

# NU hopes to surprise field

By **SAM MCKEWON**  
Staff Reporter

Picked to finish fifth at today's Big 12 Conference Golf Championships in Hutchinson, Kan., the Nebraska men's golf team looks to fully use its role as an underdog.

"Most of those teams don't have anything on us," NU Coach Larry Romjue said. "We are ready to play and I think we're going to make some noise."

It has been 60 years since the Cornhuskers have won a conference championship in golf, dating back to 1936 when NU won the Big Eight crown.

The Huskers will be hard pressed to pull off that feat at the Prairie Dunes Golf Course with the No. 2 Oklahoma State in the field. The Cowboys boast

four of the top six golfers in the conference, including the top two.

Romjue said OSU will be a tough team to catch over the 54-hole tournament.

"They are a little separated from the field," Romjue said. "They are a consistent team in a tournament setting."

Beyond that, Romjue said NU will contend with every other team.

One advantage, Romjue said, will be the tournament site. Prairie Dunes Country Club is ranked among the top 30 courses in the country by Golf Digest and features punishing prairie grass for its rough. NU has played at the course before, while newcomers Texas and Texas A&M — both picked to finish ahead of Nebraska — have yet to be tested at Hutchinson.

"It really helps that we're going to be able to play a course that we al-

ready really know," senior Jacques Paiement said of the 6,593-yard, par-70 course. "Especially a course that it is tough as that."

One player who needs to lead the way for the Huskers is sophomore Josh Madden. Madden is seventh in the conference in scoring with a 73.74 stroke per round average. The closest Husker behind Madden is fellow sophomore Steve Friesen at 24th with a 75.10 stroke average.

Romjue said NU is peaking at the right time for the tournament.

"We feel like we're getting our game together just at the right time," Romjue said. "We looked good in the practice round and we're confident."

The underdog role suits Paiement well.

"We know we're not supposed to win this tournament," he said. "That's why we're excited to prove people wrong."

# NU loses to Aggies

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's tennis team lost 5-2 to Texas A&M in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Conference Tournament at Austin, Texas, Friday.

NU, which one day before defeated Iowa State to advance, won matches at No. 2 and No. 4 singles.

Lisa Hart held on for a three-set win over the Aggies' Vanessa Rooks at No. 2 singles. Hart won 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 to earn one of the two Husker team points. At No. 4 singles, Jennifer Thoste beat Monica San Miquel 6-2, 6-3 to earn NU's other point.

The only other Husker to win a set was Annie Yang, who won the first game 7-5 over Lisa Dingwell at No. 3 singles but lost the final two sets 6-1, 6-3.

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# U.S. team outlasts Huskers 2-1

Soccer from page 9

The fan support also drew rave reviews from Husker midfielder Kari Uppinghouse.

"The crowd was just awesome," Uppinghouse said. "It shows that we have dedicated fans."

What the fans saw was a dominating performance by the Under-20 team — which is made up of the best high school and college players in the nation — for the first 80 minutes of play and a frantic comeback by NU in the final 10.

The Under-20 team scored first when midfielder Michelle French, a sophomore from the University of Portland, scored to give the U.S. a 1-0 with 19:52 into the first half.

For the match, the Under-20 team outshot the Huskers 15-5 — 10-1 in the first half.

At the 54:40 mark, a goal by Meredith Florance off an assist from Angela Hucles doubled the U.S. lead to 2-0.

But the Huskers finally came to life. At the 81:07 mark, forward Lindsay Eddleman looped a shot inside the far crossbar from 15 yards out to cut the lead to 2-1.

The goal seemed to raise the Husker intensity. They were able to generate two other scoring opportunities — one a point-blank shot by Isabelle Morneau — after Eddleman's goal only to be denied by U.S. goalkeeper Siri Mullinex.

"Playing teams like them is the only way we're going to get better," NU Coach John Walker said. "I was really proud of the way we fought and battled. We're a lot better than we were in the fall."

The Huskers played with only three strikers because Kristen Gay missed the game to attend her grandmother's funeral, Walker said.

After playing three 1996 Final Four teams and the Under-20 squad, Nebraska midfielder Sharolta Nonen said the Huskers have a clear idea of where they stand after a 2-2-2 spring.

"We came out with nothing to lose," Nonen said. "This game helps because we can try new things. We just have to work on holding the ball under pressure."

