

## Harvey producing for NU

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

If the Nebraska baseball team was a business, Ken Harvey would be the CEO.

The Cornhusker first baseman has been the biggest source of capital so far this season for the Huskers, leading the team in 10 offensive categories.

Harvey is batting .408, and has slugged out seven homers, while driving in 27 runs.

The Beverly Hills, Calif., native also won the Huskers' only conference game thus far, with a 10th-inning home run against Kansas State.

While Harvey recognizes his run-producing capabilities in the lineup, the sophomore admitted he's a long way from maximizing his talents.

"There's always room for improvement in baseball," Harvey said. "I have to learn to be patient and learn to get deeper into the count and draw more walks instead of being so aggressive."

He has only drawn six walks in 98 at bats this season, while striking out 15 times — but his on-base percentage (.431) is third-best on the club.

Harvey and the Huskers (13-12 overall and 1-5 in the Big 12 Conference) will be put to the test again tonight at 7 when they begin a three-game series against 13th-ranked Texas A&M (29-11 and 12-6) at Buck Beltzer Field. The two teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday beginning at noon.

"I'm not the guy that does all of the talking. ... I just do my job at the plate."

KEN HARVEY  
NU first baseman

Standing at 6 feet 2 and weighing 230 pounds, Harvey hopes to be drafted in the Major League Baseball amateur draft, but insisted that it is the furthest thing from his mind. Collegiate players are not allowed to be drafted until after their junior season.

"I understand that I have the talent to get drafted, but I don't really think about it right now," Harvey said. "We're too busy trying to play ball, and that's what's most important right now."

Harvey said he wasn't drafted out of high school because of a rotator cuff injury he suffered while pitching when he was 13.

Last year, Harvey impressed scouts and teammates alike with a strong performance in Big 12 games.

Harvey hit an eye-popping .481, which was 75 points better than anybody in the conference.

One teammate who noticed Harvey's talents was junior shortstop Bryan Schmidt.

"Last year you could see the potential he had, especially in the second half," Schmidt said. "He was dominant."

Harvey hit .388, with five homers and 28 RBIs in his freshman cam-

paign. His freshman batting average and slugging average of .641 were both school bests for freshmen.

Not only has Harvey improved from his freshman season, but Schmidt said he's noticed changes in Harvey off the field.

"When we came back from Christmas, I could see that he grew as a person," Schmidt said. "Last year he would be rattled if we were picking on him or making fun of him. This year he's real calm, settled down, he does his job, and it's tremendous."

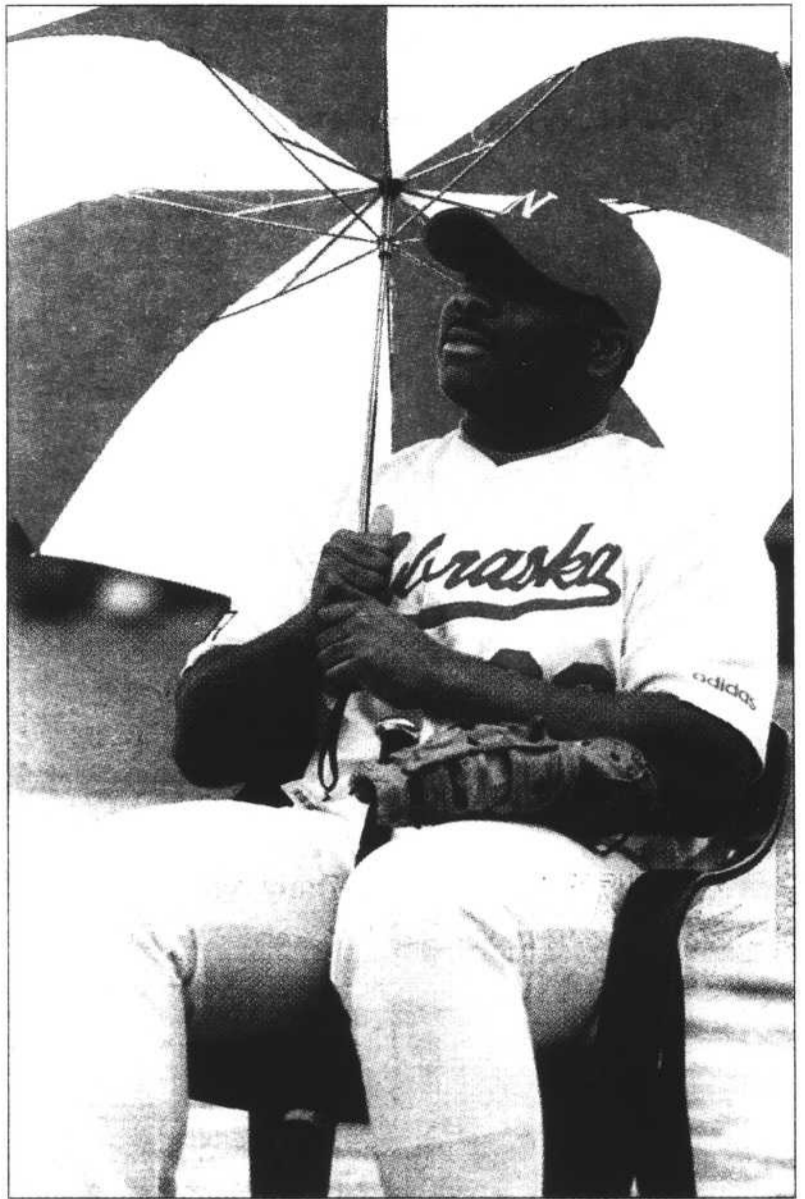
Now that he's a sophomore, and one of the team's biggest threats, Harvey is beginning to assume somewhat of a leadership role.

