

## DeForge opts for WNBA Draft

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Senior Reporter

For the past month, Anna DeForge has listened. She has sat patiently, considering the advice of agents, coaches and friends. Tuesday, she reacted.

DeForge, the fourth-leading scorer in Nebraska women's basketball history, inked a contract with the Women's National Basketball Association, declaring her eligible for the WNBA Draft April 29.

"I got phone calls from agents about a week after my season ended," DeForge said. "It was overwhelming, crazy, time-demanding. ... But once I got through the decisions — which agent to go with, which league to go with — it was fine."

DeForge chose the WNBA over the American Basketball League because of its sound marketing strategies and high visibility. The league's TV contract, she said, will allow her family to watch her play more often.

The WNBA's four-month schedule format (the ABL teams compete for eight months) also attracted DeForge. A shorter schedule, DeForge said, will allow her to complete her degree and seek a career in sports marketing.

Angela Beck, who was DeForge's

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ANNA DEFORGE  
Nebraska guard

coach at NU for three years before she left for the ABL's San Jose Lasers, said she has no hard feelings about DeForge's decision.

"I'm real proud of her," Beck said. "I invested three years in her career, and I think she made a mature decision that was best for her. It's neat, and I really respect her for that."

DeForge, who is one of 35 college seniors to sign with the league, will travel to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago for the WNBA pre-draft camp, held April 16-18.

Players who attend the pre-draft

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### Sam McKewon Tennis team helps writer regain love

There are countless reasons that America is in love with sports.

Some love the thrill of the championships. Others like the joy of winning or competition. Still others love sports for its statistics.

I've always told myself that I loved sports for the beauty of it. Athletics is the quintessential practice of movement in space, an occupation where men or women must use their bodies to reach an advantage.

Little things in sports strike me as beautiful. Watching six offensive linemen work in perfect harmony to open a hole for Ahman Green on the Nebraska football team is incredible to me. A Tyrone Lue floating jumper on the baseline is, too.

But sometimes, you lose sight of what makes you love athletics.

This spring, I think I did. With all the games I had covered, sports got a little boring, and watching them, a chore. I didn't bother to watch the NCAA finals in basketball, the sport that I loved the most, because North Carolina bowed out two days before.

I was in a sports funk.

On Easter Sunday, at the most unlikely of places, I broke out of that funk. I rediscovered the beauty of athletes, courtesy of the Nebraska men's tennis team.

I used to love tennis as a kid. Watching all the big professional grand slams on television was a big deal. But I hit about 15, and it faded away.

Sunday, I found myself as the only person on the Daily Nebraskan sports staff able to go watch Nebraska take on Texas A&M. Driving to the Woods Tennis Center felt like driving to prison.

And then I started watching. And since I had never been to a live tennis match before, I found it interesting. Then, I found myself having fun.

I didn't really care about the score, but rather the movements and the speed of the game. It's incredible. Tennis is a power game to be sure, but it is finesse, too. To be 10 feet away from a ball going 100 miles an hour was something I had never done.

I found myself remembering why I watched tennis as a kid. It's a contest of endurance, inches, skill, guts, angles and everything in between.

Best of all, I rediscovered the beauty of sports and how incredible it is to compete, especially in tennis.

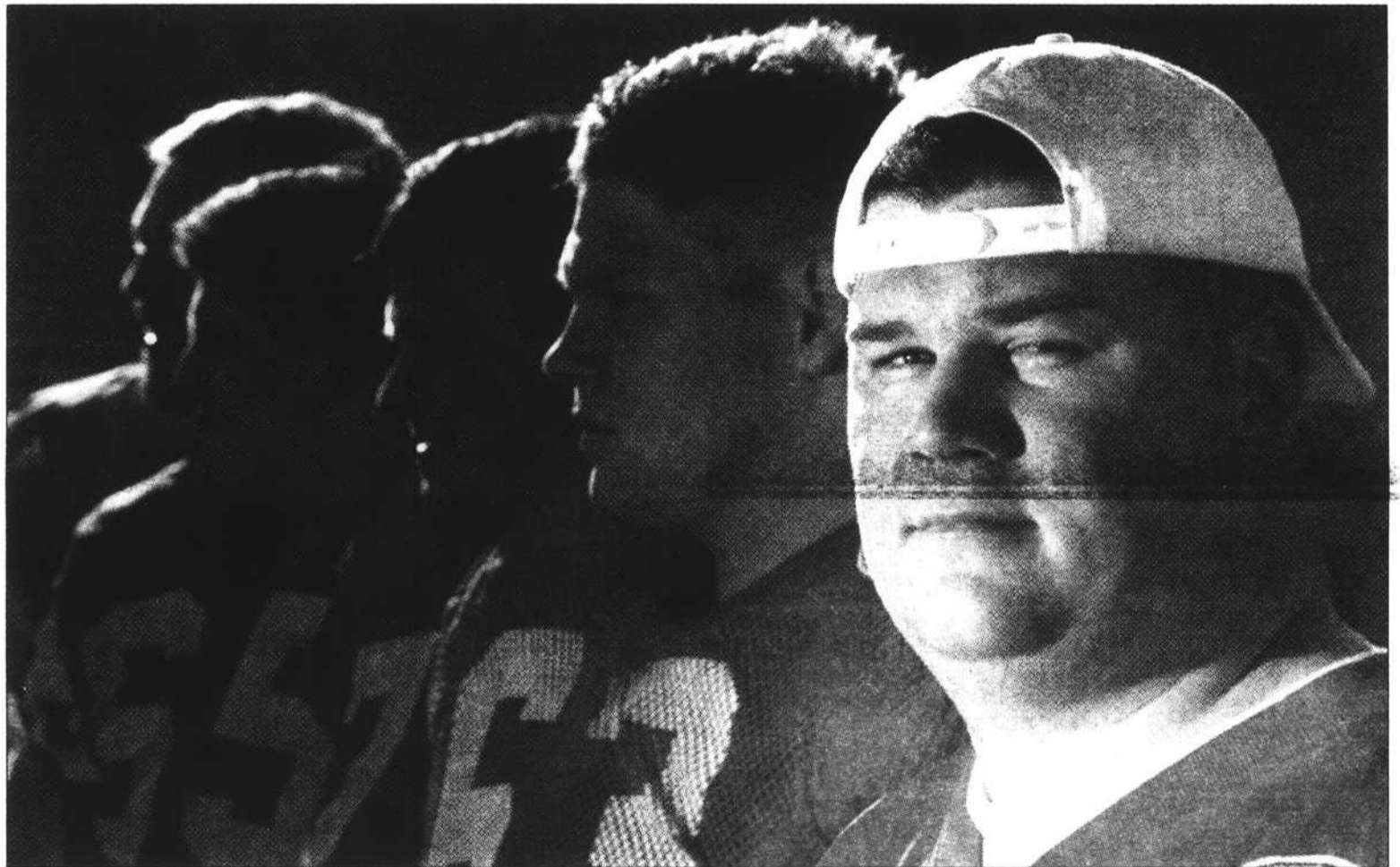
Oftentimes, sportswriters get jaded and cynical about sports. That was happening to me a little bit. Because of that match, I shook off the spring sports blues.

