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# Scouts drill former Huskers

By SAM MCKEON  
Senior Reporter

For two months, former Nebraska defensive lineman Jason Peter had waited to show off his skills to NFL scouts.

But no amount of preparation could have prepared Peter for his individual workout at the Cook Pavilion Tuesday.

There was Peter, grappling with former All-Pro Cincinnati defensive lineman Tim Krumrie for four minutes until both had tired themselves out. The physical, two-man standoff was one of several demanding drills put on by the NFL scouts.

"The next thing I knew, I was in a cage match with Tim Krumrie," Peter said. "My legs were just dead out there."

Peter was one of several former Cornhuskers to perform in individual workouts for NFL scouts Tuesday. Players had to run the 40-yard dash and the pro-agility run, and participate in weight drills along with the

vertical jumps.

Then came the individual position drills, a set of grueling exercises that tested not only the athleticism of each player, but his endurance as well.

"It was much more intense than I thought it would be," said former defensive end Grant Wistrom, who posted personal bests in the 40-yard dash, pro-agility run and vertical jump.

The workouts took on special importance for Peter and Wistrom, neither of whom worked out at the NFL Combine in February. Tuesday presented the last chance for the two players, both projected to go the first round of the NFL Draft, to show scouts what they could do.

"It was either going to be put up or shut up," Wistrom said. "I've been pretty nervous for two months about this."

Scouts generally agree that individual workouts are better for player evaluation than the combine because of the specific drills that scouts can put them through.

"To see them in these drills says a

lot more than any numbers at the combine could for every scout," Dallas Cowboys Defensive Coordinator Dave Campo said. "The drills are more intense, and you get a closer look at the players under a competitive situation."

Chicago Bears Head Coach Dave Wannstedt said the workouts help to determine how a player will react on the NFL level.

"We're looking at how hard they work in every drill and how they approach them - their attitude, in addition to the times that they run," Wannstedt said. "There's more to it than just lining up and running a 40."

Players who will be seniors next season will work out today in front of scouts.

For Peter, Wistrom and other former Huskers who are draft hopefuls, another wait ensues until the NFL Draft on April 18-19.

"Hopefully, I can get out and golf so I can kill some time," Peter said. "I just want to keep myself busy until draft day."

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## Weather postpones NU games

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team's doubleheader against Missouri was postponed because of weather Tuesday. The Cornhuskers (7-6 overall and 0-1 in the Big 12 Conference) and the Tigers (12-5 and 4-2) will make up the double-dip April 1 in Columbia, Mo. The third game of the series will not be made up.

Nebraska will return to action Thursday to face Chicago State at Buck Beltzer Stadium in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m.

In other Big 12 baseball action, Baylor first baseman Charley Carter earned conference player of the week honors, and Texas A&M pitcher Ryan Rupe was named the conference pitcher of the week.

Carter, a senior, went 9 for 12 in a three-game series against Texas last weekend as the Bears (15-6-1 and 5-2) swept the Longhorns (9-13-1 and 0-5). Carter drove in nine runs and scored six while knocking two doubles, one triple and a game-winning sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning Friday in Waco, Texas. Carter finished the week 10 for 15 in four games.

Rupe, also a senior, earned pitcher of the week honors for the third time this season. He tossed a one-hit shutout against Oklahoma State last weekend. Rupe, who threw no-hit ball for seven innings, struck out eight and walked one. The right-hander (5-1 and 3-0) improved his earned-run average to 2.28 through 43 1/3 innings.

Eighth-ranked Oklahoma (15-3 and 4-1) maintained its hold on the conference lead as the Sooners did not play any conference games last week. OU will meet 22nd-ranked Texas A&M (18-8 and 5-4) next weekend in College Station, Texas.

Baylor (15-6-1 and 5-2) ranks second in the conference after jumping into this week's Collegiate Baseball Poll at No. 20. The Bears pounded Texas (9-13-1 and 0-5) 20-4 Sunday, but their schedule has been anything but easy. Baylor has played in 21 contests against teams that have appeared in at least one Top 25 poll in 1998.

Iowa State (3-9 and 0-1), Texas and Nebraska are the only Big 12 schools without conference wins.

The Huskers, who will spend a week in Hawaii over spring break, do not return to conference action until April.

## Injured NU gymnast anticipates return

By DARREN IVY  
Assignment Reporter

Several weeks ago, Nebraska gymnast Amie Dillman encountered a critical time in her gymnastics career.

After four surgeries to repair her dislocated knees, Dillman faced the possibility of a fifth - one that would clean out damaged cartilage in her left knee.

The surgery wasn't necessary for her livelihood, but it was necessary if she wanted to return to gymnastics, said Assistant Coach Rob Drass.

After talking it over with Drass, Dillman decided she wanted to return to gymnastics.

"She said, 'I want to do it,'" Drass said. "So she had the surgery."

Dillman's recovery has been hard on her at times, but being able to help her teammates at practice and meets has eased her frustrations.

As the Cornhuskers enter the championship part of their season, odds are Dillman, a junior, will rehash the incident that caused the injury at the Midwest Regional 11 months ago.

She was doing a warmup vault when the injury happened.

She landed straight-legged and instantaneously dislocated both of her knees.

"It was the worst injury I have ever seen," Drass said. "It was devastating. Everybody went numb. We didn't know how bad the injury was or if she would ever walk or do gymnastics again."

For Dillman, who was on track to be an All-American in the floor exercise, the injury has meant a long year of rehabilitation.

"I've had to learn how to jump and land again," Dillman said.

But she said the sitting out has not been as hard as she thought it would be.

"I am just as happy when they win not being a part of the team as I was when I was (a participant)," Dillman said. "The first few meets were really hard, but if I am actively helping out it isn't bad."

Although Dillman can't contribute in the lineup, she has contributed in other ways, Drass said.

"At times the team has struggled this year, and Amie was able to look at it from a coach's point of view and tell them what they

Please see GYMNAST on 11

## NU athletes say 'the wall' hinders top performances

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"My races aren't long enough to run out of fuel," Broekzitter said. "Hitting the wall in biking has helped me mentally in running."

Dirksen said he sees a big difference in athletes who learn to cope with problems, especially after their freshman season.

"All the things that were stresses as freshmen aren't anymore," Dirksen said. "They can put more back into athletics."

Overcoming mental and physical fatigue within a race can be a little more difficult, Stark said, and normally depends on the "mental toughness" of the athlete.

Broekzitter said mental toughness played a big part in having success so early in his career.

"The problem is people give up," Broekzitter said. "There is a very

thin line that separates giving up and going on. That's where I make the difference in my races."

Belcher said mental toughness was the biggest asset he gained between his freshman and sophomore seasons.

"I just learned I just have to play through it," Belcher said. "I know if I start getting tired, I can't let things get me down."

The importance of maintaining physical and mental stamina among athletes has become one of the keys to a major college program's success, Stark said.

With more parity among colleges, he said, the mental advantage is the critical one.

"The demand for quality is on a different level than it used to be," Stark said. "The difference between winning and losing often comes down to that mental edge."

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