

Freshman cornerback injured at practice

From Staff Reports

True freshman Mike Brown, listed on the latest depth chart as Nebraska's third-string left cornerback, injured his shoulder in practice Wednesday afternoon.

"We don't know how bad it was," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "But we're counting on him to play this year."

Brown, from Scottsdale, Ariz., was named SuperPrep's No. 1 prospect at defensive back after leading Saguaro High School to the

Class 4-A state title last season. The 6-foot, 190 pounder is expected to play as a true freshman this season.

No. 1 left cornerback Michael Booker, who didn't finish practice on Tuesday, was held out of Wednesday's practice with tendinitis in his knees.

At the other cornerback spot, true freshman Ralph Brown sits atop the depth chart, and senior Mike Fullman, projected to be the starter, continues to recover from a groin injury.

NU golfers hope to end unlucky streak

By ANTONE OSEKA
Senior Editor

For the Nebraska women's golf team, one stroke has kept it from accomplishing its dreams — twice.

In the 1994 Midwest Regional, the Huskers finished one stroke from qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

In 1995, it was *deja vu*. NU missed the cut — playing at the Champions Club in Omaha — for the NCAA's again by one stroke.

But the Cornhuskers made progress, Coach Robin Krapfl said.

Husker golfers Rachele Tacha and Heidi Stark qualified for the tournament, but the team did not. Tacha, the Big Eight champion last spring, said she was expecting a lot from this year's team, which will play in six tournaments during its fall season.

"We have the potential to be better than in the past," Tacha said while on the practice green Wednesday.

Krapfl said the Huskers will be a big surprise this season.

"I think we're going to win our first two tournaments," Krapfl said. "We're going to surprise a lot of people."

Krapfl said this year's team will practice more on its short game, an area in which last year's squad struggled.

"The main thing we're doing different is practice is a lot more structured," Krapfl said.



Tacha



MATTHEW WATTS/DN

MELISSA BECKER, a senior Nebraska golfer, narrowly misses a birdie putt Tuesday morning at Firethorn Golf Club. Becker, who played in the U.S. Women's Amateur Tournament this summer, is sixth in the Husker lineup for their season-opening tournament.

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ROBIN KRAPFL
NU women's golf coach

The Huskers head to their first tournament of the fall season this weekend, golfing in the Penn State Invitational in College Station, Penn. Nebraska will play host to the Chip-N-Club Invitational, Sept. 9-10 at Firethorn Golf Club.

Their lineup will include Tacha, newcomer Hanne Nyquist, Gretchen Doerr, Shirin Hornecker, a transfer from Lamar Community College in Colorado, Denise Woodard, also a transfer, and senior Melissa Becker. Becker will be golfing in the sixth spot this week, even though she qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur that was played at Firethorn earlier this summer.

Many of those names go with new faces in the Husker golf program.

Woodard and Hornecker broke into the starting lineup after transferring, and Nyquist is a freshman who tied Tacha for the top spot on the team.

All edged Becker in the qualifying round, but that doesn't bother the rest of the Husker team.

"She's had a tremendous summer," Tacha said of Becker. "She qualified and can be a real asset to this team."

Tacha said she and Becker have taken their golf game to the next level, and they can be successful this season for Nebraska.

Tacha, a junior from Manhattan, Kan., has seen that one stroke kill the team's dream for the past two years. She hopes her improvement can shake the stroke haunting Nebraska golf.

"The third year must be a charm."

Tech prepared for Big 12 play

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son, Tech finished 9-3, defeating Air Force 55-41 in the Copper Bowl.

"We're real proud of that," Dykes said. "The past 20 years, we had two second-place finishes and one third-place. So that's pretty good."

Keeping the respect and success in the Big 12 will be even more difficult, Dykes said.

"We got the defending two-time national champion in this conference and somebody has to head them off," Dykes said. "Well, Russia fell. How long did it take them?"

"We're all excited, and I'll tell you something, it's a lot of fun to be in-

cluded in something as special as the Big 12. This is really going to be a premiere conference. If you can't get excited about that, you better do something else."

The Red Raiders find out Saturday how fun the Big 12 will be when Tech and Kansas State battle in the first Big 12 game at 2:30 p.m. in Manhattan, Kan.

The game against Kansas State, Dykes said, is a good example of Tech's lack of respect.

"It's amazing. Kansas State wanted to play early, and (Texas) A&M wanted to play."

Immediately, Dykes said, Kansas

State decided it didn't want to play the Aggies.

"They wanted to play Tech," he said. "Everybody wants to play us."

However, Kansas State will give the Red Raiders a chance to see how some of their young replacement players perform in a game.

The question mark for Tech is the secondary. Freshman walk-on Oscar Solis is scheduled to start at left cornerback, and former quarterback Tony Darden will start at right cornerback.

"We have some young individuals who have a chance to get better," Dykes said. "The defense will be a big mystery. The offense is going to have to carry the defense for awhile."

On offense, the Red Raiders should be strong. Junior quarterback Zebbie Lethridge and junior running back Byron Hanspard return.



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