Harvey said his leadership doesn't come from his mouth, but from his bat, where he feels he's more effective.

"I'm not the guy that does all of the talking. That would be Bryan Schmidt," Harvey said. "I just do my job at the plate."

Schmidt welcomes the role as the team's vocal leader, and at times becomes Harvey's spokesperson.

"He told me one time, 'Schmidty, the one thing I like about you is everything I want to say, you do say,'" Schmidt said.



CHRIS BENDET/DN  
NU FIRST BASEMAN Ken Harvey leads the Cornhuskers in 10 offensive categories this season. After having a doubleheader rained out Wednesday, NU plays host to 13th-ranked Texas A&M tonight at 7.

## Texas recruit signs

BY SAM MCKEON  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team added another player to its list of 1998 recruits Thursday by way of the Lone Star State.

Louis Truscott, a 6-foot-7, 190-pound forward out of Milby High School in Houston became the third player to sign with the Cornhuskers after considering Louisville and Lamar.

Truscott joins 6-4, 205-pound guard Rodney Fields of Tyler Junior College as the second recruit out of Texas. The other recruit is 6-9, 215-pound forward David Murray of Mesa (Ariz.) Junior College. Both Fields and Murray signed in the fall.

Named the No. 63 high school prospect by Hoop Scoop magazine, Truscott averaged 17.2 points and 11.1 rebounds for 26-4 Milby.

NU Coach Danny Nee said Truscott is an exciting player who could contribute right away.

"He's the type of player who can help you in a number of ways," Nee said. "He can run the floor well and is an excellent leaper."

Truscott has the qualifying test score on his college entrance exam but still must receive the qualifying grades to be eligible next season.

If anyone's selling the idea that Nebraska will suffer after losing point guard Tyrone Lue, Fields isn't buying.

Fields said he sees Nebraska making a big move in college basketball next season, despite losing Lue.

"Everything ran through Tyrone last season because he was such a great player," Fields said. "Next year everybody has to step it up, including me. If we do that, we could be a great team."

Fields originally wanted to play for the Huskers out of high school in Tampa, Fla., but went to Tyler because of academic problems.

In two years, Tyler Coach Kyle Keller said, Fields has turned into a complete player.

"He's improved by leaps and bounds, especially in shooting," Keller said. "He's a great finisher, and he competes on every possession."

After averaging 15 points, six rebounds and three assists per game for Tyler (15-17) last season, Fields said he will arrive in Lincoln this summer to learn the offense.

That time can't come soon enough, Fields said.

"Playing in Texas for two years has wore on me a little bit," Fields said. "I just want to get a little time in this summer."

For Murray, Nebraska is a long way from his origins in the Bronx, N.Y. Mesa Coach Joedy Gardner described Murray as a "quiet kid" with an immense upside.

"This kid can really run the floor," Gardner said. "He fits Nebraska well. His athletic tools are incredible."

