

McClain wants ISU, not tears

Husker senior plays final home game against Iowa State Sunday night.

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

If Tina McClain has her way Sunday night, there won't be any tears during senior introductions before her final game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

It's not because the senior forward on the women's basketball team — who said she is very sensitive — hasn't enjoyed or appreciated her time as a Cornhusker.

McClain doesn't want tears because she wants to remain focused for the Huskers' 6 p.m. battle with Iowa State. A win for Nebraska (18-5 overall and 8-5 in the Big 12 Conference), who defeated the Cyclones 76-52 Jan. 30 in Ames, will help solidify NU's chances for its second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

McClain will probably be matched up against either junior forward Jayme Olson, who led the Cyclones with 18 points in the first game against NU, or junior forward Janel Grimm, who scored 15 points.

ISU (14-9 and 7-6) defeated No. 9 Texas Wednesday night 74-56 in Ames and enters the game having won five of its last six games. Since Nebraska beat the Cyclones, Iowa State has lost only once, dropping an 82-78 game at Kansas.

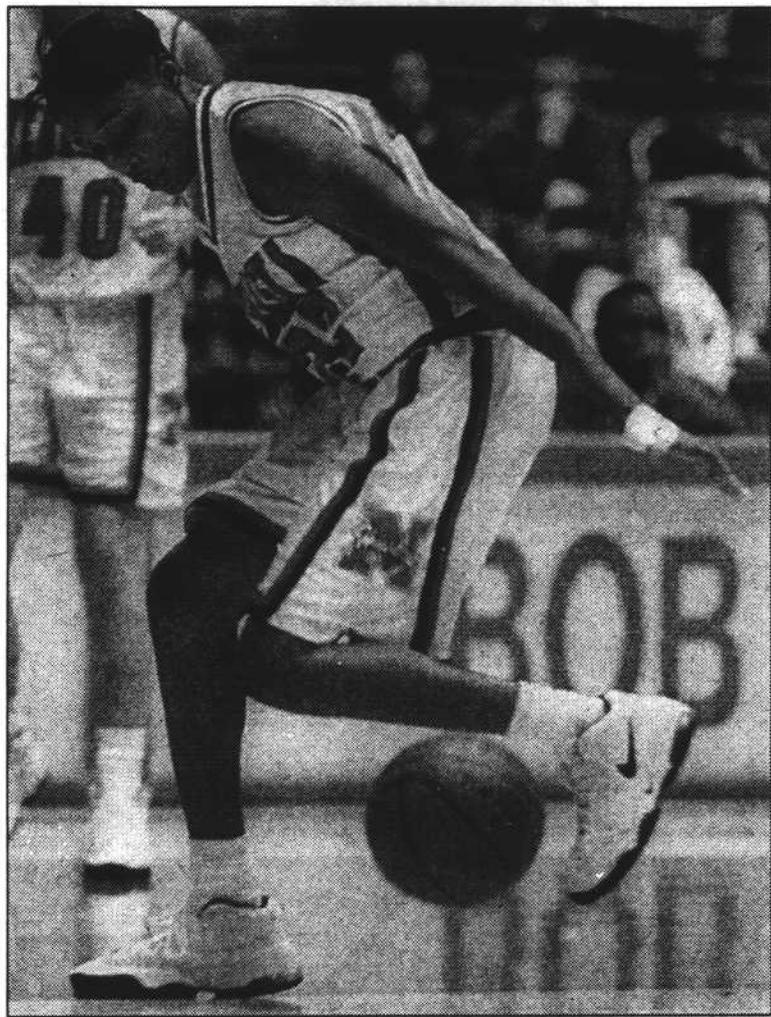
"It's going to be a real tough game," McClain said. "Hopefully we will have a lot of fans there. It's a real important game for us, and hopefully I will do the best I can."

McClain played one of her better games in the first contest, scoring 15 points — her third best outing of the season — and grabbing seven rebounds.

But it's been an up-and-down season for a performer who last year was named All-Big Eight.

McClain has only scored in double digits nine times this season and is averaging just under nine points per game. She is also second on the team in rebounds with 127, good for an average of 5.52 a game.

Last season McClain averaged 13.8 points and scored in the double digits 22 times. She led the team in rebounding averaging 6.8.



TINA McCLAIN fights for the ball against Baylor Wednesday night. McClain is one of three NU seniors who will play their final game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Sunday.

