

**Sports Opinion**



**John Gaskins**

## NBA strike not real loss for sports

Sad, isn't it? Tuesday night was supposed to be opening night for NBA basketball. But no games were played. No games will be played for a while because of the players' pending strike. Wait a second - no, it isn't sad. I saw a Nike commercial recently with Spike Lee, the notorious front-row celebrity heckler at New York Bricks games, heckling at an eighth-grade girls game. He and Nike were making a plea for the NBA to start. Well, not me. I'm not pulling my hairs out to see any NBA teams. Frankly, there's not a lot to be missed. Sure, we're missing the greatest basketball talent on Earth performing. Sure, we're missing out on a chance to see a different sport start while we're well into the monotony of football season. But what shouldn't we be missing? How about the refreshingly chivalrous attitude of NBA players? I mean, what's more enjoyable than Karl Malone throwing a hissy-fit at a referee because another foul wasn't called on the defender who dared guard him? What's more fun than watching Scottie Pippen sulking on the bench like a troubled kindergartner sitting in the corner for bad behavior because he wasn't the go-to guy in Phil Jackson's game plan? And I really long for the day I get to hear about another upstart misfit choking the bejesus out of his coach, who makes one-tenth of the player's salary. Now, instead of watching the players bitch on the court, we get to watch them bitch off it. Over what? The almighty dollar; what else? Let's not feel sympathetic for their cause, either. They're still the highest-paid athletes in major professional sports. I'm sure they are itching to get back to work, these poor unemployed souls are taking "business trips" to places like Las Vegas to negotiate and fight for their cause. Must be rough. So, what should you do instead of your regular NBA viewing? Watch a little college basketball. I'd rather watch Bobby Knight and Indiana squeeze by Athletes in Action in an exhibition game than watch da Bulls kick the crap out of the Clippers any night. In college games you see players who are busting their chops for their team, not themselves. Plus, you actually get to see coaching be an actual contribution to the game. Sure, the talent isn't better than the NBA, but the excitement and fan appreciation is. The NBA players need an attitude adjustment - badly. On or off the court, they don't gain much respect for the way they conduct themselves. Hopefully, they're taking their time off to think about that. John Gaskins is a sophomore broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan staff writer.

## Huskers expect rebound vs. ISU

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Senior staff writer

It's a fine line, really - the difference between an undefeated season for the Nebraska football team, the four losses it could have or the two losses it does.



**Solich**

Four of the Cornhuskers' five games in October have come down to the fourth quarter - including three in which the outcome was determined on the final series - and each could have gone either way. And as they attempt to put a tumultuous month that included the two defeats, multiple injury problems and even rumors of locker room fights behind them, this Saturday's game at Iowa State may represent a turning point.

"We have three regular season games left, and we're looking forward to each of those games," NU Coach Frank Solich said. "My demeanor is not to retreat, but it is to move forward and attack, and that's the way our football team is. We are going to move forward."

NU (7-2 overall and 3-2 in the Big 12 Conference) will test Solich's theory Saturday at 1 p.m. at Ames' Jack Trice Stadium in what would normally be an uneventful game against the unranked Cyclones. ISU (2-6 and 0-5) remains winless in the league after jumping to a decent start with nonconference victories against Iowa and Ball State.

But for the Huskers, who dropped to No. 14 in The Associated Press poll, a game with the Cyclones represents an opportunity to dispel thoughts of a disappointing season. "We have a lot of guys who are learning as we go along," Husker fullback Joel Makovicka said. "Things will happen injury-wise that we've had to fight through, but we have to keep moving forward."

We're all competitors here, and we take pride in this program."

NU center Josh Heskew said the team remains united despite rumors of fighting among offensive and defensive players.

"We have a good chemistry," Heskew said. "There is no doubt that we have a great bunch of guys who know that you can't point fingers for these things. You win as a team, and you lose as a team."

"Our main key is unity, and we can't have fights and have unity. On the field, things will happen. But off the field, things are just hunky dory."

The Huskers are as healthy and as stable as they have been since September. For the first time in weeks, Solich named starters in the backfield before Thursday. Eric Crouch, who also started against Texas, will start at quarterback and sophomore Dan Alexander got the nod at I-back.

Alexander, who has seen only spot backup duty this season, earned the No. 1 spot with impressive performances against Texas and Kansas. The ISU defense he will face allows ranks 10th in the league in total defense (398 yards per game).

"Dan is a tremendous talent, and he is starting to come into his own," Makovicka said. "I have extreme confidence in him. I think we've only seen flashes of what he can do."

The Huskers will receive a bit more of a challenge defensively. ISU running back Darren Davis ranks 21st in the nation with 106 yards per game and quarterback Todd Bandhauer averages 228 yards of total offense per game.

"Davis is better than his brother (former ISU running back Troy Davis)," NU linebacker Jay Foreman said. "He's more shifty - he can make you miss. And he's tough inside, just like his brother."

"It's going to be a tough game. Iowa State probably thinks we're vulnerable at this point, so we really have to step up and play well. I'm a senior, and I still owe this team and this university four great games. We aren't going to go down the tank, and we aren't going to give up."



