

Receiving corps quick but young

By DARREN IVY
Senior staff writer

Spring Report

If blazing speed were all it took to be a good receiver, Nebraska would have one of the best corps of receivers in the country.

NU still may have a top group of receivers, but it will take some maturing this spring to achieve that title, said Ron Brown, the receivers coach.

"It is clearly the fastest (group) we've had," Brown said. "We have some guys who can really go. It takes more than just speed to be a good receiver. You've got to have lots of things put together — route running, blocking and, of course, being a finisher. We have God-given talent. It's now just a matter of development."

With five seniors departed from last year's team, NU has a lot of new people going through drills, running routes and blocking this spring.

Sean Applegate, Matt Davison, Frankie London and John Gibson are the most experienced. Gibson, a junior from Papillion, said they are ready to be leaders.

Joining Applegate, Davison and Gibson are junior-college speedsters Larry Henderson and Dwayne McClary, and redshirt freshmen Wilson Thomas and Brandon Solt. Seth Gutz, Craig Fischer, Tom Beveridge and Casey Vanderhoef are other players who will likely see action.

Brown said he is still trying to get a grasp on many of these players' strengths. With a lot of new guys, it has made Brown's job more challenging.

"It's a completely different group than a year ago," Brown said. "A year ago, these guys had been playing for three or four years. They had been around the block a few times. All I had to do was fine tune a few things."

"This year, it is starting from square one. Here's how you run a pass pattern. Here's how you do this."

With all the speedsters, Brown can't help but be excited. However, he is trying to be cautiously optimistic.

"They have potential to make a lot of big plays," Brown said. "Big plays don't come just from ability. They come from putting yourself in a position to make a big play. A lot of that has to do with experience and knowledge of what's going on. We're raw and have to smooth out our patterns. We've got to learn assignments."

Gibson said practicing against one of the best secondaries in the country each day brings out the best in the receivers and helps them mature faster. He said the players were working hard, and he was confident they would be ready for the fall.

"I see a lot of guys studying their play books a lot," Gibson said. "We have all the potential in the world, it just depends on how we bring it together when the season comes around. If we can do that, we will be a great receiving corps."

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Baseball team moves 11 spots in poll

From staff reports

Following a weekend sweep of Big 12 Conference rival Texas, the Nebraska baseball team leapfrogged 11 spots from 30th to 19th in the March 29 Collegiate Baseball America Poll.

NU is 18th in the Baseball America poll and 20th in the Baseball

Weekly/ESPN poll.

The Cornhuskers (20-6 overall, 8-1 in Big 12) are now ranked ahead of such teams as last year's national runner-up Southern California (No. 25), perennial powerhouse Louisiana State (No. 22) and conference foes Texas Tech (No. 21) and Oklahoma State (No. 29).

With their losses to NU, Texas falls to 16th, one spot ahead of rival

Texas A&M. Baylor is the highest ranked team in the Big 12 at No. 13.

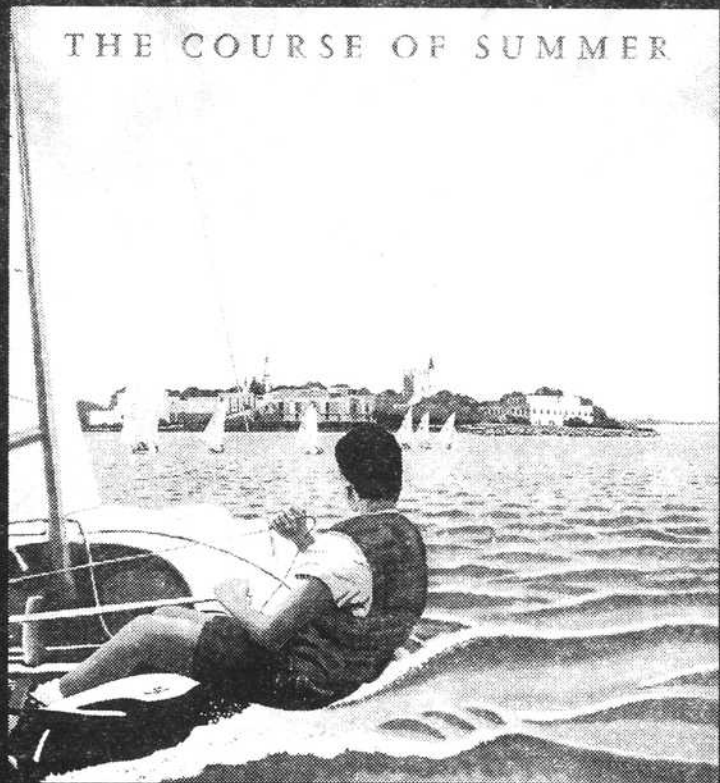
Florida State retains their claim as the No. 1 team in the land, having been atop the Collegiate Baseball America Poll for six of the last seven weeks.

The Huskers, riding an 11-game winning streak, have won 16 of their last 17 and are atop the Big 12 Conference standings with an 8-1 record.

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Edward James Olmos

We're All On The Same Team—
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April 1, 1999

7:30 p.m.

Centennial Ballroom

Nebraska Union

Free

Olmos is an actor, producer, director and community activist. He starred in the Warner Bros. feature film release of *Selena*. He won an Emmy Award and Golden Globe Award for his role in *Miami Vice*. He received an Oscar nomination for his role in *Stand and Deliver*, which he also directed.

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