

# Wiggins wants to keep legacy alive

By SAM MCKEWON  
Staff Reporter

Three words hardly mentioned around Nebraska football until five years ago have had a major impact on the program.



Manatee High School. The small school just south of the Tampa-St. Petersburg area has produced two of Nebraska's better players in recent years. All-American quarterback Tommie Frazier and cornerback Tyrone Williams — both Manatee standouts — were big parts in the Cornhuskers' run to two straight national titles.

Now, junior wingback Shevin

Wiggins from Palmetto, Fla., is hoping he can make an impact and become the third player from Bradenton to become a star at NU.

Wiggins, a 5-foot-11, 180-pounder, steps into a spot vacated by the departure of Jon Vedral who held the starting slot the past two seasons for the Huskers. Wiggins also figures to be a big part of the special teams as a punt return and kick return specialist.

Wiggins said he is looking forward to expanding his role and getting more playing time.

"I think we may open up the attack a little bit this year, which is good," Wiggins said. "I feel like we can move the ball."

Wiggins brings a different game to the field than Vedral. Vedral's speed is considerably better. He entered spring ball with an impressive time of 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash. He also has shown the ability to make big plays returning kicks and catching

passes. NU Receivers Coach Ron Brown said Wiggins has the opportunity to become one of the Huskers' best at that position.

"If you were going to have a computer spit out the prototypical wingback, Shevin Wiggins would be the guy," Brown said. "He can block, catch and he can really run with the ball."

Some of that running ability carries over from Wiggins' high school career. At Manatee he earned Florida offensive player of the year and "Mr. Florida" honors after running for 2,267 yards and 32 touchdowns in his senior season.

Wiggins said he held no hopes of playing running back in college because of his size and he gladly accepts his role of being a wingback.

"I like to catch the ball as much as run it," Wiggins said. "Wingback was

really a position I wanted to play.

Wiggins finally had a chance to show his catching abilities in breakout game against Virginia Tech at the Orange Bowl.

Starting in place of Vedral, Wiggins caught three passes for 36 yards in the 41-21 Husker victory.

While Wiggins is currently at the top of the depth chart, he said there are plenty of good players behind who want the spot. Behind Wiggins are Lance Brown and Sean Wieting, both of whom saw substantial playing time last season.

"I have to work hard all spring in order to keep the job," Wiggins said. "The job isn't mine by a long shot."

Brown said he knows Wiggins will be up to the challenge.

"Shevin can be as physical as anyone on this team when he wants to be," Brown said. "He's going to be a solid, all-around player."

## Beck takes Lasers job

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said. Cavalli said he paid close attention to Beck's work at NU this season and when a head coaching position became available, Beck was his top choice.

"We wanted to really hire a top-notch Division I coach, and we certainly think we got that in Angela Beck," Cavalli said. "She's a big catch for us."

Beck interviewed with Gavalli, ABL Chief Operating Officer Steve Hams and Portland Coach Lin Dunn during the Women's NCAA Final Four in Cincinnati on March 27.

Earlier this month she interviewed again in San Jose with Gavalli, Hams, ABL Vice President Anne Cribbs, ABL Attorney Rich Nickels, San Jose General Manager Christine Forder and Joe Jacob, an investor in the league. She also met Laser player representative Sonja Henning.

Gavalli said the mayor of San Jose wanted to meet Beck but was unable to because of a previously scheduled meeting.

"She was the unanimous choice by the group," said Gavalli, who offered her the job while driving her to the airport on April 11. "She just has a great personality. She's very dynamic and she has this presence that just lights up a room."

"Her coaching skills and communication skills are very dynamic and she's just an enthusiastic person. She's great relating to players and motivating players."

Beck didn't accept Gavalli's offer until Saturday, April 19. She informed her team of the decision in an unscheduled meeting Sunday night at 6:30.

"That was one of the more difficult meetings I have ever had," Beck said. "I spoke from the heart and told them that dreams are from within and don't stop being all they can be."

The ABL, Beck said, gives her a chance to have more control and be

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GARY CAVALLI  
ABL vice president

able to compete on an equal playing field.

"In college you work real hard a lot of times where you lack control," Beck said. "In the pro game you have a little more control and it's more of an equal playing field if you're smart enough to pick the right players."

