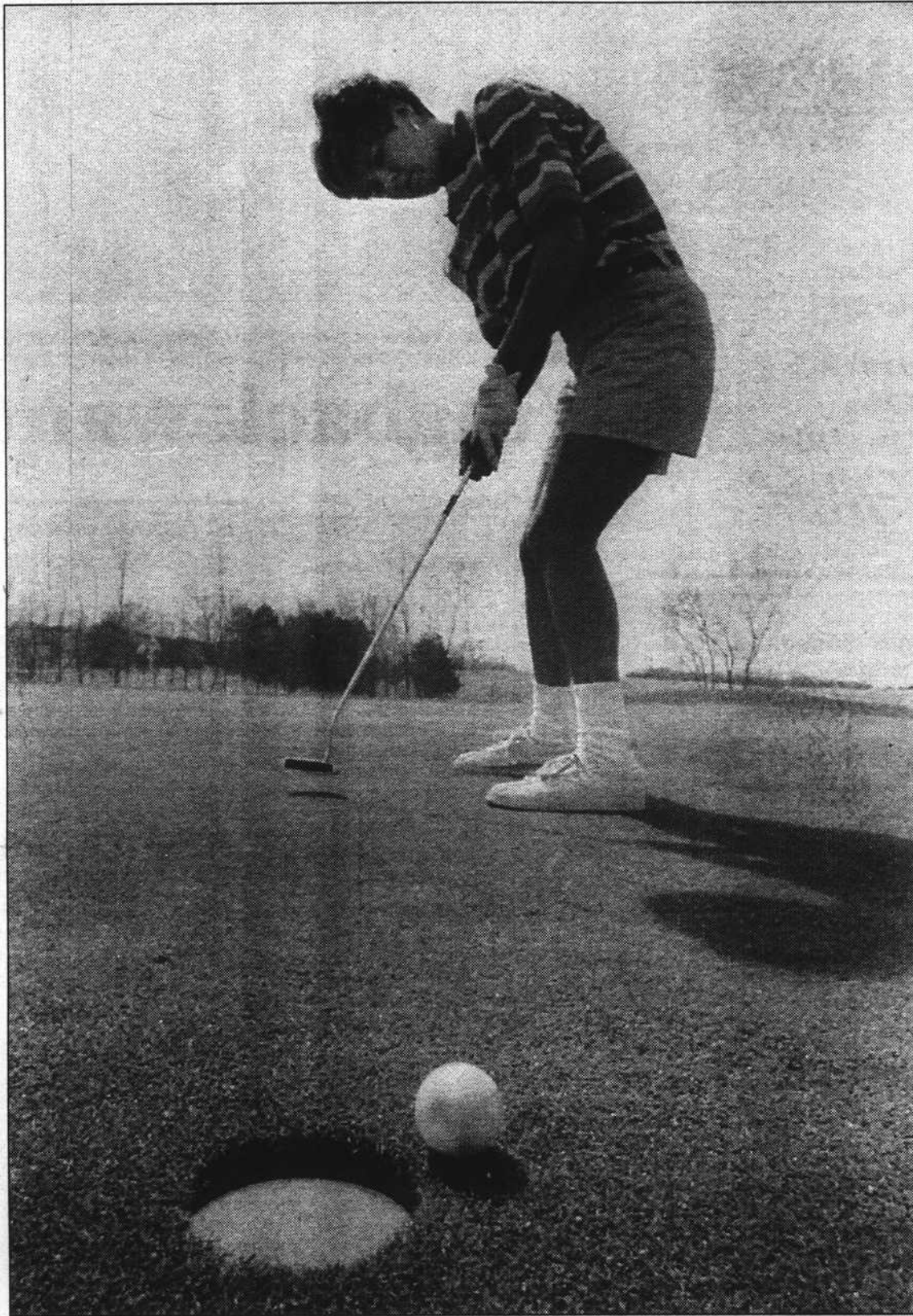
He'll keep letting potential recruits come to him because he can't afford to go to them. He'll treat them to lunch and make sure they have a place to stay. He'll give scholarships to help defray tuition costs, and he'll continue to sign contracts with companies to provide equipment. And he'll continue to let students drive on 1,000-mile road trips.

Straub's not alone among college bowling coaches. Coaches at 145 other schools are in the same situation.

