

NFL future uncertain for Peter

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

Christian Peter has no ill feelings toward the New England Patriots a day after the club released its rights to him.

"They released me," Peter said from his parent's home in Locust, N.J. "Now I go on from here. Somebody else will get a great player now."

On Sunday, the Patriots selected the former Nebraska defensive lineman in the fifth round of the National Football League draft. But on Wednesday, citing unacceptable off-field behavior, the Patriots waived their rights to Peter, giving him the opportunity to be picked up by another NFL team.

Recently Peter was convicted of disturbing the peace in an incident in Kearney, while another woman claims in a sex discrimination suit that Peter raped her in 1991.

In 1994, Peter pleaded guilty to the third-degree assault of Natalie Kuijvenhoven, a former Miss Nebraska, and served 18 months probation.

Patriots director of player person-

nel Bobby Grier said the action was taken following a review of information the team had obtained after the draft.

"Based on information we obtained in the last 48 hours following a review of his past actions," Grier said, "we concluded this behavior is incompatible with our organization's standards of acceptable conduct."

Peter said he had trouble accepting the Patriots' decision because before the draft he met with coaches and administrators. At that time, he said, he discussed all of his former problems.

"For them to come out and say they

"To know me is to love me. Of course, if you believe everything you read, you come out hating me."

CHRISTIAN PETER

former Nebraska defensive tackle

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said there was nobody at Nebraska that hid any information from the Patriots.

"I think the owner reacted to publicity," Osborne said. "The NOW (National Organization for Women) and all those people. We've been through it."

Osborne said Peter had stayed away from alcohol for three years because of a program started for him by Osborne.

"I said, 'Any more problems, you're done,'" Osborne said. "He followed through great for three years and never had a problem."

Peter is now on waivers for 10 days, a period of time in which any team can sign him to a contract.

"My life doesn't stop," Peter said. "I just wish that teams or people would sit down and talk to me."

"I'm not the Christian Peter they read about or watch on TV. To know me is to love me. Of course, if you believe everything you read, you come out hating me."

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NU golfers prepare for regionals

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

For the members of the Nebraska women's golf team, the pressure is almost off.

The Cornhuskers have attained their goal of making the NCAA Midwest Regional for the third straight year, although the official selection won't be made until Monday.

Coach Robin Krapfl said she was confident the Huskers would get a bid for the tournament at The Champions Club in Omaha, May 9-11.

"The pressure's off," Krapfl said, "now we can just play golf."

Nebraska finished in a tie for third place with Oklahoma at the final Big Eight Tournament, Monday and Tuesday in Des Moines, Iowa. The Huskers shot a final-round 305 behind the play of sophomore Rachelle Tacha and senior Heidi Stark.

Tacha, from Manhattan, Kan., won the meet and became Nebraska's first individual conference champion, shooting a final-round 73 on Tuesday. Stark's 74 on Tuesday was Nebraska's second-lowest round of the tournament.

"It feels good," Tacha said. "I didn't know we've never had an individual champion before."

Neither did the rest of the Huskers, Tacha said. Krapfl didn't tell them until after Tacha's score had been confirmed and she was named the champion.



Matt Miller/DN

Nebraska sophomore golfer Rachelle Tacha shot a tournament-low round of 73 Tuesday in Des Moines, Iowa, to claim Nebraska's first individual conference title.

"She played fantastic golf," Krapfl said. "This shows how much she's matured as a player."

Tacha's maturity was tested by the conditions she played in Monday. She scored a 76 and 78 during the first two rounds despite weather conditions that she called horrendous.

"Tuesday wasn't windy or cold," Tacha said. "I was fine, and it was great playing conditions."

Tacha dedicated her victory to

former Nebraska quarterback Brook Berringer, a fellow Kansan, who died last week in a plane crash.

"I really didn't know him that well," she said. "But I figured if I was going to win it, I'd dedicate it to him."

After Monday, Tacha was tied for the lead with JoJo Robertson of Oklahoma State, who finished second, five strokes behind Tacha.

After final exams next week, Tacha and the Huskers will concentrate ex-

clusively on the regional tournament in Omaha.

"The length is no problem," Tacha said of the 6,200-yard Champions Club. "We're all long hitters. Chipping and putting will win the tournament."

The Huskers will concentrate on those two areas in the next two weeks. And by regionals, Tacha said, the Huskers will be well-prepared.

"We will be ready," she said.

South Division to rule new Big 12

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

The formation of the Big 12 Conference in August will produce a highly competitive league in nearly all of its 18 sports. Baseball is no exception.

The new conference will join the seven baseball-playing teams in the Big Eight with four teams from the Southwest Conference (Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M, and Baylor).

"I think it'll be outstanding," Texas A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson said. "It will be one of the top baseball conferences in the country. I don't think anybody would argue that point."

The four SWC teams, who all have winning records this season, will join Oklahoma State and Oklahoma to form the South Division of the Big 12. The remaining five Big Eight teams will make up the North Division.

The teams forming the South Division, three of which are ranked nationally, have combined for 58 appearances in Omaha since the College World Series began in 1947. The

teams of the North Division have only appeared in nine — and just once since 1970.

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State alone have made 17 CWS over the past 25 years. Only Iowa State, Nebraska and Texas Tech — which is ranked 14th in the latest polls — have never made CWS appearances.

No. 21 Missouri is the only North Division team currently ranked.

"I think all of the northern coaches want to stick it to the teams in the south for a lot of different reasons," Missouri coach Tim Jamieson said. "I think Wichita State and us are the only two teams north of the Mason-Dixon ranked in the top 25. That has to change. Push the season back or whatever. That has to change. It's just not a fair game the way it is right now."

Jamieson and Johnson said there was a chance the season would get pushed back to begin in March and last through June to help eliminate cold-weather game cancellations in the north.

But the four southern teams joining the Big 12 conference don't want the season starting any later.

"We've seen a lot of that in the Big 12," Jamieson said. "They don't want to give up any of their advantages what so ever. That's what causes problems."

Johnson said he thought the warm weather gave teams in the south a slight advantage.

"If I was young, I would go south and play baseball," Johnson said. "There is no comparison. There is an advantage playing in the south without question. But there are just as many good players in the north."

After a two-game series with the Cornhuskers April 2-3, Oklahoma coach Larry Cochell said he didn't think the traditionally less powerful teams in the Big Eight, including Nebraska and Missouri, would be able to compete with the southern teams.

Cochell said the Sooners, a traditional Big Eight power who won the national title two years ago, would also have a hard time competing in the new conference.

The Big 12 schedule has not been set yet, Johnson said. Big 12 commissioner Steve Hatchell, who spoke highly of the league's baseball potential while in Lincoln two weeks ago,

Big 12 CWS Appearances

South Division

Texas	27
Oklahoma St.	17
Oklahoma	9
Texas A&M	3
Baylor	2
Texas Tech	-

North Division

Missouri	6
Iowa St.	2
Kansas	1
Kansas St.	-
Nebraska	-

is in charge of organizing the schedule.

"That's an alarming thing," said Johnson, who usually has his schedule set more than 1 1/2 years in advance. "It gives me cause for concern."