Beck said she would like to take some of her staff with her to San Jose, but also wants to see NU Assistant Head Coach Theresa Becker take over the top job at Nebraska.

However, Beck emphasized the decision on naming the new coach isn't hers and she will support the decision of Athletic Director Bill Byrne.

Becker has been Beck's assistant for eight of the last 11 years. Becker was the coach at Iowa State from 1992-95 before returning to NU.

"Theresa has put a great deal of time and effort into the program," Beck said. "Our players are happy with her and it wouldn't be financially feasible for her to come with me. She's more interested in staying and doesn't want to leave what we have built here."

## Kendig hopes NU improves

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Shelly," Kendig said. "The way you make that up is by making a group effort."

Freshman Heather Brink and sophomore Misty Oxford, both of whom earned All-America honors at the NCAA individual event finals, should be the nucleus of another talented Husker team, Kendig said.

NU, which finished 1997 ranked sixth, will also benefit from the returns of Amie Dillman and Laura Ohlendorf, who both missed regionals and the NCAA meet with injuries.

The rest of the team will be loaded with experience. Freshman Nicole Wilkinson, along with sophomores Laurie McLaughlin, Courtney Brown and Jess Swift will each play crucial roles, Kendig said.

Two recruits, Amy Ringo and Kathy Ligon, should make an immediate impact next season, Kendig said.

Both athletes have already had success in junior national competition. Ringo, from Phoenix, finished second in the all-around at her junior regional and Ligon, of Houston, was third at her regional.

"The two we have coming in are very strong," he said. "So I think the future does look bright."

## NU's Allen proud of team's end

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the conference championship. We beat the national champions. We just got hurt at the end, and we couldn't reach our full potential."

The Huskers, ranked in the nation's top six all season, defeated national champion California, runner-up Oklahoma and third-place finisher Iowa in the regular season.

Nebraska was favored to finish in the top three at the NCAA West Regional in Albuquerque, N.M., but ended up fifth after losing all-arounder J.D. Reive.

Reive injured his neck before the meet while practicing a parallel bars routine. His future at NU is uncertain.

With Reive's career in jeopardy and Ted Harris and Ryan McEwen graduating, some might think the Huskers will struggle next year.

"I think if you look at who we have coming back that we'll be loaded next year," Allen said.

The Huskers will return sophomore Marshall Nelson, who won individual national championships on the high bar and the parallel bars. Also returning will be all-arounders Bill Mulholland, Derek Leiter and junior Jim Koziol, who redshirted this season because of a nagging shoulder injury.

## NU golfers finish 3rd

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's golf team finished third and had two freshmen finish in the top five at the first-ever Big 12 Conference Golf championships.

The Cornhuskers, who finished with a final-round team score of 321, completed the tournament with a score of 945 finishing behind winner Texas and second-place finisher Texas A&M.

NU was led by freshmen Hanne Nyquist and Elizabeth Bahensky. Nyquist, who was named the Big 12's newcomer of the year, fired her third straight round of 77 to finish the tournament in fourth place with a 231. Bahensky shot a final-round score of 81 and finished fifth, three strokes behind Nyquist.

"I can't say enough about Hanne and Elizabeth," NU Coach Robin Krapfl said. "To even be in that situation and come through really showed a lot of fight."

Heather Bowie won the individual crown with a three-round total of 212, 11 strokes in front of second-place finisher Isabelle Rosberg of Texas A&M.

Nyquist and Rachelle Tacha were named to the All-Big 12 team, and Nyquist and Bahensky were named as members of the All-Big 12 Tournament team.

## Rain prevents Tech sweep

From Staff Reports

Only the rain kept the Nebraska basketball from begin swept in a doubleheader at Texas Tech.

The No. 1 Red Raiders (38-5 and 18-4 in the Big 12 Conference) won the first game 9-3 and were leading the game two 11-6 before rain forced the game to be suspended in the top of the eighth inning. By winning the first game, Tech earned a spot in the Big 12 Conference tournament.

In game one, Tech hitters pounded NU pitching as Keith Ginter, Jess Oliveras and Jason Landreth all homered. For the Cornhuskers (22-26 and 4-15), Ken Harvey hit a home run in a losing effort.

The two teams will complete the suspended second game today at 1:30 p.m. at Dan Law Field.

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