

Sports Opinion



Mike Kluck

Weak schedule gives scalpers fewer chances

Nebraska's fall football schedule never seemed to bother me until this week.

Sure, last week I was disappointed when Nebraska wasn't going to play host to the Pigskin Classic, but it didn't bother me until a couple days ago.

So why has my reasoning changed?

Student football tickets went on sale Monday and I began looking at the schedule — not to see who the Huskers were playing — for scalping value.

In past years the money I've made from scalping my season tickets have helped pay a generous portion of my tuition.

This year — with the likes of Akron and Central Florida dotting NU's home slate — I'll be lucky to make enough money scalping to buy a Happy Meal at McDonald's.

In the old Big Eight Conference you could always count on the Cornhuskers playing at least a decent Oklahoma or Colorado team at home and maybe even sneaking in a good non-conference game to draw in the bucks — not for the football team, but for me.

This year I don't expect this to be a common phrase on home gameday afternoons: "I'll give you \$100 for two Central Florida tickets and \$100 apiece for Kansas State."

Probably, the more common phrase will be, "Zip for the Zips."

What's worse, there will probably be a bunch of unsold tickets by Akron fans. You see, last year 1,800 fans showed up for the Zip's homecoming game at the Rubber Bowl and this season if the Zips don't draw at least 17,000 fans per home contest they will lose their Division I status.

With Akron being lucky to draw 10,000 fans at home, do you think they will sell their allotment of tickets for its Nebraska road game? Not even a Zip fan probably wants to zip over to Lincoln and watch his or her team get massacred.

So more tickets in the market place drops the scalping market price — simple economics.

The worst thing about my problem is that there is no one I can blame.

I can't blame Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne. He did try to get the best teams possible to come to Lincoln and nobody would come here for the Pigskin Classic.

So, this year I'm going to have to be creative in my scalping ways.

Phrases like these may become common soon: "I'll sell you an Akron, Texas Tech and Kansas State ticket for \$100" or "You buy my Central Florida ticket and I'll throw in a volleyball ticket."

The things you learn in college.

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

Snow, golf Nyquist's loves

By **SAM MCKEWON**
Staff Reporter

It might be hard to believe, but there are places in the world where the winter lasts longer than in Nebraska.

NU freshman golfer Hanne Nyquist knows that all too well.

Nyquist is a native of Oslo, Norway, where she doesn't get a chance to hit golf balls outdoors until mid-May and has to end her season just three-and-a-half months later in September, leaving little time for Nyquist to hone her skills.

It is from this snowy Scandinavian landscape, however, that the Nebraska women's golf team plucked possibly its finest player ever.

"Hanne has as much potential as any player in the country right now," NU Coach Robin Krapfl said. "She has helped greatly."

In only her first season for the Cornhuskers, Nyquist has already won the Utah-Dixie Classic and tied the school record for the lowest round score with 70, twice. She also entered the spring ranked as 44th women's golfer in the nation.

Nyquist said her play has improved greatly since coming to Lincoln.

"My short game and the mental part of my game has been a lot better since I came here," Nyquist said. "I feel good about my game."

Nyquist came to play at Nebraska in a roundabout way. After

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MATT MILLER/DN

HANNE NYQUIST is used to golf and snow. The Oslo, Norway, native can golf outside at home for only four months out of the year.



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

CLIFTON DURHAM fields a ground ball in the first game of Nebraska's doubleheader with Peru State. NU won both games 15-8 and 14-2.

NU blasts Peru State

Harrington knocks two grand slams as the Huskers reach .500.

By **MITCH SHERMAN**
Senior Reporter

For the first time since March 2, the Nebraska baseball team reached the .500 mark Wednesday, but from here on out, things don't get much easier.



Harrington

In fact, things get much more difficult. The Cornhuskers (22-22) swept a doubleheader from Peru State 15-8 and 14-2 at Buck Beltzer Field, capitalizing on a pair of grand slams from second baseman Kevin Harrington. The two wins completed a perfect four-game homestand in which NU out-scored non-Division-I competition 57-10 over the last two days.

"This was a good couple days

to get some life into the bats," Nebraska Coach John Sanders said. "Now our goal is to take that into the weekend."

The Huskers return to the road — where they own a 0-10 record this season — Friday for a three-game series with Oklahoma, followed by six games in seven days against No. 1 Texas Tech and Oklahoma State.

"We really have a challenge ahead of us," Sanders said, "and the guys are excited for it. It's going to take everything we have, but we want to play these games."

Wednesday before a crowd of 150, Peru State led 5-2 in the fourth inning of the first game and 6-5 in the sixth inning before Harrington launched his first grand slam to give the Huskers a 9-6 lead.

"I've never even hit one grand slam before today," said Harrington, a junior from Half Moon Bay, Calif.

Nebraska scored six runs in the seventh to seal the win, and Brandon Banuelos (2-2) picked up the victory, allowing two runs in three innings. Kyle Becker (2-1) took the loss for the Bobcats, who dropped to 13-20.

"It's going to take everything we have, but we want to play these games."

JOHN SANDERS
NU baseball coach

In game two, NU sent 15 batters to the plate in the fourth inning, scoring 10 runs in eight hits. Harrington again provided the knockout punch, upping the score to 8-0 with his seventh home run of the season.

Sophomore left-hander Jay Sirianni (1-0) pitched 5 2/3 perfect innings before Aaron Baumert blooped a single up the right-field line. Bobcat starter Lance Kurz (0-3) allowed four runs in three innings. Harrington finished the day 5 for 9 with nine RBI, and center fielder Francis Collins added six hits and four runs in 11 at-bats.

Huskers want in Super Six

By **GREGG MADSEN**
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team worked diligently to get into this afternoon's session of the NCAA Championships in Gainesville, Fla.

Today at 1, they'll be working just as hard to get out.

If the Cornhuskers finish in the top three of the six-team afternoon session **Wilkinson** at the O'Connell Center, they will advance for the first time in school history to the Super Six team finals Friday night at 7.

But making the Super Six will be difficult for each team in the event-seeded afternoon session. The 10th-seeded Huskers face 10-time national champion Utah, UCLA, LSU, Penn State and overwhelming favorite Georgia.

NU was left out of the Super Six last year by .025 of a point, finishing fourth in the afternoon session behind Michigan, and ending the season ranked No. 10.

Nebraska Coach Dan Kendig said making this year's Super Six will require a flawless performance.

"The teams that advance are going to be the ones that make the fewest mistakes," Kendig said. "It's just that simple."

Another key for the Huskers will be replacing injured sophomore Amie Dillman on the vault and the floor exercise. Dillman, from Katy, Texas, tore ligaments in both knees while landing on a practice vault at the NCAA Midwest Regional in Salt Lake City.

Freshman Nicole Wilkinson will replace Dillman on the floor exercise. Wilkinson said she is excited about competing in the pressure-packed atmosphere of nationals.



WILKINSON

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