After a two-point, four-rebound effort against Kansas and a six-point, one-rebound performance against Colorado — both Husker losses — Nebraska Coach Angela Beck talked to McClain and told her she would not play if her performance didn't improve.

The quiet captain from Montrose, Mo., responded with a season-best 21 points to help the Huskers upset then-No. 9 Texas Tech 62-57.

"I was upset with myself because I knew I wasn't playing up to my potential," McClain said. "I wasn't looking for my shot. I was only getting three or four shots a game because I wasn't shooting."

McClain said she also knew her offensive output needed to improve to help the Huskers on their run to make the tournament again. With most teams double-teaming NU's leading scorer Anna DeForge, McClain said other members of the team have had to step up.

Her style has also had to change with the development of freshman center Charlie Rogers. Since coming to NU, McClain has been known as a player who plays with her back to the basket but this year she has had to adjust to facing the basket more.

But no matter what McClain — who is one of 17 Huskers to score 1,000-plus points in her career —

Women's Basketball Starters

Sunday, 6 p.m.
Devaney Center

Nebraska 18-5 (8-5)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F	22 Tina McClain	5-10	Sr.
F	30 Anna DeForge	5-11	Jr.
C	33 Charlie Rogers	6-2	Ft.
G	24 Jami Kubik	5-11	Jr.
G	20 LaToya Dege	5-6	Sr.

Iowa St. 14-9 (7-6)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F	53 Jayme Olson	5-7	Jr.
F	52 Janel Grimm	6-1	Jr.
C	45 Monica Huelman	6-2	Ft.
G	22 Tara Gunderson	5-8	Sr.
G	10 Kim Martin	5-8	Sr.

does the remainder of the season, she has already surpassed the expectations that were placed on her coming out of high school.

"When they told me that, I really doubted myself and I became my own worst enemy," McClain said. "It really took my parents to make me look at all the Division I schools recruiting me. They must have seen something in me."

NU golfers open season in Texas

By Sam McKewon
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's golf team opens the season with a Texas two-step as the Cornhuskers start the year with two tournaments in Texas.

NU begins its spring season today at the Crown Colony Invitational in Lufkin, Texas.

Coach Larry Romjue said he doesn't expect Nebraska to be in top form in the first tournament of the year.

"We've got to shake off the rust, that's for sure," Romjue said. "I don't think we're going to go out and win the tournament, but we need to start off on a good foot."

Romjue said the Huskers are looking forward to competing this weekend. The tournament features 15 teams, including nationally ranked Arkansas.

"We need to get out and compete

against other teams," he said. "There are teams that we can beat in Lufkin, and we would like to challenge Arkansas a little bit."

The Huskers are led by sophomores Steve Friesen and Josh Madden. Friesen won two tournaments during the fall season, while Madden had strong finishes early in the tournament season. The two also helped NU to a title in the fall.

Romjue said Madden and Friesen provide a powerful one-two punch that solidifies the Husker five.

"Josh and Steve are both very consistent golfers," Romjue said. "I expect that those two will be our most stable and solid players."

Despite the strength at the top, Romjue is counting on seniors Jacques Palement and Trent Morrison to take NU to the next level.

"Jacques and Trent have been around here awhile and they have the experience to be team leaders," Romjue said. "Josh and Steve's per-

formance isn't as important as the rest of the team and how well they do."

Filling the fifth spot in the Huskers' lineup is Scott Gutschewski. Gutschewski, a transfer from Creighton, tied for 10th in two fall tournaments and was Nebraska's third lowest scorer.

After the tournament in Lufkin, NU moves on to San Antonio to play in the Texas-San Antonio Invitational on Monday and Tuesday. Romjue said the team should begin to improve entering the second tournament.

"We should be a little bit more prepared to play in San Antonio," he said. "We'll have a couple rounds under our belt by Monday and Tuesday."

Romjue said NU will take this week to sharpen its chipping and putting games because both are difficult to pick up again after a long layoff.

"The short game is always the quickest to go," Romjue said. "It's hard to simulate it in practice because you don't have a real putting green."

Doubles switch helps tennis team

By Jay Saunders
Staff Reporter

Women's Tennis Coach Scott Jacobson took the old saying "if it isn't broke, don't try to fix it," and threw it out the window.

Junior Lisa Hart and freshman Sandra Noetzel played together in No. 1 doubles during the fall and had a lot of success. They compiled a 6-2 record and are ranked 20th in the latest tennis poll — the highest any Husker pair has been ranked in school history.