No school has picked up bowling as a sanctioned sport. Out of the 145 schools that sport bowling teams, most are in the same situa-

See PEARSON on 11

## On course



Matt Miller/DN

Nebraska senior Michelle Patterson practices Wednesday. Patterson is the No. 3 ranked Husker golfer this spring

## Golfer perfects composure

By Antone Oseka  
Staff Reporter

For Nebraska golfer Michelle Patterson, Greg Norman's collapse and final-day loss of a six-stroke lead at the Masters was a learning experience.

Watching Norman, the all-time leading money winner in the history of professional golf, has taught Patterson to remain composed on the golf course.

Norman never loses his composure, Patterson said, even if he's playing poorly in golf's most important tournament.

But the senior from Loomis said she still had some work to do to equal Norman's demeanor on the course.

"I don't think I'm one to hold my head up high all the time," she said.

Coach Robin Krapfl said confidence was Patterson's only problem. The more confidence she gets, the lower the scores she shoots, Krapfl said.

"She tries to make it happen instead of let it happen," Krapfl said.

Patterson has noticed that problem, too. She is averaging the team's third-lowest stroke average per round this spring behind Heidi Stark and Rachele Tacha.

Patterson averaged 79.88 strokes per round in the fall portion of Nebraska's season. So far in the spring, she is averaging 81.73 strokes per round.

"I've forgotten to take one step at a time, one day at a time," Patterson said.

Right now, Patterson's mind is filled with distractions from golf and her classes. But she said that's when she played the best.

"I think I play better under pressure," she said.

That was obvious as a freshman, Patterson said, when she often nearly missed qualifying for a tournament before finishing as the team's top golfer.

Patterson has won tournaments outside of the Husker schedule, too.

Last summer, Patterson won her section of the U.S. Amateur Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. She then traveled to Boston for the U.S. Amateur Tournament but failed to make the cut.

"It was good experience for this year," she said.

This year, the sectional tournament will be held at Nebraska's home course, Firethorn Golf Club in Lincoln.

With confidence and a few refinements in her game, Krapfl said, Patterson can go further than the U.S. Amateur Tournament. She can play in the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

Patterson said playing professionally wasn't in her immediate plans, but it was in the back of her mind. She said she wanted to graduate first, then work on her game.

She would trade all that for a couple more years at Nebraska, though.

"I'm not ready for it to come to an end."

## Huskers take two from UNI

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

Just when Northern Iowa started to take advantage of the opening the Nebraska softball team was leaving it, the Cornhuskers shut the door.

The 18th-ranked Huskers defeated the Panthers 8-7 and 7-3 Wednesday afternoon at the NU Softball Complex to improve their record to 31-13. Northern Iowa fell to 25-13.

In the first game, Northern Iowa scored two runs in the top of the sixth inning to lead 7-4.

But the Huskers responded, scoring four runs in the bottom of the inning and then holding the Panthers scoreless in the seventh to win the game.

"We didn't steal it, but we clearly opened the door for them to steal it," Husker coach Rhonda Revelle said. "Then we came in just the nick of time and slammed the door before they got a chance to steal it."

See UNI on 11

## Ex-Huskers await shot at pro ball

By Nikki Markota  
Staff Reporter

The National Football League will do its ceremonious picking and choosing of the best college football players Saturday and Sunday.

And while the air around the Cornhusker football offices is buzzing with talk of the names Phillips, Berringer, Peter, Graham and Frazier, a few other Nebraska players also could make headlines this weekend.

Several other former Huskers, including Tony Veland, Jeff Makovicka, Clinton Childs, Phil Ellis, Doug Colman, Tyrone Williams and Clester Johnson are all possible prospects who could go on the second day of the NFL draft or sign as free agents.

"I just want a chance to play some ball again," said Makovicka, a fullback who summed up the feelings of his other teammates.

For the professional teams, however, the major part of the evaluating process is completed. Many of these former Nebraska players participated in the NFL combines in February and have worked out for various teams.

Childs, an I-back, and Veland, a free safety, said they felt the workouts helped them significantly, but they did not know if and when they would be chosen.

"You never can tell what's on another man's mind," Childs said.

Veland said the pro workouts probably reflected his talent more than the season itself.

If not drafted, Makovicka, Childs and Veland could still catch on as free-agent signees.

Even if he isn't selected in the draft, Makovicka is confident he can help an NFL team.

"I'm hoping for free agency," he said, "so that I can go somewhere where they would need a guy like me and the type of football I play."

Veland said he only needed a chance, not a multi-million dollar signing bonus.

"As long as you get a chance to go to the pros," he said, "it's what you do there that counts. What you make of your opportunity really determines how far you go."