

Sports

Sports Opinion



Mike Kluck

Once a hero, Farley's life turns tragic

William Shakespeare would have a heyday with the Nebraska football team.

Who needs tragic figures like Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth when you have players like Lawrence Phillips, Tyrone Williams, Christian Peter and Terrell Farley.

Shakespeare's plays — which exploited tragedy and the weaknesses of his characters by using a tragic hero literary device — have similarities to the woe and suffering besieging the Cornhuskers.

Individuals with imperfections. That's what Stephen Buhler, associate English professor at UNL, termed one of the tragic character's many definitions.

"The basic formula of a tragic hero is of a gifted, even good individual that has some kind of flaw," Buhler said. "That flaw leads the individual to undermine the good that he or she has achieved."

In the past week, three Huskers have been in the news, not for their goodness, but for their flaws that have led to their undoing.

Williams, a former Nebraska cornerback, was sentenced Tuesday to six months in jail and three years of probation for shooting a gun at a car.

Peter, a former Husker defensive tackle, has entered contract negotiations with the New York Giants. But instead of discussing the NFL future of this talented football player, the press again trashed Peter because of his past brushes with the law and poor reputation.

And now Farley. The preseason All-American was arrested on Aug. 30 for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. He was suspended from the NU football team, sent to counseling and given a second chance.

But his drinking was a fault too big for him to master, and because of his flaw, Farley will never play college football again. His professional stock will drop and he will be scrutinized constantly.

Despite all he has lost, Farley should consider himself fortunate.

Fortunate that he didn't kill someone, lucky that he still has the support of Tom Osborne and his teammates, and relieved that this is real life, not a Shakespeare play.

Because a Shakespearean tragic hero does not recover.

So just like Phillips, Williams and Peter, all of whom will recover from their woes, Farley has an opportunity to end this tragedy and create his own happy ending.

"The play is the thing," Hamlet said.

But not for Farley. For Farley, real life is the thing.

Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

BECKY HOGAN (right) struggles with Minnesota's Allison Johnson during NU's 3-2 first-round NCAA Tournament win. The Huskers play host to Duke on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Huskers out to prove win was no fluke

Experienced Duke team seeks revenge over perfect NU.

By **VINCE D'ADAMO**
Staff Reporter

It's like déjà vu all over again. In the second round of the NCAA Tournament Sunday, the fifth-ranked Nebraska soccer team (22-0) and Duke (10-9-3) renew acquaintances at the Abbott Sports Complex at 1 p.m.

On Sept. 8, Nebraska came from behind to defeat Duke 3-1 in Durham, N.C., scoring three second-half goals. That marked NU's first-ever win over a ranked opponent.

Duke advanced to the second round by defeating Virginia 1-0 last Saturday. The following day, the Cornhuskers beat Minnesota 3-2 in sudden-death overtime in Lincoln.

While the drama was great for the fans last Sunday, NU Coach John Walker said he's not hoping for another

Soccer

Abbott Sports Complex

NCAA Tournament second round

cardiac finish against the Blue Devils.

"It's exciting," Walker said of the sudden-death format. "But I don't think I want to go through it again. It's definitely different from playing until the final whistle."

Walker said Duke played the most difficult schedule in the nation. The Blue Devils played 17 games against tournament teams and 18 games against teams that were at one point ranked this season.

Nebraska midfielder **Kari Uppinghouse**, who scored the game-

Please see **DUKE** on 8

Young Huskers face No. 17 UT

Huskers carry the nation's longest streak into Austin.

By **TREVOR PARKS**
Senior Reporter

Heading into Saturday's season opener at Texas, the Nebraska basketball team has at least one advantage on its side.

NU carries the nation's longest winning streak — five-consecutive wins in last year's National Invitation Tournament — into its 3 p.m. game at the Erwin Center in Austin, Texas.

But the advantages may stop there.

Nebraska faces a team with more depth, more experience and more leadership in a game that will not count in the Big 12 Conference standings because it was scheduled as part of a four-year package before the conference existed.

Texas Coach Tom Penders, whose team is ranked No. 17, said he doesn't know what to expect from the Cornhuskers, who have only eight healthy players, four of whom are playing in their first game for NU.

Sophomore forward Andy Markowski, who is recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery, will not play.

"Your opening game is always different, because you don't really know what is going to happen," Penders said. "It's like the opening night of a Broadway play in that

Basketball Starters

Nebraska		Saturday, 3 p.m. Erwin Center Austin, Texas	
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
F 5	Larry Florence	6-5	225
G 30	Cookie Belcher	6-3	200
Texas			
F 24	Ira Clark	6-8	215
G 32	Reggie Freeman	6-6	205

you don't know who is going to show up. So you just have to expect the unexpected.

"I'm more concerned about what our team is doing and not what Nebraska will be doing. Let's just throw it up and play."

UT was 2-0 in the exhibition season with a 78-70 win over Townsville and a 78-75 victory over the Melbourne Magic.

The Longhorns are led by pre-season Wooden Award candidate

Please see **HORNS** on 8

NU seniors cherish last home matches

By **SHANNON HEFFELFINGER**
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team enters this weekend focused on avenging its only Big 12 Conference loss. But for seniors Kate Crnich and Maria Hedbeck, the matches carry an added importance.

Crnich and Hedbeck will play their final regular-season home matches tonight at 7:30 when the fifth-ranked Cornhuskers play host to No. 21 Texas Tech and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. against Baylor at the NU Coliseum.

Both seniors, who will be honored before Saturday's match, are excited about the chance to gain revenge against Tech, which handed the Huskers a five-game upset loss four weeks ago in Lubbock, Texas.

"I will have my parents and friends and family here," Crnich said. "So that will give me an extra incentive to play well."

Playing the Red Raiders (23-6 overall and 10-6 in the Big 12) in her final weekend at home is an added bonus, Hedbeck said.

"This weekend will be sad," Hedbeck said. "But it will also be fun because we are playing a team like Texas Tech. I'm excited for Friday."

Tech enters tonight's contest having won three of six matches since beating NU. With their win over Nebraska in October, the Raiders became the first Big 12 team to record 20 wins.

NU Coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers (23-3 and 15-1) did not play well in the first matchup.

"Even if we'd won the match, I would have had the feeling that it was not one of our better matches of the

Volleyball

NU Coliseum

Texas Tech, today, 7:30 p.m.



Crnich **Hedbeck**

year." Following its rematch with the Red Raiders, NU will be challenged Saturday night by Baylor, which left the Huskers in sole possession of the conference lead after handing Texas A&M a four-game upset loss Nov. 9.

The Bears (18-12 and 7-9) — who have posted 11 more wins than they did last year — will bring a three-match winning streak into the coliseum.

Pettit said his team is in a must-win situation.

"It's the end of the year, and we need to win these games for conference," Pettit said.

For Crnich and Hedbeck, this weekend means more than just maintaining the conference lead. Although

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