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### Fish

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seven out of eight, we're going to be there."

Offensively, the Huskers will be led by junior center fielder Francis Collins, who is looking to extend a 26-game hitting streak to tie the school record today. Collins leads Nebraska with a .406 average, which ranks fourth in the Big Eight.

Ken Ramos, now with the Class AAA Tucson Toros in the Houston Astros' organization, hit in 28 straight in 1987. Ramos has the longest hitting streak in Nebraska history and the second-longest in Big Eight history.

Chicago White Sox third baseman Robin Ventura owns the longest streak in NCAA history. Ventura hit in 58 straight in 1987 while playing for Oklahoma State.

## Blackshirts anchor title defense

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

With the conclusion of spring practice Saturday, the countdown begins as the Nebraska football team prepares to defend its back-to-back national titles.

That countdown stands at 114 days until the first fall practice and 137 days until the kickoff of the season Sept. 7 against Michigan State at Memorial Stadium.

And the Cornhuskers are as motivated as ever to do something no NCAA team has ever done—win three straight titles.

Coach Tom Osborne said the defense impressed him this spring, and it might have to carry the Huskers at times next fall.

"It's the age-old quandary that asks if your offense isn't good or if your defense is good," Osborne said. "I think that it's probably more of the latter."

The defense has been suffocating this spring.

The Blackshirts dominated the first-team offense in all four scrimmages, and the front seven may be the fastest in school history.

Defensive tackles Jeff Ogard and Jason Peter will be in charge of plugging up the middle. Ogard forced two fumbles in the spring game and picked up valuable playing time after Scott Saltsman was injured.

Next to the tackles are rush ends Jared Tomich, a first-team All-American, and Grant Wistrom, a third-team All-American.

The linebackers are led by Mike linebacker Jon Hesse, who recorded 12 tackles in the spring game. Behind Hesse at the middle linebacker position is sophomore Jay Foreman, who started all 12 games last season at Sam linebacker before moving over to Mike.

Foreman recorded seven tackles Saturday.

Now at the Sam linebacker spot is Jamel Williams. At that position in the Fiesta Bowl, Williams sacked Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel for a safety in the second quarter.

On the opposite side of Williams is second-team All-American Terrell Farley. Farley missed the spring game because of a minor disciplinary violation.

Tomich said the defense accomplished everything it wanted to in the spring.

"Our defense is really stable right now," Tomich said. "We still can work on executing a little bit better and cut down on some of our mistakes."

In trying to replace starters Tony Veland and Tyrone Williams, the secondary suffered through an injury-filled spring.

Right cornerback Michael Booker, free safety Eric Stokes and rover Mike Minter survived the spring, but the left cornerback position wasn't as lucky. Mike Fullman returned from a groin injury to play in the spring game, but his backup, Leslie Dennis, missed all of spring drills after knee surgery.

Redshirt freshman Jerome Peterson, also banded up this spring, benefited by picking up valuable practice time with the top units, Osborne said. Incoming freshmen Ralph Brown and Mike Brown may be asked to add depth in the secondary next season.

Kicker Kris Brown did not miss a field goal or an extra point in the four major scrimmages this spring and was 4 for 4 on field goals Saturday. Brown's backup, Ted Retzlaff, also did not miss an extra point or a field goal in the major spring scrimmages.

Punter Jesse Kosch had two punts for an average of 45.5 yards per punt in the spring game and Brown, who did not punt last season, boomed a 58-

yard punt Saturday. Five punters combined to average 45.8 yards on 12 punts.

Osborne said good special teams play was important in the drive for three straight championships.

On the offensive side, some questions still remain.

The offensive line of tackles Adam Treu and 12-game starter Eric Anderson, guards Chris Dishman and Jon Zatechka and center Aaron Taylor has been solid for most of the spring after a shaky start.

Last season, Taylor played left guard and Dishman played left tackle.

In the backfield, sophomore Ahman Green is the top returning rusher and Damon Benning and James Sims have experience as backups. DeAngelo Evans, a true freshman, may benedeed if anyone is injured.

At fullback, the top two players, Brian Schuster and Joel Makovicka, were hurt most of the spring. Of the healthy fullbacks, Ben Kingston made the biggest impression, rushing for 114 yards in the four scrimmages.

Next fall, receivers Brendan Holbein and Jon Vedral will lead an inexperienced group, which was hampered by tight end Tim Carpenter's knee surgery after the first week of spring drills. Carpenter is questionable for the beginning of fall drills in August, Osborne said.

The biggest question mark is at quarterback.

Scott Frost emerged as the front-runner to start in the fall, overtaking Matt Turman. But developing an experienced quarterback is still a top priority, Osborne said.

"Scott Frost is a fine runner, and he's a good leader," Osborne said.

"We've got Jeff Perino and Monte Christo and Frankie London available in the fall, but we don't have a whole lot of depth with experience."

## Huskers seek to end slide

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska softball players who visited Cornhusker coach Rhonda Revelle's office on Tuesday did not talk about softball.

Instead, the players and coach talked about other things, including school, classes and final exams.

"I wanted to deter from softball conversation today because we need a break," Revelle said. "It's tough in a 72-hour period to have five games slammed down your throat."

The Huskers were swept in a three-game series by Oklahoma, 8-2, 8-2, 4-1, Saturday and Sunday in Norman, Okla. Then on Monday in Stillwater, Okla., Nebraska lost a doubleheader to Oklahoma State 11-2 and 9-6.

The five losses dropped the Huskers to 31-18 overall and 5-7 in the conference. Nebraska is sixth in the Big 12 Conference, which has only eight teams competing in conference

play this season.

Revelle said the Huskers struggled throughout the five games against the Sooners and Cowgirls.

"Mentally we weren't strong," Revelle said. "Physically, we didn't execute in pressure situations. It was an extremely disappointing and frustrating weekend."

Most disappointing for Revelle was that the Huskers had leads in three of the five games and were unable to hold on. In the last game against Oklahoma State, the Cowgirls scored six runs—four of which came on a grand slant by Regina Attenbury—in the bottom of seventh inning to steal a win from Nebraska.

The five-game skid marks the Huskers' longest losing streak since dropping 10 straight in 1994.

"I'm real concerned," Revelle said. "I really feel like a lot of responsibility falls on them. There are some things that they need to do to make sure we can win the ball games. They need to

be able to sense the victory and slam the door."

Nebraska did have a few bright spots last weekend. Freshman outfielder Kelly Pinkepank hit her first career home run, and sophomore catcher Jenny Smith had a hit in all five games.

Now, Revelle must see if her team can respond, beginning today when the Huskers play host to Creighton in a doubleheader starting at 6 p.m. at the NU Softball Complex.

"Creighton's very competitive, and they're coming in hungry," Revelle said. "We do have an edge and we have to use that edge. We have to attack their weaknesses."

Nebraska has won 13 of the last 14 games against Creighton and holds a 40-26 lead in the series. On Feb. 24, the Huskers swept a doubleheader from the Lady Jays in Omaha, winning 19-8 and 8-3.

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