

## Sports Opinion



**Trevor Parks**

### Pettit predicts coaching success for ex-NU setter

The latest from the sports desk: Former Nebraska volleyball player Christy Johnson returned to the court Tuesday night.

Johnson, a two-time All-America setter and two-year Cornhusker captain, began life after Nebraska volleyball, making her coaching debut as her Millard North squad played at Lincoln High.

"Whatever she does, she'll be exceptional," NU Coach Terry Pettit said. "She's passionate. I think she'll do a great job."

... Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne has joined the likes of John Grisham and L. Ron Hubbard.

Osborne's book, "On Solid Ground" will soon be featured on the New York Times best-seller list. The book is a hot item on the non-fiction charts with more than 48,000 copies sold in three weeks.

... Second-string NU rush end Mike Rucker was trying to make his best impression for an entry in Osborne's next book, picking up 3 1/2 sacks against MSU. He more than tripled his career total.

Rucker — whose claim to NU football fame is a bone-crushing block that sent the helmet of Kansas State's Joe Gordon flying 10 yards during a 79-yard Mike Fullman punt return — told his mother, LaVell, on Friday night he would get a sack for her Saturday.

Not only did he get a sack for his mother but for his father, grandmother and a half a sack for his aunt. All four were in attendance Saturday. Michigan State was lucky Rucker didn't get a sack for his mother's uncle's cousin.

... Other Husker good news: Cody Dusenberry, a former Nebraska softball player, was recently selected as one of 12 members of the U.S. women's deaf basketball team that will compete in Denmark in the summer of 1997.

The 22-year-old Dusenberry is the second youngest player of the team, and it makes one wonder why Angela Beck didn't use her two years ago when a rash of injuries swamped her team.

... Here's a little news to conjure up ugly thoughts — memories we all hope will just go away soon.

Robey Williams, Tennessee State's quarterback, has been charged with assaulting his girlfriend, a member of the TSU women's basketball team. Tequila Holloway said she suffered a cut lip in an argument with Williams.

I wonder if CBS news hound Bernie Goldberg is on the next plane to Nashville to invade the weekly press conference of Tiger Coach L.C. Cole.

Probably not.

Parks is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

# NU looks to quicken tempo

## OFFENSIVE RHYTHM disappoints Green and Frost.

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's two expected offensive leaders said they were not pleased with the tempo established in Saturday's 55-14 win over Michigan State.

Husker I-back Ahman Green, who ran for 71 yards, and quarterback Scott Frost, who ran 58 yards and passed for 74, said the offense needs to develop a rhythm early in its game Arizona State next week.

Although Nebraska totaled only

298 yards against the Spartans, Frost and Green said there is no need to be concerned about the lack of production.

Nebraska plays ASU Sept. 21 at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., the site at which NU defeated Florida 62-24 to win the national championship in January.

Last fall, Nebraska scored 63 first-half points against ASU, en route to a 77-28 win in Lincoln.

"We need to just execute quicker and establish a tempo where we are

able to keep the defense on their heels," said Green, a sophomore from Omaha Central High School.

Green — who is featured on the cover of this week's Sports Illustrated with the headline "Red Alert," — said Nebraska's offense has the potential to become lethal.

"Once one play is done," he said, "we want to be rolling right away with the next play."

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne would like to see 12 to 14 seconds remaining on the play clock when the quarterback receives the ball.

But Osborne said Frost, who was making his first career start for the Huskers, wasn't to blame for the Huskers' slow rhythm.

Frost and Green said it was diffi-

cult to establish a tempo, in part because the NU defense was too efficient.

The Blackshirts scored two of the Huskers' seven touchdowns and NU's special teams added a third, leaving the offense with few chances to capture momentum, Frost said.

Two of Nebraska's scoring drives covered fewer than 25 yards, and the Spartans held the football for 34 minutes and 28 seconds of the game's 60 minutes.

"It's a fact that an offense is not going to be as sharp as it will be the last game of the season," Frost said. "Against Michigan State, we wanted to score 40 points."

"But with the way the defense played, it didn't happen. This game was a good stepping stone game for us."



**Green**



ANTONE OSEKA/DN

**RACHELLE TACHA**, a Nebraska junior, lines up a putt Tuesday afternoon at the Chip-N Club Invitational. The Huskers finished second to Texas Tech at Firethorn Golf Club.

## Second-place finish to Tech disappoints Husker coach

By **SAM MCKEON**  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's golf team fell short in its quest to win two straight tournaments, finishing second to Texas Tech at the Chip-N Club Invitational Tuesday at Firethorn Golf Club.

"Texas Tech is a good team," Nebraska Coach Robin Krapfl said. "You can't take anything away from them, but I'm still disappointed because we could have played a lot better."

The Red Raiders — who also won the tournament last year — recorded with a three-round total of 944, four shots better than Nebraska. The Huskers finished 24 strokes ahead of third-place Baylor in the 14-team field.

NU, which was three shots behind Tech entering the final round, started strong but fell apart on the back nine, especially at holes No. 11 and 12.

"We had a built a substantial

lead after 10 holes," Krapfl said, "but the team struggled with 11 and 12. After that, we just couldn't get the strokes back."

The Huskers played in the final five groups, which meant they had to put up with strong wind on the back nine.

"Texas Tech played with virtually no wind at all this morning," Krapfl said, "so they had an advantage. We played well under the windy conditions for awhile, but it finally wore us down."

Slow play and course conditions at Firethorn factored into the sub-par performance, Krapfl said.

"The course put the pins in some ridiculously hard places on the first day," she said. "The conditions didn't reflect the talent on the course. Play slowed down because everyone was looking for balls."

Individually, NU was led by junior Rachelle Tacha, who shot a 78 and finished in a tie for fourth place with a 234. Freshman Hanna Nyquist shot a team-best 75 on Tuesday, finishing in a tie for sixth.

Lotte Moeller of Lamar won the

individual title with a 16-over par 229. Nebraska's Shirin Hornecker placed eighth; Elizabeth Bahensky finished 17th; Melissa Becker was 22nd; Gretchen Doerr finished 25th; Maureen Regan was 45th and Denise Woodard placed 62nd.

Firethorn, designed by well-known architect Pete Dye — who is famous for his small greens and numerous hazards — prepares the team well for the courses they are set to play this fall season, Krapfl said.

"Firethorn is as hard as any course we'll play all year, so we know we can play good golf anywhere," she said. NU next plays in the North Carolina Tournament, Sept. 26-29 in Chapel Hill, N.C., where Krapfl said she expects to face several top 30 teams and a few top 10 teams.

"That tournament will tell us how good we are," she said. "If we do well there, we know we're going to be a good golf team. We'll be prepared, and this team has a lot of character, so I'll know we'll rebound."

## NU vaults 13 spots to No. 12

By **VINCE D'ADAMO**  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska soccer team's 3-1 victory over previously sixth-ranked Duke Sunday earned the Cornhuskers a No. 12 ranking in the USA Today/Coaches Poll released Tuesday.

Sophomore striker Kristen Gay said the win over Duke — now ranked 18th — is a stepping stone for the rest of the season.

"We needed that game," Gay said. "It's going to help us throughout the season."

Please see **SOCCER** on 8

## Secondary's inexperience hurts Aggies

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

Three weeks before Texas A&M opened its season in the Pigskin Classic against Brigham Young, Aggie coach R.C. Slocum already knew his team's biggest weakness.

"The biggest question mark on our team is our secondary," Slocum said before the season. "We have major

Please see **AGGIES** on 8



This is the last story in an 11-day series on football in the Big 12 Conference.