MIKE WARREN/DN

**JOSH HESKEW and the Nebraska offense look to bounce back from their second loss as they face the Cyclones of Iowa State on Saturday at Ames, Iowa.**

## Football Starters

Saturday, Nov. 7  
1 p.m.  
Jack Trice Stadium  
Radio: 1410, 1290 AM  
90.3 KRNU

### Nebraska starters

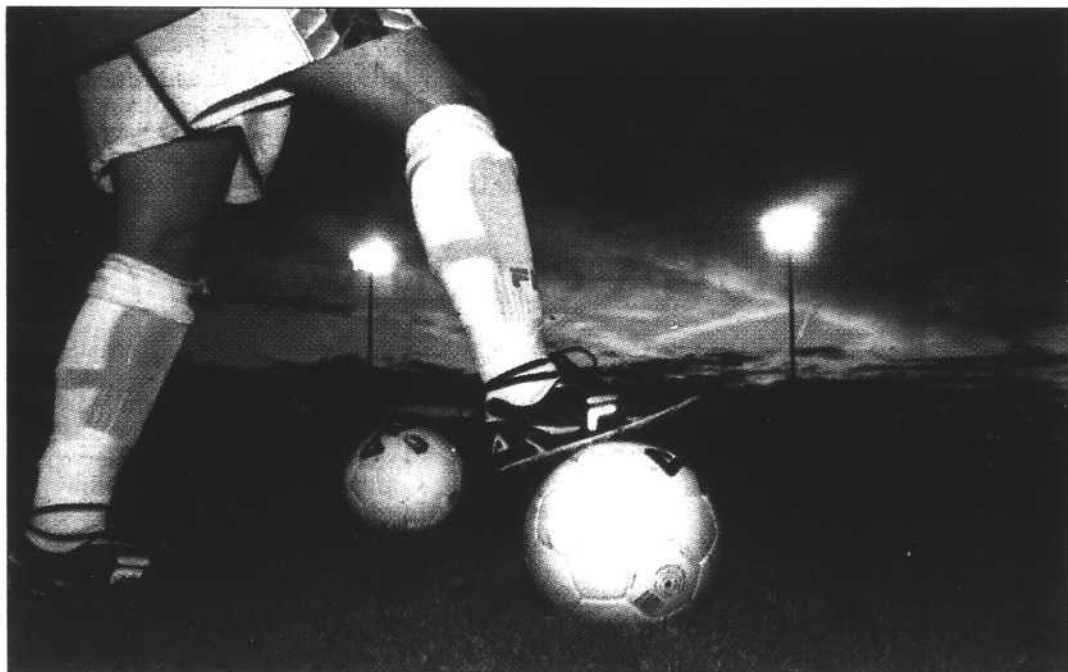
Offense					Defense				
Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
QB	7	Eric Crouch	6-0	200	LR	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	250
IB	38	Dan Alexander	6-0	250	NT	99	Jason Wiltz	6-4	310
FB	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	240	DT	91	Loran Kaiser	6-5	280
WB	5	Shevin Wiggins	5-11	200	RR	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	260
SE	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-0	215
TE	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	245	MLB	44	Jay Foreman	6-1	240
LT	69	Adam Julch	6-5	315	WLB	27	Eric Johnson	6-1	205
LG	63	James Sherman	6-2	295	LCB	16	Erwin Swiney	6-0	185
C	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	290	FS	19	Clint Finley	5-11	200
RG	55	Rus Hochstein	6-3	280	ROV	21	Mike Brown	5-10	205
RT	65	Jason Schwab	6-1	300	RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-9	180
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	205	P	23	Bill Lafleur	5-11	200

### Iowa St. starters

Offense					Defense				
Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
SE	1	Michael Brantley	6-0	196	RE	15	Reggie Hayward	6-5	240
LT	72	Bill Marsau	6-6	296	DT	52	James Reed	6-1	265
LG	71	Eugene Bernal	6-3	293	NG	98	Nigel Tharpe	6-4	275
C	70	Ben Beaudet	6-4	306	END	99	Kevin DeRonde	6-5	240
RG	57	Josh Rank	6-4	276	OLB	34	Jim Morse	6-1	228
RT	75	Marcel Howard	6-6	324	MLB	48	Dave Brcka	6-2	243
FL	25	Kevin Wilson	5-10	187	ILB	38	Jesse Beckom	6-0	210
QB	16	Todd Bandhauer	6-3	232	FS	9	Adam Runk	6-2	191
TB	28	Darren Davis	5-8	190	CB	14	Dawan Anderson	5-8	168
FB	33	Jerome Heavens	5-9	219	SS	7	Dustin Avey	6-3	200
TE	89	Damian Gibson	6-4	263	CB	20	Breon Ansley	5-6	172

JON FRANK/DN

## NU faces rough road in Big 12 tourney



MATT MILLER/DN

**SENIOR BECKY HOGAN** waits to send a ball toward the goal during warm-ups before a game earlier this season. The Huskers play their first game of the Big 12 Tournament on Friday in San Antonio.

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

The Nebraska soccer team is no stranger to being one of the top seeds at the Big 12 tournament. In the first two seasons of conference play, the Cornhuskers have claimed either the No. 1 or No. 2 seed, reaching the finals both times.

This weekend, the No. 17 Huskers are headed back to San Antonio for this year's Big 12 tournament at the No. 2 spot.

The difference this year is No. 12 Baylor claimed the No. 1 seed ahead of both Nebraska and Texas A&M.

"That's certainly different," NU Coach John Walker said. "That just shows how much the conference has improved."

The Huskers (14-3-1 overall and 9-1 in the Big 12) ended up with the second seed after a 1-0 loss to Baylor (15-3-1 and 9-0-1) this past weekend.

In that game, NU outshot the Bears 15-6 but couldn't score on Baylor goalkeeper Megan Jones. Sophomore Karina LeBlanc said the team is looking forward to getting back on the field after the loss.

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