

NU's numbers depleted

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska football team's long list of injuries forced the Cornhuskers to work out Monday with just three offensive and defensive units after using four squads last week.

"By most standards," Coach Tom Osborne said, "(three) is still pretty good."

NU practiced in full pads for more than two hours Monday at Memorial Stadium, two days after its first major scrimmage of the

spring season. Osborne said he was generally pleased with Saturday's results.

"I'm more encouraged than discouraged," he said.

Defensive tackle Jason Peter missed practice Monday with a sore knee. Offensive tackles Eric Anderson (shoulder) and Adam Julch (knee) both may need exploratory surgery at the conclusion of spring ball, Osborne said, but none of the recent bumps and bruises appear serious enough to carry over into August.

Cheerleaders finish second

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska Yell Squad finished a school-best second place at the National Cheerleaders' Association Collegiate Championships at Daytona Beach, Fla.

The winner of the cheerleading competition was North Carolina, which beat NU by three-tenths of a point. Nebraska finished fifth at last year's NCACCs.

The Cornhusker dance team also had success, finishing third behind Brigham Young and North Carolina.

Lil' Red, NU's second mascot, received the only standing ovation from the crowd as it finished second behind the Hokie Bird from Virginia Tech.

The event will be televised on CBS April 20 at 1 p.m.

Huskers tie school record

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's golf team shot a school record-tying round of 296 in the second round of the Utah-Dixie Classic at St. George, Utah.

The previous 296 was shot at the

Big 12 Fall Classic in November.

The Cornhuskers have a 10-stroke lead over Wyoming heading into today's third-round action.

NU freshman Hanne Nyquist of Oslo, Norway, holds a five-stroke lead in the tournament. Nyquist shot a 71 in the second round to go with her first-round 74 for a total of 145. Wyoming's Jordan Lintz is in second place following rounds of 78 and 72.

Shirin Hornecker is in third place after rounds of 78 and 73 on Monday. Rachele Tacha and Maureen Regan are tied for 11th with a total of 155. NU's Elizabeth Bahensky is in 31st place with a 160.

"I knew we had a great week of practice so I knew this was coming," NU Coach Robin Krapfl said. "I'm glad the hard work finally paid off."

Husker men in fourth

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's golf team is in fourth place after the first day at the ASU Indian Golf Classic in Jonesboro, Ark.

NU fired an opening-round score of 292 but is nine strokes behind tour-

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ment leader Iowa State. The score tied the Cornhuskers' lowest mark of the spring.

Senior Trent Morrison led Nebraska's charge with a season-best round score of 70. Sophomore Josh Madden is tied for seventh after shooting a one-under-par 71. The Cyclones' Jason Knutson and Arkansas-Little Rock's Alex Maynard led the tournament with a 69.

NU's Scott Gutschewski is tied for 20th with a score of 74, Steve Friesen is in 51st with a 77 and Mikkel Haug is in 90th with an 85.

Softball games now Thursday

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team's doubleheader Saturday at Iowa State was rained out after one inning of play.

The Cornhuskers (15-15) will travel to Ames Thursday at 3 p.m. to make up the games against the Cyclones. Game one of the doubleheader will resume in the top of the second inning.

Huskers swing toward regional spot

TENNIS from page 9

ence matches, which will be played at home. Nebraska is vying for one of six spots in the NCAA Midwest Regional — one of the goals the team set at the beginning of the year.

NU will most likely have to win one or two matches this weekend against Oklahoma, Oklahoma State or Texas Tech to earn a spot, McDermott said. As of now, Tulsa, OU, Colorado, Kansas and OSU are assured spots. If NU defeats the Sooners, it will make the regional.

The WSU win came on the heels of a tough start to the weekend.

In the loss to CU, the Buffaloes picked up the doubles point and won four of six singles matches against NU. Sophomore Dinko Verzi and

freshman Andrew Wiese — who was the lone Husker to go 3-0 over the weekend — won at the No.2 and No. 6 singles in three games.

McDermott said NU had its chances to win, especially in the three-game matches.

"There were a lot of points that we needed to win that we didn't win," McDermott said. "They came off playing a little bit better than we did."

NU had little chance at upsetting the Jayhawks Saturday in Lawrence. Wiese picked up the team's only singles win, while KU rolled to straight-game victories in the other five matches en route to the 6-1 win.

"We got beat by a better team," McDermott said. "We didn't compete as well as we should have."

All three matches will go a long way to determining NU's position in the Big 12 Tournament at Austin, Texas. Right now, McDermott said, the Huskers would like to avoid playing the league's top two teams — Kansas and Texas — in the first round.

"We want to get into that seven or eight spot somewhere," McDermott said, "and play a team comparable to our ability in the first round, like a Baylor or Oklahoma."

Overall, McDermott said, NU has to play its best tennis during crunch time.

"We can win the last three matches of the year if we compete well," McDermott said. "We're good enough to play with them."

Sears helps Huskers

SEARS from page 9

Though Sears said he considered going pro out of high school, he decided to continue his education at Nebraska while NU Coach John Sanders prepared him for the next level. And so far, Sanders has kept his promise, Sears said.

"He's helped me tremendously," Sears said. "He's always been there for me and he's helped me out in every way. I just can't say enough about him."

Last season, as a sophomore, Sears hit .380 with six homers and 62 RBIs. And in one year's time, experience and help from Sanders have made Sears feel more confident at the plate.

"Last year, there were times when I felt comfortable," Sears said, "but most of the time, I didn't feel like I do right now. I'm feeling real comfortable at the plate. I think it's because we changed a little bit in my swing."

Sanders worked with Sears' stance to enable the left-handed hitter to start his swing earlier, which has improved his power, Sears said.

In a three-game series against Kansas State last weekend, Sears finished 6 for 11 with three home runs, giving him a total of nine on the season — one shy of his career high.

"He's a very patient hitter," Sanders said. "He doesn't have to swing. He's one of those kids that says, 'I'm going to look for my pitch up to two strikes. And then when I get two strikes, I will adjust and look away.'"

"He's one of the mature hitters who has the confidence to be patient."

Only five players in Nebraska history have finished a season with an average higher than .400. With 21 games remaining this year, Sears is dangerously close to becoming the sixth.

NU senior Francis Collins, the newest member of the .400 club, hit .424 last season and is second on the team this year, batting .370.

Both Collins and Sears have provided consistent offensive punch all season long, Sanders said.

Sears said he hopes to pass on what he has learned to the younger players on the Husker squad. Nebraska added 23 new faces to its roster this season.

"I just try to help them out," Sears said. "I tell them what the Big Eight Conference was like last year and what to expect from pitchers. Just little things like that."


The Big 12 Conference, Sears said, offers tougher competition. The Huskers (18-19) are 4-8 in the conference this season, but Sears said he is confident that NU will continue to improve.

"We had a couple of bad games," Sears said. "But when you look at the standings, we're not doing so bad. We're playing a lot better."

The top six teams in the Big 12 will compete in the conference tournament May 15 through 18 in Oklahoma City.

But no matter where the Huskers finish the season, Sears will have made his mark in Nebraska baseball history.

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