

# SPORTS

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## Defense dominates spirited scrimmage

BY DARREN IVY  
Senior staff writer

It was evident Saturday at Memorial Stadium that the Nebraska football team was tired of practice and ready for its first live action of the spring.

Players jawed with one another, offensive and defensive players dished out big hits, and everyone played with a high level of intensity.

"This is the first time we have gone live since Arizona," said Kyle Vanden Bosch, a junior rush end. "It feels good to be out there having the defense flying around again and making some big stops."

The defensive and offensive units both left Saturday's scrimmage feeling good about the progress each group has made thus far during the spring. The offensive units scored three touchdowns and two field goals while showing some big-play capability.

The defensive groups, meanwhile, made a habit of being in the offense's backfield, collecting 14 sacks and giving up just three rushing yards per carry. The defense also had two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

"The scrimmage went about how I expected in some ways," Coach Frank Solich said. "There were some good individual performances. We had a lot of young players playing, and things get a little rugged when the younger guys are still learning what they are doing. I thought the top units to a degree performed well, and the hitting was good."

But Solich said he was frustrated with the number of holding and illegal-motion penalties. He said those penalties ended several drives. Execution was another problem area, he said.

Sophomore quarterback Eric Crouch understands Solich's concerns, but he felt the offense played well for the first scrimmage.

"I think anytime you can say our offense is competing against our defense at a pretty high

level, that says a lot of things about our offense this year, because our defense is one of the best around," Crouch said.

The No. 1 offense did show some big-play capability against the top defense.

Crouch, who wore a green jersey signifying he couldn't be hit, had a hand in the two biggest plays by the No. 1 offense. On the first big play, he faked the ball to the fullback going up the middle, and then carried the ball around the outside for a 35-yard touchdown run.

"Two-hand touch doesn't apply when offensive line makes big holes like that," Crouch said. "It was a designed play, where everyone bit on the fullback and there was a big, huge hole leading to the end zone. That was probably one of the better plays we executed on all day long."

On the other one, Crouch rolled to one side and then threw the ball back across the field to a wide-open Chris Butler, who rambled 35 yards.