Gardner said Murray, who picked NU over Rutgers, Xavier and Fresno State, averaged 16.5 points, 15 rebounds and 3.2 blocks last season and shot 66 percent from the field.

The only concern with Murray is his weight. At 215 pounds, Murray will have to gain weight to be effective at Division I, Gardner said.

"There's no dorm system here in Mesa, so David lives on junk food — 99-cent hamburgers, if he can get them," Gardner said. "That's not going to keep any weight on."

Nebraska is continuing to look for a point guard to replace Lue. After signing Truscott, NU is now at the 13-scholarship limit and would need a current Husker player to transfer if it added a point guard.

The Huskers are still in the running for Lamont Perry, a point guard out of Southwestern College in Chula Vista, Calif.

## Lafleur steps up as new punter

BY LISA VONNAHME  
Staff Reporter

Bill Lafleur has been waiting for this year all his life.

A senior from Norfolk, Lafleur is ready to make the most of his final year at Nebraska. Lafleur has finally earned what he's wanted since he came here in 1994: a starting position on the football team.

Lafleur, who holds the Cornhusker performance-index record for the punter position, will replace departing senior Jesse Kosch as the punter for the 1998 season.

"I guess since the day I got here the goal has been to start," Lafleur said. "Now it's really more of a focus than a thought."

Lafleur's three-year experience as backup to Kosch will play an important role in his transition from second string to starter.

And Lafleur, who booted one punt 40 yards last year, is confident he can make the transition smoothly.

"When Kosch started and I backed him up, I phased into the backup role," Lafleur said. "I knew that if he got hurt or couldn't play for some reason I could step in. I think the coaches had confidence in me. They thought — and I knew — I could do a good job if he went down."

Kickers Coach Dan Young shared Lafleur's confidence.

"Bill will do real well," Young said. "He's got a very strong leg, and he probably has more distance than Jesse. Bill is a competitor and an athlete. He's got everything we're looking for."

Last year, Lafleur said he knew he was next in line as punter and saw his opportunity coming. Now that Lafleur has secured a starting posi-

Spring Football '98



tion, he said he feels more pressure has been placed upon him.

Lafleur said last season during practice, Young would remind him to be ready for the starting position this year.

Those reminders motivated Lafleur to focus on football more. He spent a lot of time during the winter lifting and working on conditioning drills.

"I'd like to say I've been working hard before," Lafleur said. "This year is my year. This is the last year I'm going to have, and I'm trying to put everything I have into every practice."

Having played in two games last year, Lafleur's main obstacle next fall will be his lack of game experience.

But senior place-kicker Kris Brown said Lafleur should be able to handle the job. "By the time we play our first football game, he'll have played in numerous scrimmages," Brown said. "He's not going to totally go out and be thrown into the fire with-

out any game experience."

Brown, who owns nearly every place-kicking record at Nebraska, returns for his final year as well. Last season, Brown was second on the team in scoring with 116 points.

"It's going to take a little time for the special teams to get adjusted," Brown said. "But that's what spring football is all about — getting the cobwebs worked out so we're ready for the fall."

The special teams will have a lot of transitions to deal with this season, including a new snapper, holder and punter, Young said.

"We've got enough good athletes who care about playing on special teams," Young said. "They know the importance of special teams, and I'm sure we'll be as good as we've always been."

### Returning specialists

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

Kicker	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Field Goals	PAT
Kris Brown	5-10	205	Sr.	18/21	62/62
Dan Hadenfeldt	5-11	200	Jr.	0/0	2/2
Punter	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Punts	Yards
Bill Lafleur	5-11	200	Sr.	1	40
Dan Hadenfeldt	5-11	200	Jr.	0	0
Kick Returner	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Returns	Avg.
Joe Walker	5-10	200	So.	15	25.9
Shevin Wiggins	5-11	200	Sr.	9	27.0
Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	Sr.	1	23.0
Punt Returner	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Returns	Avg.
Shevin Wiggins	5-11	200	Sr.	19	11.6
Lance Brown	5-11	190	So.	3	9.0
Bobby Newcombe	6-0	195	So.	12	20.3

Kicker: Frankie London

Snapper: Dominic Raiola, Russ Hochstein

Letterwinners lost: Jesse Kosch (P), Ted Retzlaff (K), Kyle Henson (snapper), Brandon Drum (snapper).

JON FRANK/DN