So I'd like to thank NU tennis for bringing back my vision of what sports should be. Come April 23-26, they'll have another fan in the stands for the Big 12 Championships, whether I'm covering them or not.

Sam McKewon is a sophomore news-editorial and political science major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.



DeForge



DAN LUEDERT/DN

**NU SENIOR CENTER** Josh Heske is the only returning starter on the Huskers' offensive line. The relatively inexperienced group hopes to maintain the level of success achieved by last year's line, which paved the way for the nation's leading ground attack.

## Linemen grow into starting roles

By SARAH DOSE  
Staff Reporter

Spring Football '98



As Nebraska's only returning starter on the offensive line, Josh Heske would prefer to be leading by his actions on the field this spring.

But a back injury has forced the senior to observe from the sidelines.

"It's no fun," Heske said. "Especially when they're all out there scrimmaging and cracking heads. It's frustrating, especially if the team is struggling."

The inexperience of the linemen has shown on the field so far this spring, said NU Offensive Line Coach Dan Young, but he didn't expect the Cornhusker ground game to suffer next season.

Heske, along with four departing seniors, paved the way for the nation's leading ground attack (392.6 yards per game) last year.

Senior Ben Gessford said Nebraska fans should expect nothing but the best from the offensive line in the fall. Gessford moved from left guard to right guard this spring.

"Expectations are always high," Gessford said. "The offensive line runs deep. That won't change just because the people who are on it change."

Young said each player has shown good work ethic.

"They're inexperienced, but that's what spring ball is all about," Young said. "Right now, we have five completely new linemen because Heske isn't practicing."

Heske had surgery on a bulging disc in his back and will not return to practice until August.

Young said Heske's experience would help the line improve for the fall.

"He's been out there," Young said. "He knows how to anticipate the block."

But the linemen have adapted without Heske at their side.

"I think we've played with Josh long enough to know what he does," said junior left guard James Sherman.

Young said Sherman, sophomore right tackle Jason Schwab and junior left tackle Adam Julch are working on losing weight for better agility.

Sherman, at 6-feet-2 and 295 pounds, backed up Outland Trophy winner Aaron Taylor at left guard last season.

"He's lost weight and is having a good spring," Young said. "Plus, he has a good attitude. He'll be a real player for us next season."

Young also said he saw promise in Schwab,

### Returning offensive linemen

Players listed two-deep according to the spring depth chart (statistics from 1997)

Position	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Games
<b>Left tackle</b>				
Adam Julch	6-5	315	Jr.	9
Kyle Kollmorgen	6-4	290	Fr.	N/A
<b>Left guard</b>				
James Sherman	6-2	295	Jr.	11
Brandt Wade	6-2	300	Sr.	5
<b>Center</b>				
Josh Heske	6-3	290	Sr.	12
Matt Baldwin	6-1	290	Jr.	7
<b>Right guard</b>				
Ben Gessford	6-2	290	Sr.	8
Russ Hochstein	6-3	280	So.	5
<b>Right tackle</b>				
Jason Schwab	6-1	300	Jr.	10
Jeff Clausen	6-6	305	Jr.	5

who backed up Eric Anderson last season. "He always goes 100 miles per hour," Young said. "He isn't always right, but he has the ability and the attitude needed to refine those skills."

Heske said he also noticed a positive attitude from all the linemen.

"They all know what they need to do," Heske

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