Tacha wins title; men finish 5th

From Staff Reports

Nebraska junior Rachelle Tacha won the individual title at the Marilynn Smith-Sunflower Invitational Tuesday in Lawrence, Kan.

Tacha, from Manhattan, Kan., fired a final-day score of 77 to finish with a three-day total of 230, three strokes ahead of Texas A&M's Jamie Hullett. NU's Shirin Hornecker shot a 238, good for seventh place.

The Cornhuskers placed second in the 14-team tournament, six strokes behind Texas A&M. Nebraska was two shots back after Monday's second round, but the Huskers were beaten 313-317 on Tuesday by the Aggies.

Hanne Nyquist (242) finished 12th; Melissa Becker (245) was 18th; Elizabeth Bahensky (256) placed 43rd; Denise Woodard (257) was 46th and Gretchen Doerr (263) finished 55th.

In Memphis, Tenn., the Nebraska men's golf team fired a final-round 298 to finish the three-day Kroger Intercollegiate fifth out of 18 teams.

Individually, sophomores Steve Friesen and Scott Gutschewski tied for 10th at 220, nine shots behind champion Chad Wellhausen of Mississippi State. Friesen, a Lincoln High School graduate, shot rounds of 73, 73 and 74 to lead the Huskers

Josh Madden (221) was 13th; Jacques Paiement (230) finished 47th and Trent Morrison (235) was 69th.

NU I-backs bid for time

BACKS from page 7 week's depth chart.

NU Coach Tom Osborne said Benning will be the first back off the bench Saturday in the first half, and Evans will relieve Green first in the second half.

Benning, a senior from Omaha, started last Saturday and ran for 135 yards and three touchdowns in his fifth career start.

Evans, a 5-9, 210-pound true freshman from Wichita, Kan., replaced Benning and ran for 105 yards and two scores against Baylor. The week before he gained 168 yards and scored two touchdowns against Kansas State.

For the season Green leads the team with 387 yards, averaging 5.5 yards per attempt with three touchdowns. Despite playing in only three games, Evans is second with 347 yards, five touchdowns and an 8.7 yards-per-attempt average. Benning averages 5.7 yards per attempt with 281 yards and four touchdowns.

"Every back back there is good," Green said. "They all have the same intensity on the field, and whoever is out there is going to do the job and getit done right."

Note:

No. 1 split end Brendan Holbein missed practice Tuesday with a groin injury. Osborne said he expects Holbein to practice today.

NU hopes intensity translates into wins

By DAVID WILSON Staff Reporter

The end of fall practice Sunday marked a new beginning for the Nebraska baseball team.

The Cornhuskers, who finished 27-27-1 and at the bottom of the Big Eight Conference last season, wrapped up the Red-White World Series at Buck Beltzer field on Sunday.

day.
"If you ask any of the players,"
Coach John Sanders said, "they
would admit there is a lot more intensity this year. When you have
that, it's contagious.

"Does that translate into wins? That's the mission here."

The teams, selected by pitchers Pat Driscoll and Jonas Armenta, played three three-game series, in which players were evaluated by coaches.

"It was real competitive," Assistant Coach Mike Anderson said.
"That's what we're looking for. It was real encouraging."

The Red Team won two series and six out of nine games — including a three-game sweep in the first series.

The three highest-rated players, Anderson said, were junior Todd Sears, freshman Ken Harvey and senior Francis Collins, who led the Huskers last season with a .424 average.

The top two pitchers in the series, Anderson said, were seniors Driscoll and Steve Fish. The duo combined for 11 of NU's 27 wins last season.

Despite losing six seniors from last season, including starting out-

ANNE RICE, STEPHEN KING, SUE GRAFTON,

PATRICIA CORNWELL, DEAN KOONTZ...

There is a lot more intensity this year."

JOHN SANDERS NU baseball coach

fielders Matt Meyer and Mel Motley, the Huskers return five starters to their lineup.

Nebraska will open the season Feb. 18 at Buck Beltzer Field against the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The teams will play on new artificial turf, which is expected to be installed within the next month, Sanders said.

In the last month of the 1997 season, the Huskers will play three-game series on the road against Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Texas Tech and at home against Oklahoma State and Texas.

"The Big Eight was an outstanding conference," Sanders said. "This year, you bring in the four Texas schools and you have a premier baseball conference. We're talking a very elite conference. It will be a real challenge."

The NCAA allows baseball teams to practice 22 weeks out of the year, which can be used at any time. Nebraska practiced outdoors for five weeks in the the decent September and October weather.

"(Southern teams) always have an early start on things," Sanders said. "We're inside more than we want to be, but we can still focus on individual skill developments."

Hogan scores for Huskers

HOGAN from page 7

Hogan said, she gains confidence.

"I gained a lot of playing time last year," she said. "So I had the confidence already, but I feel like I can let it

show more.

"I feel comfortable with my team.
They're such great people. There are no fights. I could hang out with them

all day, everyday."

In the summer of 1995, Hogan played on the West Region under-19 team. College-level competition is clearly more intense, she said.

"The main difference is that on club teams, you're playing against your best friend," Hogan said. "In college, you don't know you're opponent. It's more serious.

"Here, you hate them and just want to beat them into the ground."

With six games remaining, the unbeaten Huskers appear ready to make their first NCAA Tournament appearance in school history.

If the Huskers win out for the rest of the season and capture the Big 12 title next month in St. Louis, they could be in a position to play host to as many as three tournament games. The NCAA Final Four will be played in Santa Clara, Calif., Dec. 6 through 8.

At this point of the season, Hogan said, finishing the regular season without a loss is not unthinkable.

"I'm not going to make any promises," Hogan said. "We never had a serious conversation about it. But I believe we can if we keep playing the way we have."

USA Today



OU victory pleases Blake

OU from page 7
after UT kicked a field goal earlier in overtime.

"There's such a small margin between winning and losing," Blake said. "I knew this team was young."

Kansas beat the Sooners 52-24 on Oct. 5 in Norman, Okla. Despite KU's sound win, Jayhawk Coach Glen Mason said he found no surprise in Oklahoma's victory over Texas (3-3 and 2-1). The Longhorns were ranked No. 25 before the game.

"I told my coaches last Sunday that Oklahoma was going to jump up and bite someone within the next two weeks," Mason said.

Texas Coach John Mackovic said OU's offensive-linemen rotation caused trouble for the Longhorns.

"They wore us down," Mackovic said. "They came right at us, and we didn't get off the block. They could have very easily been 2-2 or 3-1 be-/fore this game."

The Sooners will attempt to win

The Sooners will attempt to win their second straight game Saturday against Baylor in Waco, Texas.

"We're getting ready for a good Oklahoma football team," Baylor Coach Chuck Reedy said. "We knew that before they beat Texas."



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