

# Lincoln welcomes hockey's Stars

By ANDREW STERNAD  
Staff Reporter

The city of Lincoln is about to welcome a new sports franchise. The Lincoln Stars are the newest member of the 12-team United States Hockey League, and they play their first of 54 games on Sept. 28 in Sioux City, Iowa against Sioux City.

The Stars will play their first home game at the Coliseum Ice Arena at Nebraska State Fair Park on Oct. 25 against the Omaha Lancers.

The USHL is made up of players between the ages of 17 to 20, and is considered the top Junior A hockey league in the nation.

The USHL current franchises include the Des Moines Buccaneers, Dubuque Fighting Saints, Fargo-Moorhead Bears, Green Bay Gamblers, North Iowa Huskies, Omaha Lancers, Rochester Mustangs, Sioux City Musketeers, Thunder Bay Flyers, Twin Cities Vulcans, and the Waterloo Black Hawks.

Omaha, Des Moines and the defending champions from Green Bay are expected to be the front-runners for the league crown as the USHL expands for the third consecutive year.

The league serves as a pipeline for young players who plan to make the transition to collegiate and professional levels of hockey.

Coaching the Stars in their inaugural year is former Fargo-Moorhead coach Steve Johnson, who was last year's league coach of the year.

Johnson has had two tryout camps and hopes to get his new team of 25 players out on the new ice of the Coliseum Ice Arena by Sept. 10.

"We want to find the most competitive kids who are going to work hard and be committed to winning," Johnson said.

Johnson was a former college hockey star as a member of the North Dakota Fighting Sioux.

He helped lead his team to a Western Collegiate Hockey Association title and a national championship.

The WCHA is considered the best collegiate conference in the nation. Next fall, the University of Nebraska at Omaha begins play in the league.

"Hockey's a fun sport, and we hope that we can show the city what it's all about," Johnson said. "There's a lot of fast-paced action with a lot of contact, so I think the people of Lincoln are going to enjoy the atmosphere."

More than \$3 million is being spent to renovate the Coliseum, which holds approximately 4,100 people.

Season tickets have already reached 2,000.

A student discount hasn't been offered, but group sales are available. Because the state fairgrounds are not on UNL's City Campus, the Stars also plan to sell alcoholic beverages during home games.

Tickets for the Stars' 27 home games can be purchased by calling 474-7827 (extension 10).

Rinkside seats are sold out, but mezzanine (\$10), reserved (\$9) and general admission (\$8) seats are still available.

# Huskers set to scrimmage for last time

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska football team went through a light workout Thursday in preparation for its final preseason scrimmage today at Memorial Stadium.

The scrimmage, NU's last before its Sept. 7 season opener against Michigan State, is closed to the public.

No. 1 split end Brendan Holbein, who has been suffering from a pulled hamstring, returned.

"Depth at the cornerback spot has improved," said Coach Tom Osborne, with Michael Booker, Leslie Dennis, Mike Fullman and Ralph Brown all practicing Thursday. Fullman has been hampered by a groin injury during preseason workouts.

True freshman Mike Brown, the No. 3 left cornerback, missed practice with an injured shoulder.

## Football Picks

The Daily Nebraskan sports staff members pick the winners (in bold) of 10 college football games this weekend.

Washington St.	at	Colorado
Missouri	at	Utah
SW Missouri St.	at	Oklahoma St.
UNLV	at	Tennessee
Purdue	at	Michigan St.
Boston College	at	Hawaii
West Virginia	at	Pittsburgh

# K-State aims to remain powerful

KSU from page 10

Kavanaugh gave the Wildcat faithful a reason to drool in anticipation with an MVP performance in last year's Holiday Bowl. He entered the game with KSU leading 13-7 after Miller was carried off on a stretcher. After his first three drives, the score was 33-7.

He finished the game 18 of 24 passing for 242 yards and four touchdowns, which tied the Holiday Bowl record.

"That was a big confidence booster for me," Kavanaugh said. "Offensively, I hope we pick up where we left off."

Coach Bill Snyder said he is confident Kavanaugh can continue the current successes of Wildcat quarterbacks.

"Brian played significant time in five ballgames last year and really played well in each and every ball game," Snyder said. "It's not a surprise to us."

In addition to the quarterback spot, the Wildcats return a veteran offensive line and All-American wide receiver Kevin Lockett. Jimmy Dean replaces Mitch Running at the other wide

receiver spot.

The running back position took a hit when Eric Hickson suffered a season-ending injury, and the defense was also hurt by cornerback Joe Gordon's injury in fall camp. He will not return until the Nebraska game, Oct. 5 in Manhattan, Kan.

Otherwise, the secondary is strong with All-American Chris Canty and seniors Mario Smith and Clyde Johnson.

Canty will play both ways against the Red Raiders, taking more than 10 snaps as a wide receiver, a Kansas State official said Thursday.

The question many KSU fans have now is how can the Wildcats improve in the tough Big 12 Conference.

The Wildcats have won nine games for three straight seasons, one of only three Division-I football teams to do that. Last season, they won 10 games for the first time since 1910.

"We've made some progress," Snyder said. "We've gotten our program a little bit better year in and year out. We're on solid ground. The next level for us has always been to get a little bit better."

# Young Cougars to test NU

BYU from page 10

Coach Terry Pettit said this weekend — the second week of a span in which Nebraska plays two matches on 15 straight weekends — was another step for the Huskers.

"We're in this for the long haul," Pettit said. "We're not making short-term decisions. We are trying to make decisions to make us a very sound volleyball team."

While NU returned four players with starting experience from last year's national championship team, BYU returns four starters from a team that went 21-9 before losing to Michigan State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Three of those players — Korie Rogers, Heather Whittaker and Andrea Petrilli — combined to play in 94 matches last year.

As All-American Lisa Reitsma leads Nebraska, another All-American, Amy Steele, carries the Cougars. Steele, a junior middle blocker, averaged 4.08 kills and 1.55 blocks per game

— 14th best in the nation — last year.

The Cougars will be without the team's lone senior, All-Western Athletic Conference outside hitter Gale Johnson. Johnson broke a bone in her left foot more than a month ago, but she will return next week.

Playing without Johnson not only takes a key player out of the starting rotation, Michaelis said, but it also takes a tremendous leader off the floor.

Gretchen To'o a 6-foot-5 1/2-inch outside hitter from American Samoa transferred to BYU over the summer, but she will redshirt this season.

Two fairly inexperienced setters will be on the court. Fiona Nepo is starting her fourth career match for NU, and BYU starts freshman Anna-Lena Smith.

"It's an advantage that we played last weekend," Pettit said, "but I don't know how much of an advantage. Early in the season we see improvement week by week, and I'm hoping that we are comfortable on the court."

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