Third-team quarterback Jeff Perino scored

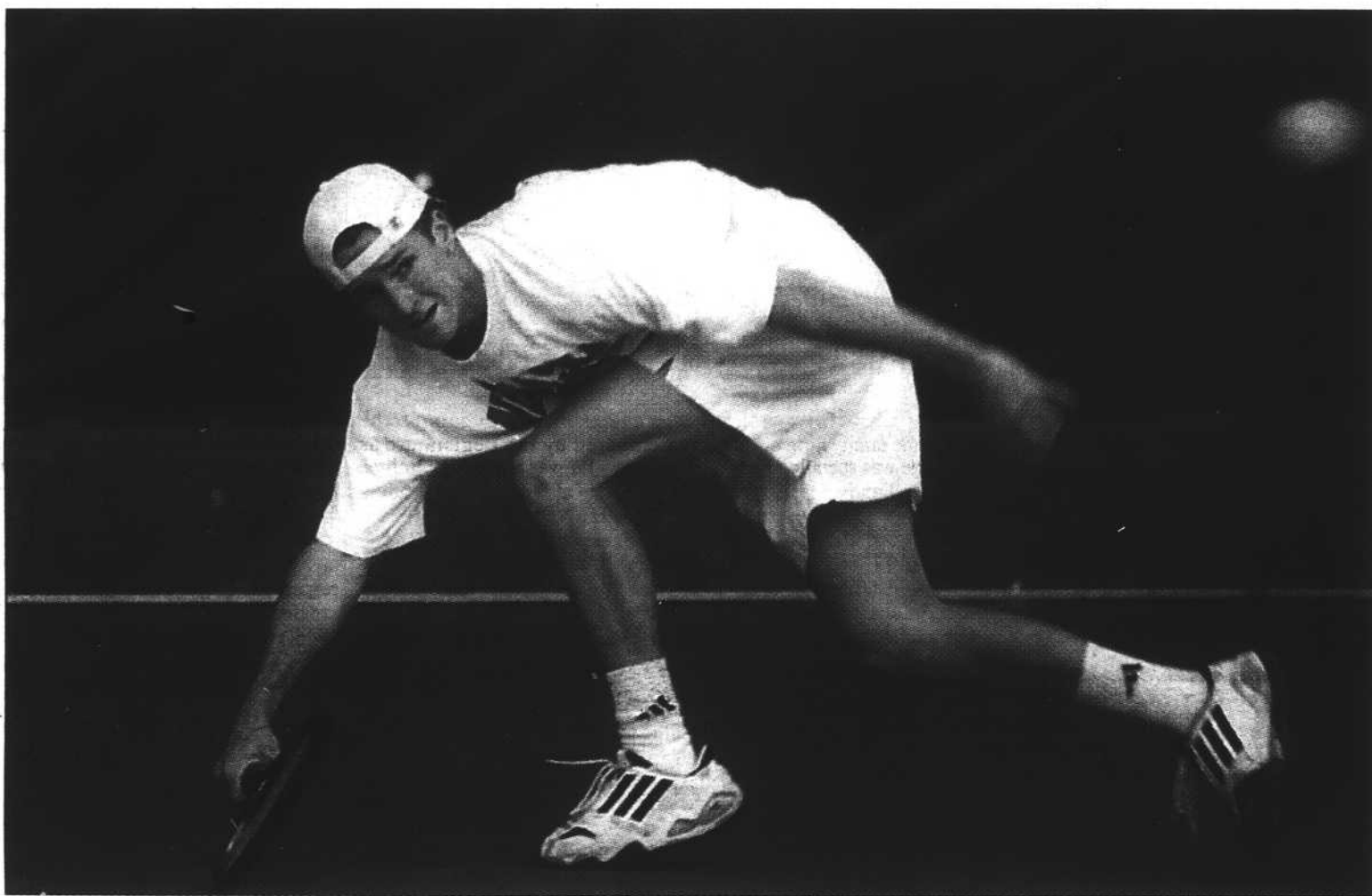
another touchdown on a 53-yard scramble. Paul Kastl, who saw action at the I-back spot, scored a 71-yard touchdown on the last play of scrimmage. Kastl finished with a team-high 92 yards on 11 carries.

Despite a few big plays by the offense, the defense controlled the scrimmage. The defense totaled 14 sacks and put a lot of pressure on the offense.

"Effort-wise, the defense was great," said Vanden Bosch, who was named the 1999 lifter of the year before the scrimmage. "It's good to see players fired up because that means we are getting after the offense. When we're fired up, it seems like everyone is flying around and making big plays."

Gabe Fries made the biggest play for the defense, intercepting a Perino pass and returning it 62 yards for a touchdown.

The Huskers will practice Monday, Wednesday and Friday and have another scrimmage Saturday.



RICK TOWNLEY/DN

SOPHOMORE LANCE MILLS reaches for a ball in his match against Indiana State's Peter Magnusson on Saturday at the Woods Tennis Center. Mills went on to win the match 4-6, 6-1, and 6-2. Mills wore a rib brace in all of his weekend matches because he injured his ribs coughing during a recent case of bronchitis.

## NU scores two wins over weekend

BY JAKE BLEED  
Staff writer

After watching the No. 71 Nebraska men's tennis team beat Big 12 rival Colorado 4-3 on Friday at the Woods tennis complex, Coach Kerry McDermott was upbeat but apprehensive.

The win was Nebraska's second conference victory of the season and the best the team has done in conference play since 1995. But McDermott's team was scheduled to meet No. 52 Indiana State on Saturday morning, and two of his singles players, Lance Mills and Juan Hamdan, were injured.

"A win tomorrow," McDermott said, "would really set the tone for the rest of the season."

