



NU GOLFER Sarah Sasse watches her approach shot fly Monday during the Big 12 Preview tournament in Lincoln. Sasse led the Huskers, shooting rounds of 71 and 75.

LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

Nebraska women lead, men learn

Hole-in-one highlights day for NU

BY LINDSAY GRIESER
Staff writer

Nebraska Women's Golf Coach Robin Krapfl wasn't anywhere near the 12th hole when she heard the screams of joy.

"I heard the screams and all I thought was, man I hope that was for someone on our team," Krapfl said.

Luckily for Krapfl, it was.

Cornhusker junior Amy Roux made her first-ever hole-in-one in the first round of the Big 12 Preview on Monday at the Lincoln Country Club.

"It was my first one ever," Roux said. "And what a good time to do it in—a tournament. I was a little nervous that it would shake me up too much and throw off the rest of my game, but I played OK."

Roux and the rest of the Huskers played more than just 'OK.' Nebraska finished the day in first place with a team total of 601 strokes after the first two rounds of the 54-hole tournament. NU shot 11 strokes better than second-place Oklahoma State.

"Oklahoma State has an outstanding team, but I think on this golf course we can play at their level," Krapfl said.

Oklahoma ended the day in third place with a team total of 618. Baylor and Missouri were tied for fourth at 629.

"I was a little nervous that it would shake me up."

AMY ROUX
NU golfer

Husker sophomore Sarah Sasse fired 71-75 for a total of 146, NU's best for the day. Sasse said she was excited to start off the first round with a birdie.

"To start off on the right foot is really important," Sasse said. "Basically, the first 18, I missed some putts, I made some putts. On the second 18, I shot even on the front nine, and on the back nine I think I was getting tired and had a little bit of mental and physical fatigue; I kind of lost control at the end."

But overall, Krapfl said she was pleased with the way Sasse played.

"Sarah's just been playing great," Krapfl said. "To come up here and play with the Big 12 player of the year and to fire the numbers she shot, it just shows what hard work can do. She's really put

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Huskers drop after second round

■ Following a fourth-place first round, Nebraska shoots a 305 to fall to sixth in the invitational.

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON
Staff writer

Nebraska's two freshmen golfers, Rob Arthur and J.J. Sullivan, may not know where the library is yet, but they found the fairway with regularity in the opening round of the Fairway Club Invitational.

The Cornhuskers posted a team total of 300 after one round, putting them in fourth place, five strokes behind first-place Kansas at Firethorn Golf Club.

The excitement was toned down in the afternoon when Nebraska fired a team total 305, sending the Huskers down the ladder to sixth place.

Sullivan and Arthur each fired a 76 in the second round, putting them in a five-way tie for 11th place individually.

Kansas took control of the tournament in the second round behind the play of Ryan Vemeer. The Millard South graduate shot a 68 and 67 to pace the Jayhawks, who hold a team lead of 14 strokes over second-place Missouri.

Vemeer holds a six-shot lead in the individual race.

Nebraska's first-day showing was impressive

when you factor in the inexperience of the team, Nebraska Golf Coach Larry Romjue said. The Husker lineup includes four freshmen.

"I was pleased with how we handled the pressure in the first round of a tournament in those conditions," Romjue said. "I thought we'd be about in the middle of the pack with such inexperience. Some of the other teams have older players who have played at this level before."

The real winner may have been the golf course. Scores soared in the 80s, and the windy conditions wreaked havoc all day long.

"This is as tough a course as we will play in competition all year long," Romjue said. "The degree of difficulty, especially with how windy it was, is as hard as the course we played at the national tournament last year."

That was no more apparent than at hole 12. The par-four hole played to an average of almost bogey from the 60-golfer field.

But the course is not the only tough competition. Five of the 11 teams in the tournament qualified for nationals last year.

"This is a decent field, and this is only the first year of this tournament," Romjue said. "I think it will get even better as we establish this tournament in the coming years."

Romjue said he is hoping his team will come ready to play well in today's final round.

"We passed around the mistakes (in the first two rounds)," Romjue said. "We need to eliminate those mistakes to finish well in the standings."

Walker expected to return to game action

BY SAMUEL MCKEWN
Senior staff writer

One of Nebraska football's most exciting players from 1998 is expected to make his season debut Saturday against Southern Mississippi.

Rover and kick returner Joe Walker said Monday he will likely play against the Golden Eagles, although he doesn't know where the NU coaches will put him on defense

or whether or not he'll return kicks.

"That's up to them," said Walker, who sat out the first two games with an injured left knee. "My goal is to go out and get stronger every day. We'll see how strong the leg is."

Walker had been rehabilitating his left knee after he tore the anterior cruciate ligament in the Holiday Bowl. On Monday, Walker said his knee was "around 90 percent."

The junior from Arlington, Texas, started the first six games at rover last

season as Mike Brown filled in for an injured Clint Finley at free safety. Walker finished with 50 tackles and five tackles for loss.

Where Walker really shined, though, was in the return game, where he earned second-team All-Big 12 honors for his efforts. Last season, Walker returned 17 kickoffs for 366 yards (a 21.5-yard average) and returned 25 punts for 283 yards (an 11.3-yard average). He returned both a kickoff and a punt for touchdown

last season.

Head Coach Frank Solich said Walker had been practicing since last week in light workouts and donned the pads a few times to see how the knee functioned. Solich didn't guarantee Walker would play but didn't rule it out.

"There is a chance he will play," Solich said. "Joe's trying to get through the practices. Maybe it'll take two more weeks."

What Solich had little doubt

about, though, was Walker's ability to create big plays. Because of the Cornhuskers' injury policy, Walker will retain his starting job at returner when the coaches feel he's ready for it, Solich said.

"It was evident as Joe played last season that as a special teams player, he was special," Solich said. "He can help the team in a lot of ways."

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