

## Sports Opinion



**Antone Oseka**

### Husker golfers ready to make Krapfl proud

Nebraska Women's Golf Coach Robin Krapfl said she would be disappointed if her team didn't win its first two tournaments of the fall season.

Well, the Huskers are halfway there.

Nebraska won the Penn State Invite in State College, Penn., last weekend, and they are hoping to ride their momentum right down Van Dorn Street to Firethorn Golf Club when they tee off Monday morning for the Chip-N Club Intercollegiate.

The Intercollegiate is the only golf tournament to which Nebraska plays host this season. The first two rounds of the Intercollegiate will be played Monday and the final round will be played Tuesday. Firethorn is a par-72 course and measures 6,069 yards.

With NU's next closest tournament in Kansas, this is a rare opportunity for students to go and support the Husker hackers.

Students who trek out past 84th Street will see some of the best collegiate golfers in the nation. Texas Tech, last year's team champion, returns to Firethorn this year looking to repeat its title run.

Nebraska has other ideas. Krapfl said that even though the Huskers are playing on their home course, Nebraska hasn't played Firethorn as many times as she would have liked.

Without a lot of practice and a little luck, that can be a long 6,069 yards.

"This team can handle the pressure," Krapfl said.

The highest returning finisher from the 1995 Intercollegiate is Nebraska's Rachelle Tacha. She tied for eighth a year ago.

Tacha may be the best collegiate golfer out there, winning the final Big Eight championship last year and starting out as the individual champion at the Penn State Invite.

Tacha will lead a Husker squad that had no player finish lower than 15th in Pennsylvania.

Shirin Hornecker, a transfer from Lamar Community College in Colorado, finished fifth; Gretchen Doerr tied for ninth. Hanne Nyquist, a freshman from Norway, tied Denise Woodard for 12th. Woodard is a Husker transfer from San Francisco.

The lowest Nebraska finisher was senior Melissa Becker, who made it to the second round of the U.S. Women's Amateur Tournament played at Firethorn earlier this summer.

"This team can really go low," Krapfl said.

And, in golf, low is good.

Oseka is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan night news editor.

## NU set to begin defense

**TOP-RANKED HUSKERS** eager to hit field after long off-season.

By **TREVOR PARKS**  
Senior Reporter

The time has finally come.

After months of hype and much criticism, the two-time defending national champion Nebraska football team begins its date with destiny Saturday, trying to become the first college football team to win three straight national titles.

The quest starts at Memorial Sta-

dium when the No. 1 Cornhuskers kick off the season against Michigan State at 11:10 a.m. in a regionally televised game by ABC.

All-American Jared Tomich said the Nebraska defense has been waiting for this game for a long time.

"The only thing we haven't had so far is a game, and that's what everybody is looking forward to," Tomich said. "We are kind of tired of getting beat on by the same 300-pounders every day."

After 23 days of fall practice, the Huskers bring a 25-game winning streak, a 30-game home winning streak and a 36-game regular season winning streak into Saturday's game.

But Nebraska's first opponent, the



1-0 Spartans, is not a pushover.

Last year in East Lansing, Mich., NU slaughtered the team that eventually finished the 1995 campaign 6-5-1, by the score of 50-10. Nick Saban, who coached his first game for the Spartans that afternoon, said after the game that his team quit playing in the fourth quarter. The Spartans, he said, have used that experience to their advantage.

Michigan State opened its season last week with a complete opposite performance from last year. The Spartans beat Purdue 52-14.

In the win over Purdue, Michigan State did not allow a turnover, did not allow a sack and held the Boilermakers to a dismal 2-of-14 performance on third downs, including a stretch in which Purdue failed to convert seven straight third-down attempts.

"I was kind of surprised at their dominance," Coach Tom Osborne said. "I thought Michigan State would be pretty good, but I didn't think they would be that dominant."

"We're playing an awfully good football team."

Freshman Sedrick Irvin, cousin of the Dallas Cowboys' Michael Irvin, made a big impression playing in his

Please see **MSU** on 12



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

**AHMAN GREEN**, a sophomore I-back, will start Saturday against Michigan State in Nebraska's season opener.

## Soccer team to face ranked foes on road

By **VINCE D'ADAMO**  
Staff Reporter

### Soccer

The 25th-ranked Nebraska women's soccer team will get its first taste of competition against ranked opponents this weekend.

The Cornhuskers travel to North Carolina to challenge No. 16 North Carolina State today at 2:30 p.m. in Raleigh, followed by sixth-ranked Duke Sunday at 1 p.m. in Durham.

North Carolina State returns nine of 11 starters from last season. The Wolfpack were an overtime loss away from the Final Four last year.

Duke advanced to the second round of last year's NCAA Tournament. The Blue Devils opened this season with a 2-1 loss to No.

1-ranked North Carolina. NU Coach John Walker spoke highly of both weekend opponents.

"I can't really say that one will be tougher than the other," Walker said. "North Carolina State has two excellent strikers. Duke is always a quality team. We know they will both be very, very tough."

The Huskers are 2-0 after shutting

Please see **SOCCER** on 14

## Fifth-ranked MSU to invade coliseum

By **GREGG MADSEN**  
Staff Reporter

### Volleyball

In a rematch of a 1995 national semifinal match, the Nebraska volleyball team will play host to Michigan State tonight and Saturday night in the Arby's Challenge.



Spartan Coach Chuck Erbe said he is excited about the two matches, both set for 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum. Michigan State (1-2) lost to the Huskers in the semifinals of the NCAA Tourna-

ment last season in five games, but the Spartans finished the 1995 season with a 34-3 record. Nebraska went on to win the national title two days later against Texas.

Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said Michigan State has the potential to win the national championship this season.

"I think they're just as good as last year but a year older," Pettit said.

Please see **SPARTANS** on 14