But, instead of keeping the successful duo together this spring, Jacobson split the two of them up.

"Sandra and Lisa played together in the fall because they were two of our better players," Jacobson said. "After contemplating the situation we thought it would be better to split them up."

Noetzel is playing No. 1 doubles with new partner Jennifer Thoste. Hart is now teamed with senior Annie Yang at No. 2 doubles. Hart and Yang played doubles together two years ago. "It didn't bother me at all," Hart said. "I think it is the best combina-



Hart

tion. Our team is even stronger now with more depth in doubles."

Jacobson said the move helps the team in other ways as well.

"In many respects this makes the team stronger," Jacobson said. "This gives our team a little better chemistry."

Hart said chemistry is something the Cornhuskers are not lacking, and that is one of the reasons the new combinations have worked well.

"We are all so close that any combination can work," Hart said. "Sandra's and Jenny's games complement each other."

In NU's four dual meets this spring the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles teams are a perfect 8-0. This added strength in doubles has helped the Cornhuskers to a 4-0 dual record.

The doubles teams look to extend their perfect mark as the Huskers travel to Texas this weekend to play 27th-ranked Texas A&M and Texas.

"A&M is going to be a critical dual for us," Jacobson said. "I think we can compete at that level."

The men's tennis team is also in action this weekend. The Huskers take on Southwest Missouri State Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Cather-Pound tennis courts.

The Huskers are currently 1-3 after dropping decisions at New Mexico, New Mexico State and Texas-El Paso. NU's lone win came against Texas-San Antonio.

California standout signs with Huskers

By Jay Saunders
Staff Reporter

A standout women's tennis player from California has decided to continue her career at Nebraska.

Danica Hardy, who was featured in "Faces in the Crowd" in the Feb. 10 Sports Illustrated, is packing her tennis bag after a stellar four-year career to attend NU.

Hardy, a senior at Ernest Righetti High School in Santa Maria, Calif., signed a national letter of intent earlier this month to play tennis for the Cornhuskers following a very successful high school career.

In four years, Hardy had a Northern League record of 168-0 on the way to a 296-12 overall record. She breezed through her conference schedule, dropping just one set in 168 matches.

"It was a lot of fun going through those four years," Hardy said. "I am kind of amazed myself."

After entertaining offers from Iowa, Cal-Irvine and San Diego State, Hardy — who plans on majoring in communications — was sold on Nebraska after visiting Lincoln.

"I couldn't find anything wrong

with it," Hardy said. "I was mostly looking at which school could put everything together. Nebraska has a great tennis program and great academics."

The idea of leaving beautiful southern California behind and moving to the Midwest doesn't bother her, Hardy said. But there is one aspect of the Midwest that Hardy is concerned about.

"The main thing I am worried about is the weather," Hardy said. "It has never really snowed where I am from. I am hoping I can adapt very quickly."

Another person who is hoping Hardy can adapt successfully is NU Women's Tennis Coach Scott Jacobson. Jacobson said he didn't see a problem with Hardy fitting into the Husker program.

Jacobson said the addition of people like Hardy and Kelly Clark of Redlands, Calif., who also signed with NU, will make a difference in the program down the line.

"Individuals want to go to a program where they have that type of people," Jacobson said. "Danica seems to be one to lead with example and with a smile on her face."

Osborne won't slow down

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Then there's Lawrence Phillips. Osborne gave the troubled youth from California a chance to change his ways and play football for the Cornhuskers.

Phillips succeeded on the field and helped the Huskers win their only two national championships under Osborne. Phillips also endured many publicized off-field problems.

When Osborne stuck by Phillips and worked to try to get him help, Osborne became known outside of Nebraska as a win-at-all-costs coach. Then just this week, Phillips, who plays for St. Louis, was arrested in Omaha for disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace.

"There's only so much you can do, and once they have left, you can't continue to burden yourself," Osborne

said. "Sure it hurts and bothers you when they don't succeed."

Despite Osborne's displeasure with the press, certain aspects of the newly formed Big 12 Conference and the tightening guidelines of the NCAA, he still hasn't been discouraged enough to consider not being part of a fall football Saturday in Memorial Stadium.

He does foresee the day when he isn't pacing the sidelines, a period when he will be spending more time with his wife Nancy, who Osborne feels has made the greatest sacrifice for his successful career.

For now, nobody is asking Osborne to go.

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