Nebraska triumphed over the Sycamores 4-3 after a long, tough match. This weekend's wins will give Nebraska a better seed in the Big 12 tournament and a better chance of making the NCAA tourney.

Indiana State (10-3) arrived in Lincoln on a five-game winning streak. In their first season in the national rankings, the Sycamores scored early against Nebraska.

Only the No. 2 doubles team of Mills and Jorge Abos-Sanchez won for NU 8-5. The No. 1 team of Dinko Verzi and Andrew Weise lost 8-6, and the No.

Nebraska	4
Indiana State	3

3 team of Kai Reike and Ryan Haith lost 8-2.

Singles play started on a bad note for NU. No. 6 Andrew Weise was the only Husker to win his first set. Indiana State's Gareth Keating played well, making some impressive shots in No. 1 doubles and in No. 4 singles against Reike. Keating won 6-3, 6-2.

In the adjacent No. 5 court, Nebraska's Juan Hamdan also fell in two sets. Playing with a shoulder injury that probably will require postseason surgery, Hamdan lost to Jacek Wolicki 7-6, 6-4.

Nebraska's No. 3 Abos-Sanchez gave up his first set 6-3 but came back against Indiana State's Stefan Hirn, winning the next two sets 6-3, 6-3. The win put Abos-Sanchez's record at 14-3 on the season, a team best.

At No. 6, Weise picked up the second Husker point, beating Nathan Crick 7-6, 2-6, 6-3. Weise's mother was courtside Saturday, in town from Flushing Hills, N.Y., for the holiday.

"I can't lose in front of her," said Weise, who also won against Colorado, "or else I get hit."

Weise's victory was followed by a win at No. 2. Lance Mills said he had a case of bronchitis last

“This is the win we've needed all year. We really showed them our mental toughness today.”

KERRY McDERMOTT  
NU men's tennis coach

week and injured his ribs coughing. He played both matches this weekend with a rib brace, losing against Colorado but triumphing against Indiana State's Peter Magnusson, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

The match score was tied after Mills' victory. A crowd gathered around the No. 1 court where Verzi was in the third set against ISU's Jonas Piibor.

Verzi triumphed 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, taking the win for NU.

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## A&M puts stops on win streak

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

The glass slipper fell off this weekend for the Nebraska baseball team.

A&M quickly ended the Huskers' 11-game winning streak Friday with a 14-4 win.

Then, the Aggies swept a Saturday doubleheader 16-5 and 3-2. This is the second time this season the Huskers

Texas A&M	14	16	3
Nebraska	4	5	2

have been swept. Lamar University took a pair of games from Nebraska in February.

Going into this weekend's series at Texas A&M, the Cornhuskers were first in the Big 12 Conference and were climbing the national rankings at No. 18.

NU is now 20-11 overall and 8-4 in the Big 12. With this weekend's losses, the Huskers fall from first to fifth in the conference standings.

In the first game on Saturday, Texas A&M jumped out to a 6-1 lead after two innings.

Junior Scott Fries gave up six runs in 1 2/3 innings. Fries was replaced by senior Jarod Bearinger, who didn't fare much better.

The Aggies put up six runs in the fifth inning, and followed that up with four runs in the sixth off of freshman Dave Schneider.

The second half of the doubleheader was quite a bit closer. Freshman Shane Komine, who hadn't started a game in two weeks because of a back injury, threw a complete game.

Komine allowed 10 hits in 9 2/3 innings, but the Hawaii native didn't get as much offensive support as in past starts. The loss was Komine's first of the season (5-1).

NU's offensive attack was silenced by the Aggie pitchers.

The Huskers, who scored 32 runs in a three-game sweep of Texas last weekend, were only able to put 11 runs on the board in three games against Texas A&M.

Aggie hurler Chance Caple got the win in the first game Saturday. Caple struck out four Husker batters while surrendering only three runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Chris Russ picked up his eighth win of the season in the second game, pitching 4 1/3 innings of relief.