Huskers take Preview

■ Strong play through the middle holes helps NU win opening tourney.

> By LINDSAY GRIESER Staff writer

The wind may not have been blowing very strong throughout the Cornhusker women's golf tournament on Tuesday, but once the winner was decided, that aspect of the day was a dif-

The numerous sighs of relief breathed by the Nebraska women's golf team were enough to make it pretty breezy

The Huskers won the Big 12 Preview at the Lincoln Country Club with a team total of 906, nine strokes better than Oklahoma State. Oklahoma finished one stroke behind Oklahoma State, with a 916.

"Ah, I can relax now," Coach Robin Krapfl said.

Despite having the lead going into Tuesday, it wasn't an easy win for Nebraska.

"Sometimes when you're in the lead, it's a little more challenging," Krapfl said. "You have the tendency to try to protect your lead instead of just going out and playing. I think we kind of got into that trap today.

"We got off to a slow start, and I think we started turning (around) on nine. The middle holes were where we won the tournament.'

Sophomore Sarah Sasse also began to improve around the middle of the

"The front side, I just played pathetic," Sasse said. "But on the back side, I

Youthful NU squad finishes 6th in invite

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The first and second rounds were both played on Monday in the morning and afternoon. NU Coach Larry Romjue said that format played poorly on his team's inexpe-

"It's a mental adjustment to play 36 holes in one day," he said.

Romjue said the finish was acceptable for the team's first effort of the season, but the fact that four of the team's top five players are freshmen affected the finish.

"I feel like had they been experienced in this that they might have finished up second or third,"

Freshman Rob Arthur ended up as the Huskers' second highest finisher with a 223 and a tie for 18th

'We did all right considering we're a bunch of freshmen," Arthur said. "We got a pretty solid team, and we just didn't play our best."

Kansas ran away with the team title shooting one over par as a team through both days. The Jayhawks had three golfers in the top six with Vermeer blowing away the field with a first-place 11-under.

The Huskers next head south to Auburn, Ala., for the Ping/Golf Week Preview on Sept. 19-21.

got myself back in contention."

Sasse finished second overall individually with a 221 - only one stroke behind Oklahoma State's Maria Boden. Sasse shot a 75 on the last 18, while Boden shot a 69.

"The reason she won is that all day long she hit it right down the middle, right on the green," Sasse said. "She did not screw up. She deserved to win.

"Right now is the best I've played in a long time, so I had fun out there. There's only room for improvement."

Still, Krapfl was proud of her

"(Sasse) stood toe-to-toe with the best player in the conference and only

got beat by one shot," Krapfl said. "She had an outstanding performance."

Isabelle Blais of Oklahoma followed Sasse by one stroke, firing a 222.

Junior Amy Roux finished second for the Husker squad, behind Sasse by four strokes. Senior Elizabeth Bahensky ended with a 232, sophomore Carla Fogelberg shot a 236, and freshman Amanda Krane pulled out a 238.

Krapfl said. "It's a big win for the program. Look at the schools in the Big 12. This is a great golf conference, and to be able to come out on top is extremely important for the rest of the season. The team is ready to compete again."

Newcombe stays faithful

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wanted. He could have quit. He could have left NU twisting in the wind on a day when its top I-back walked away from the game for good.

But just like Frankie London, who's had even harder luck in his career, Newcombe's still here. And will he ever perform at wingback. Understand, this is how it ought to have been all along. Eric Crouch is the option quarterback on this team. And Newcombe is finally allowed to create like he did his freshman year. Dangerous? I should say so.

Immediately, Nebraska has another receiving threat, which before the switch was exactly at two: Matt Davison and Tracey Wistrom. Now both of them have eagle claws for hands, but Newcombe has the X factor of speed.

He adds a dimension on punt returns, too. Imagine, a double return setup with Newcombe on one side, a healthy Joe Walker on the other.

Give credit to Solich and Quarterbacks Coach Turner Gill for doing the right thing and, most importantly, having faith in Newcombe along with it. I don't know if they held

off on the move because they were worried Newcombe wouldn't bite or if they just thought he was the better quarterback. Either way, they've arrived at the right answer now.

It was funny, because Solich talked about today's modern athletes on Tuesday and how tough they have it. It was in reference to DeAngelo Evans' adios to college football.

"Something is written in the paper about this football team every day," Solich said. "They're under a tremendous amount of pressure in terms of playing and responding and doing everything right, and sometimes it's impossible to live up to those expectations. How it all plays out is: Not everyone can be the No. 1 guy."

Thing is, most people figured that kind of statement applied to Newcombe. On Tuesday, it kind of did. Newcombe didn't live up to expectations.

He exceeded them, proving there's a lot more to No. 12 than some of us might have thought.

Samuel McKewon is a senior news-editorial and political science major and a Daily Nebraskan senior

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Cook set to face former

By John Gaskins Staff writer

It was only nine months and 11 Nebraska volleyball games ago when NU Associate Coach John Cook was standing on the Wisconsin side of the net as head coach in the NCAA Pacific Regional Final. And he was coaching the game of his life.

His No. 8 Badgers had come to the Coliseum, his old stomping grounds as an assistant under NU Head Coach Terry Pettit from 1988-91, looking to upset the No. 3 Cornhuskers and make history, which would have been played on its home court.

Cook had taken a relatively weak UW program and turned it into a near-

births, his big breakthrough chance came against the Huskers.

"If Wisconsin would have beaten us, John would have become the King of Madison (Wisc.)," Pettit said. "He'd have been playing in the Final Four, in his hometown. I think maybe John wouldn't be here today had that hap-

But it didn't, and two months later, Cook left the program he had built to become Pettit's right-hand man and probable heir-apparent. Tonight, he will find himself on the Nebraska side of the net as the No. 5 Huskers will face the it to the first Final Four in Wisconsin No. 13 Badgers in the Coliseum at 7 p.m. in what should be an emotional

Cook has refused to talk to the media this week. Pettit said he has not Nebraska-caliber power. After seven talked in detail to Cook about facing his

3.0

years and two straight Regional final old team, but he thinks Cook will be able to fend off the emotional element.

"I'm sure John has given that some thought," Pettit said. "There are people in the major leagues that have to hit against their brother. Maybe before the game, but when they're in the box, they're not thinking about that. That's just the competitive nature of people."

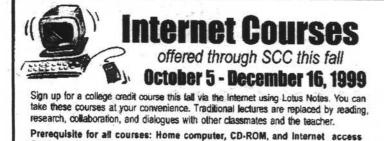
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