

Huskers finish second

FRESHMAN from page 9

Sasse tied for fifth place at 224. Gretchen Doerr and Catha Fogelberg both shot 231, placing them in a tie for 21st.

Sasse, the highly recruited and much talked-about former Lincoln High star, sandwiched her first and third rounds 77 and 78 with a school-record 69 in the second round.

"Sarah played great, considering that she shot that 69 on the sec-

ond 18 of a 36-hole day," Spangler said. "Everyone else was tiring out, but she stayed strong the whole way."

The Huskers take their momentum into next week's Big 12 Conference Fall Preview Tournament.

"After the way these girls played this week, I think any one of our top five players can win any tournament this year," Spangler said. "I think we have a great team here."

NU's Lohr, Slechta anchor young line

Editor's note: This is one in a series of stories this week grading the Nebraska football team.

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior staff writer

Neither defensive tackle Jeremy Slechta nor nose tackle Jason Lohr got a chance to rest at practice Monday in Cook Pavilion.

But that didn't come as a surprise to the two true freshmen, who have been thrown directly into the trenches because of injuries and a lack of experienced depth on the line.

Lohr saw action behind Steve Warren in the Cornhuskers' season opener against Louisiana Tech, and Slechta took the field for the first time the following week against Alabama-Birmingham.

While neither lineman regrets forfeiting a redshirt season, Nebraska Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride said he wished things could have worked out differently.

"They're not physically what you'd like to see right now," McBride said. "I'd prefer to have them redshirt this year, but that's not the way it worked out."

"I think it always hurts a kid when they don't get a fifth year. They'd probably have a chance to be better players."

Slechta said when he was being recruited by Husker coaches, he was told a lack of depth could put him on the field right away.

The 6-foot-5, 260-pounder suited up for NU's season-opener knowing he would only play in an emergency. But

an ankle injury the following week to starting defensive tackle Jason Wiltz moved Slechta up to No. 2 on the depth chart and put him on the field against Alabama-Birmingham.

"I didn't know what to expect," said Slechta, who played defensive end at Papillion-LaVista High School. "I always thought when I was in high school and coming to Nebraska, 'Next year, I'm going to be going up against college guys. It's going to be scary. They're going to pancake me and pop me all over the field.'"

"It really hasn't been like that." Lohr, a 6-foot-3, 275-pounder, said he felt the same way coming out of Jenks High School in Tulsa, Okla.

"I knew I was going to go in, and I was pretty nervous," Lohr said. "But after that, I was fine."

"I thought that it was really going to be tough, that the line would be a lot bigger. I guess I'm doing all right. I'm holding my own. They're still pretty big, though."

Through the Huskers' first three games, Lohr has recorded two tackles on a defense that has allowed an average of only 48.3 rushing yards per game.

Slechta also has two tackles to his name — including an assisted sack.

"They're just feeling their way through right now," McBride said.

"We haven't done a good job at recruiting at the position. That has been a problem. They think we have all kinds of numbers, and we don't."

DN Grade: B

Runners welcome Smith to cross country roster

■ **Transfer from junior college learns to fit in with relaxed, easy-going style in competition for NU.**

BY LISA VONNAHME
Staff writer

During his recruiting trip to Nebraska in February, Tony Smith was stranded in Lincoln for two extra days because of a snowstorm.

His flight back to Idaho was canceled twice, so in that time Smith was able to see what Nebraska was really like.

He must have liked what he saw. Smith, a junior college transfer from College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho, joins the Nebraska men's cross country team this season and adds a low-key, relaxed attitude to the team, NU Coach Jay Dirksen said.

"Tony is the kind of guy who has his head screwed on tight," Dirksen said. "To make a good team you have to have people of all different types. He's a guy who fits in well; he's a good team person."

Dirksen said Smith's laid-back demeanor and strong work ethic make him a great addition to the

team. Smith, who has two years of eligibility remaining, has been able to make a smooth transition to Nebraska and its cross country program. He has been able to fit in with the team and said the workouts at Nebraska are similar to the workouts at Southern Idaho.

