

Sports Opinion



Mitch Sherman

Unique ability earns lineman shot at NFL

Ripped gray tank top hanging loosely over his 303-pound body, Adam Treu, the diplomat, calmly strode through Cook Pavilion Tuesday, shaking hands and answering dozens of questions posed by a slew of NFL scouts and coaches.

Minutes earlier, Adam Treu, the athlete, fired footballs between his legs as the scouts stood nearby, arms crossed with stern faces, nodding, talking quietly and taking notes.

Treu and the newly hired agent hear speculation that the former Nebraska offensive tackle may be among the nation's top two deep-snapping prospects as next month's NFL draft approaches.

"The Nebraska football program has opened a lot of doors for me," Treu said. "I consider myself a pretty good offensive lineman, and I'd like to go into the draft and have teams look at me like that."

But Treu's initial ticket to professional football probably requires him to wear his deep-snapping hat. "I consider myself fortunate to be able to do it, and with the limits to the numbers of players in the NFL, I feel like it's a big asset."

For this 6-foot-6 December college graduate, who grew up in Lincoln and attended Pius X High School, the last few months seem a little out of the ordinary. Treu never expected to play in the NFL — at least not until December, when NU Assistant Coach George Darlington pulled him out of a team meeting to inform Treu he'd been invited to the Jan. 11 East-West Shrine Game.

He certainly didn't expect to play in the NFL after his sophomore year at NU, when he had a whole seven games of college experience and the wrong mentality to crack the Husker Pipeline. But Treu soon learned what it takes to play at Nebraska. He grew up on the field and off it, and he earned the line's top backup spot as a junior.

Last season, he started alongside Chris Dishman and Aaron Taylor. He worked out at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis last month, and Tuesday, the scouts evaluated Treu and several other former Huskers for the second time in the last eight days.

"I look at the NFL as a good chance to get paid a ludicrous amount of money to play a game that I love," he said. "I have a degree, but I can put off a job and see if this works out. If it does, I've got a head start on a lot of things in my life."

Judging solely by his attitude and outlook, Treu already has a giant head start.

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

NU rolls past Wolf Pack

Huskers will travel to UConn for quarterfinal matchup on Friday.

From Staff Reports

RENO, Nev. — The NIT beat goes on.

Nebraska won its seventh straight National Invitation Tournament game Tuesday night, cruising past Nevada 78-68 in the second round of the postseason basketball tournament.

Now just one victory away from a return trip to the New York semifinals, the defending champion Cornhuskers used a balanced offensive attack and stifled the Wolf Pack with an aggressive defensive effort.

Nevada (21-10) shot just 34 percent from the field, and the Huskers

out-rebounded the Wolf Pack 41-39 before a sellout crowd of 11,275 at the Lawlor Events Center.

NU (18-14) advanced to the round of eight, in which it will play Friday night in Storrs, Conn., against Connecticut. The Huskies (16-14) defeated Bradley 63-47 Tuesday night in Storrs and topped Iona in the first round last week.

In Reno, Mikki Moore led the way with a game-high 21 points, and the 6-11 senior tied a career-best 15 rebounds. Fellow senior Bernard Garner added 17 points and seven rebounds, and point guard Tyrone Lue scored 18. Venson Hamilton did not

play because of an ankle injury suffered Sunday in practice.

"We made them look bad at times with our physicalness," Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said on his post-game radio show. "Mikki Moore looked as dominant as I've ever seen him."

In addition to the dominating post play, NU controlled the perimeter with its defense. Nevada's starting guards, Jimmy Carroll and Richard Brown, scored just six points apiece. Paul Culbertson led the Wolf Pack with 17 points and Faron Hand scored 16.

"We felt if we didn't guard them on the perimeter, we were going to have a long night," Nee said. "I'm just really, really proud of our kids. I thought we won it with defense. Our size, our strength was a little too much."

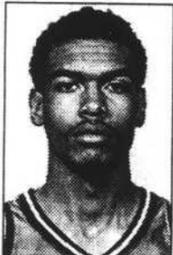
Nebraska scored the first eight

Nebraska	78
Nevada	68

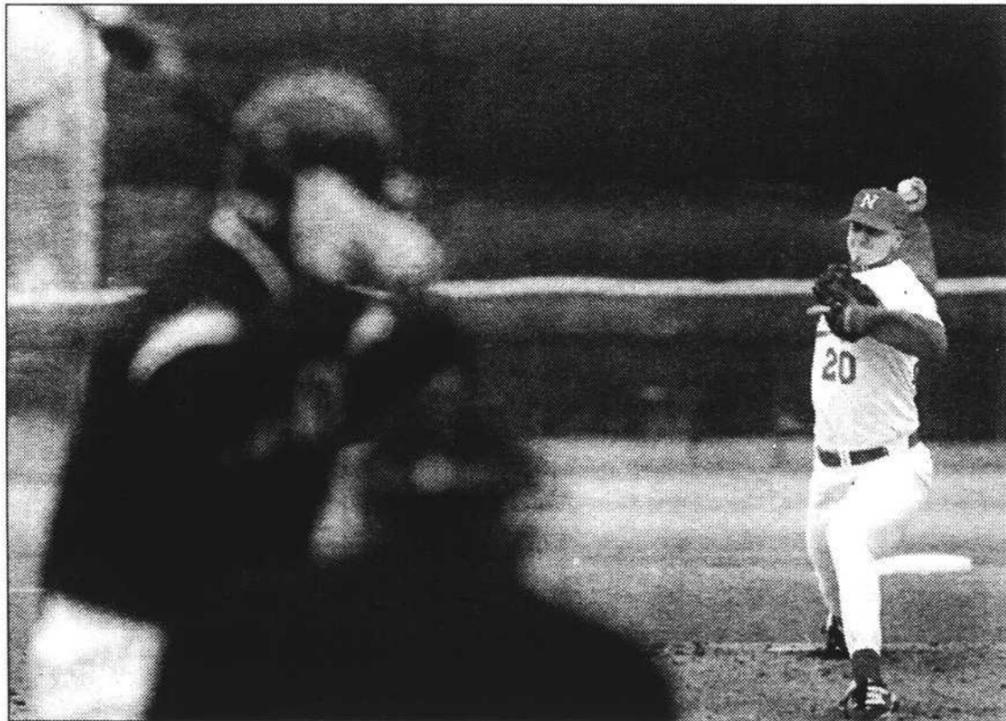
points of the game and after another 8-0 run midway through the first half, the Huskers led 28-13. Nevada closed the first half with a five-point surge of its own to trail 37-34. That was as close as the Big West Conference champion Wolf Pack came the rest of the night.

