

Witter makes move to front

WITTER from page 8

runners in the nation.

As a freshman in high school, Witter never imagined he would be competing against some of the top athletes in the country.

"I wasn't pretty good," Witter said. "Actually, I was pretty pathetic."

The coaches at Kearney High (in Kearney), however, motivated Witter to become a good high school runner.

"Marcus started out as a marginal athlete," Kearney High Cross-Country Coach Pat McFadden said. "When he was in eighth grade, you would have looked at his time and his performances and wonder if the kid would continue running track."

Witter continued running, and it began to pay off in his sophomore year in high school. He placed eighth in the state cross country race that year.

Graduating from Kearney High, one of the top track programs in Nebraska, Witter needed to adjust to the stiff competition and longer distance of the collegiate level.

"Marcus came here with some really good high school times, but

with any athlete that comes into the Big 12, they find out that there is a big difference from high school," Dirksen said.

Witter had to first adjust to the longer distance of the collegiate level. In high school, the men run a 5,000-meter course. In college, the course is doubled to 10,000 meters.

"In high school, you run to get stronger," Witter said. "In college, you run to get stronger and faster."

Witter said he has matured easier, mentally and physically, with the presence of teammate and roommate Todd Tripple.

"It is extra motivation being roommates," Tripple said. "Nothing really gets left at practice - you still come home and talk about practice and strategies."

When it comes to running races, Witter and Tripple don't really compete against each other, though.

"He is our No. 1 runner, so he is usually in front of us," Tripple said.

Witter plans to continue his morning runs to get himself and the team ready for the latter part of the season. Saturday, Witter and his teammates will participate in the National Invitational, at Penn State.

NU looks to stop ISU's run

RUN from page 8

Crouch threw for 145 yards - 116 of which were to tight end Tracey Wistrom. Wingback Bobby Newcombe ran several reverses in the game as well to help open up the run.

Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said on Tuesday that Newcombe might see some reps at quarterback in the near future to keep him sharp.

Starting Husker I-back Dan Alexander had 110 yards and three touchdowns last year when NU won in Ames, Iowa.

Alexander is hoping for a repeat performance of last year.

"I am hoping that we can go in there and do the same thing we did last year against them," Alexander said. "I just see us going out there, and things are going to happen."

Alexander will also play some fullback on Saturday with Willie Miller and Ben Kingston being injured. Alexander said he welcomes the challenge.

"Fullback is probably one of the hardest positions on the team to learn," Alexander said. "I welcome (the position) a lot."

"I know when (Joel) Makovicka was here, they had him running some different things at wingback and at tight end. I just want to come out and help the team no matter what that role is."

Football Starters Nebraska starters

Saturday, 6 p.m. on Fox Sports Network Lincoln, Neb. Memorial Stadium



Offense				Defense			
Pos.	No.	Name	Ht. Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht. Wt.
QB	7	Eric Crouch	6-1 195	LR	81	Aaron Willis	6-2 250
IB	4	Dan Alexander	6-0 245	NT	96	Steve Warren	6-2 305
FB	15	Willie Miller	6-1 245	DT	91	Loran Kaiser	6-4 295
WB	82	Sean Applegate	5-9 185	RR	83	Kyle Vanden Bosch	6-4 270
SE	3	Matt Davison	6-1 185	SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-1 220
TE	85	T.J. DeBates	6-3 250	MLB	13	Carlos Polk	6-2 250
LG	63	Adam Julch	6-5 320	WLB	50	Julius Jackson	6-1 240
LT	63	James Sherman	6-4 295	LCB	3	Keyuo Craver	5-10 190
C	54	Dominic Raiola	6-2 295	FS	19	Clint Finley	6-0 205
RG	55	Russ Hochstein	6-4 290	ROV	21	Mike Brown	5-10 205
RT	58	Dave Volk	6-5 300	RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-10 180
PK	26	Josh Brown	6-2 185	P	17	Dan Hadenfeldt	5-11 195
KO	17	Dan Hadenfeldt	5-11 195				

Iowa State Starters

Offense				Defense			
Pos.	No.	Name	Ht. Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht. Wt.
SE	86	Chris Anthony	6-3 198	RE	15	Reggie Hayward	6-5 250
LT	72	Bill Marsau	6-5 302	DT	52	James Reed	6-0 277
LG	70	Ben Beaudet	6-4 300	NG	98	Nigel Tharpe	6-4 295
C	68	Zach Butler	6-4 280	END	91	Robert Brannon	6-3 293
RG	76	Ryan Gerke	6-4 300	ILB	49	Eric Weiford	6-0 215
RT	75	Marcel Howard	6-5 302	ILB	48	Dave Brcka	6-2 243
FL	3	Damien Groce	5-10 182	OLB	38	Jessa Beckom	6-0 215
QB	18	Sage Rosenfels	6-4 218	SS	17	Jeff Waters	6-2 184
TB	28	Darren Davis	5-8 190	CB	21	Atif Austin	5-8 181
FB	43	Hez Jackson	6-1 236	FS	7	Dustin Avey	6-3 210
TE	31	Mike Banks	6-4 249	CB	27	Breon Ansley	5-8 172

SHAWN DRAPAL/DN

Nebraska's defense will be without a key member to its front line as Jeremy Slechta is out with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Redshirt freshman Jon Clanton and sophomore Matt McGinn will be expected to fill his shoes. Slechta might be out for the season.

Concussions no laughing matter for any athlete

SCHULTE from page 8

medical staff to test Cornhusker athletes following a head injury. The quiz examines mental processes like orientation, memory and concentration and physical tests including sensation, coordination and strength.

Concussions are like burns, with different levels of severity. Grade one concussions are the equivalent of a player "getting his bell rung" and experiencing confusion. The injury is fairly minor and an athlete is likely to return to play once the effects of the hit diminish.

A grade three concussion results in the loss of consciousness and necessitates transporting the athlete to the hospital. This type of injury can keep an athlete out of action for two weeks.

Though there isn't any long-range studies on the effects of cumulative concussions in football, Albers said, initial studies show a link between multiple concussions and disorders later in life.

"There is some thought that there is a cumulative injury," Albers said. "It's not as much as boxing because of the terrific pounding boxers receive. This has not only shown up in football but also in soccer. Athletes in both sports are at risk."

Currently, there isn't a set number of concussions that an athlete can sustain before he or she is forced to quit playing. Hopefully, sports bodies around the world will realize the danger of concussions and take the necessary steps to counter them.

Brandon Schulte is a news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff writer.

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