Uppinghouse said the team has some work to do before the fall season begins in August, but NU is not too far away from where it needs to be.

"We're getting there," Uppinghouse said. "We showed that we could match up with them position by position."

# Loss to OSU eliminates Huskers

OSU from page 9

"They're leading the nation in home runs for a reason," Sanders said. "And they showed it today. The long ball beat us, big time."

OSU sophomore Billy Gasparino led off the game with a solo home run to left off Husker lefty Kenny Duebelbeis. The dinger, which cleared Avery Avenue, was the second baseman's 17th of the season and second of the series. Gasparino also opened Friday's game with a solo shot to left.

The Huskers responded with a run in the bottom of the second produced by two infield singles. Junior Clifton Durham knocked freshman Ken Harvey in from second on a blooper that was mishandled by OSU shortstop Cory Burton.

But Burton made up for his mishap in the top of the third knocking a solo shot to left — which didn't clear Avery Avenue — to give the Cowboys a 2-1 lead.

In the bottom half of the third, Harvey launched a 412-foot grand slam to center, putting the Huskers on top 5-2.

Not to be outdone, Oklahoma State came back in the top of the fourth with a grand slam of its own.

Second-string catcher Rusty Puffinbarger dropped the bomb this time — a four-run blast to left field, which cleared Avery Avenue and gave OSU a 6-5 lead.

The Cowboys added two more in the inning when right fielder Rusty McNamera smoked a line drive over the left field fence — his 20th dinger of the season.

Duebelbeis, who fell to 3-4, allowed seven earned runs on six hits in 3 1/3 innings. Five Husker pitchers followed allowing seven runs on seven hits.

NU first baseman Todd Sears, who leads the Huskers with a .442 average, put Nebraska within two when he doubled home Francis Collins in the bottom of the fourth.

Trailing 8-6, the Huskers left eight runners on base in the fifth through

eighth innings and were unable to produce a run. OSU lefty Elvin Niña and righty Dave Maurer, who earned the win, combined to throw 3 2/3 scoreless innings.

"When you don't capitalize against the club that's leading the nation in home runs, sooner or later that power is going to show up — and it did," Sanders said.

Oklahoma State sent 11 batters to the plate in the top of the ninth and scored six runs, padding a 14-6 lead. Right fielder Ted Salhani hit the only homer of the inning, a 415-foot shot to center.

Despite seeing six homers, including two grand slams on Sunday, Holliday said he expected more.

"Normally when we play up here, it's a home run heaven," Holliday said. "We hit a lot of balls today that I thought were going to get out that didn't."

# Huskers tire in loss to Cowgirls

FOURTH from page 9

With one last chance to come back, NU batters Rachel Dunham, Jenifer Williams and freshman Alice Brewer all flew out.

"During warmups, you could just tell that they didn't have the enthusiasm," Revelle said. "It's not because they weren't up for it, they were just tired. Losing the second one does bite a little, but I'm really proud of the team. It's been a good 12 games."

Voss (23-14) said she was disappointed with her play in the final game of the Huskers' two-week stretch, but she agreed with Revelle that fatigue was a factor in NU's loss.

"I never like to admit that I'm tired," Voss said. "But for the first

time, my body just needs rest."

The Huskers had difficulty at the plate against OSU's Jenn Markert (12-8). Markert, a transfer from Purdue, pitched a complete game, allowing four hits and striking out eight.

"We had never seen her before," Revelle said. "We had no film on her and that worked to their advantage. She had a good mix working the corners. We didn't adjust as quickly as we have been."

NU had few problems at the plate in the first game showing no sign of the fatigue that overcame them in game two.

Nebraska came out swinging by driving in five runs in the sixth inning. With the bases loaded, Dunham blasted a grand slam. Brewer — who

hit her first career home run in the second game — then doubled to right center, knocking in Williams for the fifth run of the inning.

By splitting both games Sunday, NU solidified a fourth-place spot in the Big 12 Tournament, held May 2-4 in Oklahoma City. The Huskers are behind first-seeded Missouri, No. 8 and second-seeded Oklahoma — whom NU split a doubleheader with 2-1 and 4-2 over the weekend — and third-seed Kansas. The Cowgirls are the tournament's fifth seed.

"I don't think anybody would have picked us fourth after we lost (Ali) Viola and (Angela) Blackwood," Revelle said. "I'm really proud of the team. We've matured a lot in the last three weeks."

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