Lue, who had just four points at the break, came alive in the second half, scoring eight straight and 11 of 15 NU points — capped by a 3-pointer with 8:40 remaining — to give the Huskers a 60-46 lead.

"There was something definitely wrong," Nevada Coach Pat Foster said. "I don't know what, it's just one of those things. Tonight we played a basketball team that was very good. Very good."



Moore



MATT MILLER/DN

STEVE FISH throws a pitch against Creighton on a less-than-balmy day at Buck Beltzer Field. Fish lasted the entire game allowing just three runs on six hits.

Husker bats chill Creighton

BY MITCH SHERMAN
Senior Reporter

Near-freezing temperatures and a nippy wind chill factor failed to ice the hot bats of the Nebraska baseball team Tuesday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Cornhuskers pounded 12 hits and scored nine runs in the first four innings, chilling Creighton 13-3, NU's third win in its last four games. By the game's end, less than 50 well-covered fans remained as temperatures dipped into the mid-30s and wind chills hovered near 15 degrees.

"We've had to battle this before," Nebraska Coach John Sanders said. "It's part of the Midwestern mentality. But I was very proud of the fact that we got double-digit runs and double-digit hits on a non-hitting day."

Senior right-hander Steve Fish (3-3) hurled a complete-game six-hitter, striking out four Bluejays and facing just 35 batters in the 3-hour, 6-minute contest.

"I've always been one of those guys who likes throwing in the cold weather," Fish said. "I think it's a pitcher's advantage."

Tuesday's weather did little to help Creighton starter Brad Erickson, who entered the game with a perfect earned-run average and a 2-0 record. Nebraska (8-14) rattled Erickson (2-1) for four runs in the first inning, scoring a pair of runs of a single by second baseman Kevin Harrington.

"Our pitching staff didn't do it," said Creighton Coach Jack Dahm, whose team dropped to 11-6. "We were flat in every phase of the game. We had mental mistakes, and that tells me we weren't ready to play. We basically played our way out of the ball game."

Harrington finished 4 for 6 with three RBIs and scored two runs, and catcher Andrew Sawyers went 2 for 4 with a pair of RBIs for Nebraska, which did not commit an error to Creighton's three.

"I liked our execution," Sanders said. "We tried to tell our guys

"Out pitching staff didn't do it."

JACK DAHM
Creighton baseball coach

before the game today to make a real concrete effort to stay away from fly-ball outs.

"We tried to put the ball on the ground and hit line drives, because today the fly balls were not going anywhere. We did a good job of that."

Creighton scored runs in the first, third and fourth innings before Fish held the Jays hitless until the eighth.

NU returns to the diamond today at 1:30 p.m. for a double-header with Nebraska-Omaha. The Huskers play host to another twin bill against South Dakota Thursday and face South Dakota State in a single game Friday afternoon in Lincoln.

Springtime prepares NU for fall

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

For five weeks this spring, the Nebraska volleyball team meets every day for 2½ hours at the NU Coliseum. They sweat, train and condition. They work to improve their consistency, quickness and endurance.

And it's all in anticipation for next season.

The Cornhuskers, who began spring practice last week, will not compete in a meaningful match for five months. But they should have no problems finding the motivation to practice with intensity, NU Coach Terry Pettit said.

"In great programs, motivation is not a problem," Pettit said. "We lost two players to graduation and another to injury, so there are opportunities for people. They know they can win spots for the fall during the spring."

Spring practice gives the Huskers an opportunity to shift their focus from team chemistry to individual improvement. Pettit said he places extra emphasis on technical skills, providing the players with a better chance to progress individually.

"I expect people to get better during the spring," Pettit said. "The players we have are exceptional, so great improvement doesn't surprise me."

The Huskers return nine players from last season's 30-4 team that advanced to the NCAA Final Four and lost to national champion Stanford. First-team All-Americans Fiona Nepo and Lisa Reitsma lead the way.

In addition, Katie Jahnke and Denise Koziol join the team after redshirting during the 1996 season because of knee injuries.

All 11 players know they must continue to improve individually in order to make a strong bid for a position next fall, when highly touted recruits Kim Behrends, Nancy Meendering, Angie Oxley and Jill McWilliams join the team.

"We have different players trying



Kerver