After a strenuous summer training program, Smith is ready for the cross-country season to begin. Saturday, he was able to prove his abilities at the Bearcat Distance Classic in Maryville, Mo. In his first competition as a Cornhusker, Smith earned second-place honors in the men's race. Dirksen said he sees Smith as the team's probable No. 2 runner.

"There are several guys who could be No. 2," Smith said. "If Coach sees me as No. 2, then that does put some weight on my shoulders. But that's OK since there are so many of us right at the same spot. The better anybody does, the better everybody will do."

Smith was recruited by Nebraska as both a cross country and track runner, Dirksen said. Smith's primary race in track is the 1,500 meter.

"We were looking for a guy who could run cross country but also be a pretty good 1,500-meter runner," Dirksen said. "Tony's 1,500-meter

time is pretty good, and that interested us."

Smith said he sees himself as an easy-going person, someone who is not usually competitive in his day-to-day life. But during the season, Smith notices his competition level rises. He stays focused during the season by asking himself if his activities would help or hurt his running abilities.

With other schools recruiting him last year, Smith said, one of the reasons he chose Nebraska was the Big 12 Conference. Smith said he liked the size of the conference and the competition between the schools.

"I find out about Nebraska more and more every day," Smith said. "It's really a great place to be. Jay (Dirksen) is a great coach, and he's really encouraging."

Saturday, Smith will get his chance to compete in front of the home crowd at the Woody Greeno/Nebraska Invitational Meet at Pioneers Park. Dirksen expects a large crowd, and Smith hopes the audience will be pleased with what it sees.

"I think Tony is going to have a good season," Dirksen said. "He's going to make a difference on our team. His low-key demeanor and work ethic will really benefit the team."

Osborne honored by special rifle

BY SAM MCKEWON
Sports editor

And now ... he's a rifle. Former Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne, who led the Cornhuskers to three national championships and 255 wins in his career, is being commemorated with his own limited edition Winchester rifle.

The "255" series is being tailored by Investment Arms out of Huntley, Mont. There are 255 rifles in the series, one for each victory in Osborne's tenure as head coach at NU.

The rifle is a Winchester Model 1894 chambered in .45 Long Colt caliber. It is engraved on both sides. On one side is a depiction of Memorial Stadium. The other shows Osborne with a 255-win commemorative seal. The entire gun is overlaid in 24-karat gold.

Ross Woolley, owner of Investment Arms, said the project was brought to him by way of Fred Hoppe, who designed the bronze statue outside of Memorial Stadium. Woolley met Hoppe at the Alaska Iditarod race, where Woolley first got interested in doing the project.

"We tell people they're out of their minds if they shoot this thing"

RUSS WOOLLEY
Investment Arms owner

Woolley wrote a letter to Osborne, who expressed interest in the project. After Osborne retired in December, the project of making the rifles began.

"It's a very unique project," said Woolley, who has been in business for 11 years. "We have never done a project where each specific package commemorates a different win."

Along with the rifle a trophy belt buckle will be included which further describes the certain victory the gun depicts, Woolley said. Included are the three wins that resulted in national championships.

Woolley said the national championship wins are treated the same as the others, even though the company considered making those more special.

"It would have taken away from the overall value of the series," Woolley said. "That's the main reason we didn't specialize those."

The rifles will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be sold at \$2,795, a price Woolley said is typical of the rifles in this series.

Investment Arms, which also has made rifles for Oldsmobile's 100th Anniversary and the University of Montana's national championship, has already received many orders for specific guns depicting specific victories.

"We've got people who want a specific rifle because they met their wives at the game it depicts," Woolley said. "We've got reasons from people that can't even be repeated."

Some callers, Woolley said, plan to actually use the gun for shooting or hunting purposes, which would destroy the value of the gun.

"We tell people they're out of their minds if they shoot this thing," Woolley said. "It's not meant to be shot."

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