

Husker senior linemen rush into leadership roles

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that ahead of them." And the best way to do that, Rucker said, is by good example.

"There is only so much leading you can do vocally," Rucker said. "The best leadership comes through your actions. You can talk the talk, but when it comes down to it, can you walk the walk? That's what it's all about."

The change in Rucker and Kelsay's on-field demeanor has also affected their relationship off the field.

"We were always so competitive because we've always been fighting for the same position," Kelsay said. "Now we've got our spots and we have things

to get done."

Rucker agreed. "My first few years, I joked around quite a bit, and I don't know if people took me seriously," Rucker said. "I still joke, but I know when to stop. There's a time to play and there's a time to get busy."

Note: The Huskers will practice with pads for the first time this spring Friday, NU Coach Frank Solich said. Nebraska will then scrimmage for half of Saturday's practice.

Returning Defensive Linemen

Players listed according to spring depth chart (statistics from 1997)

Left rush end	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Games	Tackles
Chad Kelsay	6-3	250	Sr.	12	34
Kyle Vanden Bosch	6-4	260	So.	12	21
Brandon Mooberry	6-5	245	So.	3	0
Nose tackle	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Games	Tackles
Steve Warren	6-1	305	Jr.	12	19
Luis Almanzar	6-3	285	So.	N/A	N/A
Defensive tackle	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Games	Tackles
Jason Wiltz	6-4	310	Sr.	11	34
Loran Kaiser	6-5	255	So.	6	5
Right rush end	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Games	Tackles
Mike Rucker	6-6	250	Sr.	12	38
Travis Toline	6-3	245	Sr.	11	7
Aaron Willis	6-2	240	Jr.	5	4

Players lost: Jason Peter (DT), Grant Wistrom (RR), Brandon Drum (NT), Derek Allen (DT), Curt Lenner (DT)

Teamwork key focus for track team success

BY JAMES NICAS
Staff Reporter

Team accomplishments are often overlooked in sports with individual events.

However, the Nebraska track and field team is working hard to mesh its individual members into one of the most powerful teams in the country.

This Saturday, the men's and women's teams will travel to Fresno, Calif., to compete in the Bob Mathias Relays against Stanford, Fresno and Cal-State Northridge.

Nebraska Throws Coach Mark Colligan said the throwers are trying to do their part this weekend to help the team.

Track athletes often focus on an individual event. Fortunately, All-American junior Scott Warren said, team goals come first while wearing the scarlet and cream.

"It is a conflict when I'm done in school and only have to focus on one event," Warren said. "If I focus on one event I could get a lot better. I know I need to throw more than one event for the team, and I am willing to do that."

Colligan said he appreciated the help he has received from his throwers who want to throw in more than one

event.

"Normally, they say they want to throw all these events," Colligan said. "So for the coaches, it makes our job much easier. It's not we won't let them throw, we just don't want them doing too much."

Hard practice has paid off for many throwers, which will lighten the load for others, Colligan said. Nebraska sophomore Jack Melson has provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships in the shot put with a toss of 59-1/2.

"Jack is throwing farther than I am in the shot, so that really helps us out," Warren said.

All-American senior Tressa Thompson has thrown an NCAA automatic qualifying throw of 57-5/8 in the shot put. But Thompson still wants more.

"For Tressa, she considers any event she doesn't throw lost points for the team in the Big 12," Colligan said. "It is a difficult decision to say she can't (throw)."

The team atmosphere not only carries to the track and field team, but to the entire athletic program.

"We focus on trying to help the school as being the best athletic department in the conference," Colligan said. "That is very important to us."

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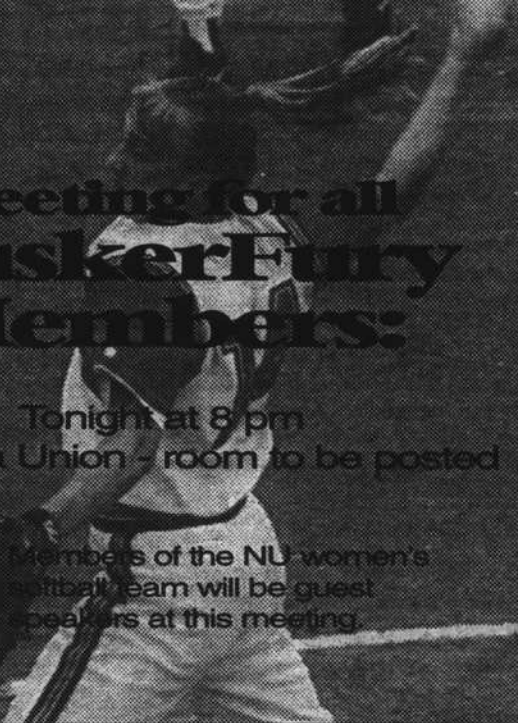
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