

## Davison joins NU for basketball

■ John Robinson II, a transfer from New Mexico, also joins practice.

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

The Nebraska basketball team received a boost Monday from two new players at practice.

Husker split end Matt Davison and a transfer, John Robinson II, joined the team for practice in preparation for the Iowa State game.

Davison, a junior, is eligible to play whenever the NU coaching staff deems him in game shape.

But Robinson, who transferred from New Mexico, must sit out until the second semester of next year because of transfer rules. He will have two years of eligibility after that.

Although neither player will play on Wednesday against the Cyclones, Nee said the impact will be felt most in practice.

"The scout team now, with Cookie Belcher and John Robinson and Matt Davison, becomes formidable," Nee said. "They can become a

very competitive situation quickly and help us a lot."

Davison, a Nebraska high school standout at Tecumseh, was named Mr. Basketball following his senior season in 1996. He averaged 25 points per game in both his junior and senior seasons and led Tecumseh to the Class-C2 Title.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pounder said he has been aching to get back into the sport he loves for quite some time.

"I just thought about this for a long time, and when the basketball season started this year it was one of those things where I started thinking about it a lot," Davison said. "Once I talked to Coach Nee about it, we kind of concluded that I should give it a shot and see how it worked out."

Davison said he sees both sides of why he should and should not join the team.

"I don't know if anybody thought that I would ever make it playing football in this state," Davison said. "Everybody has an opinion for me on whether I should or shouldn't do this, and I see both sides of it."

"There are reasons why I shouldn't do it, and there are many, many reasons why I feel I should try it."

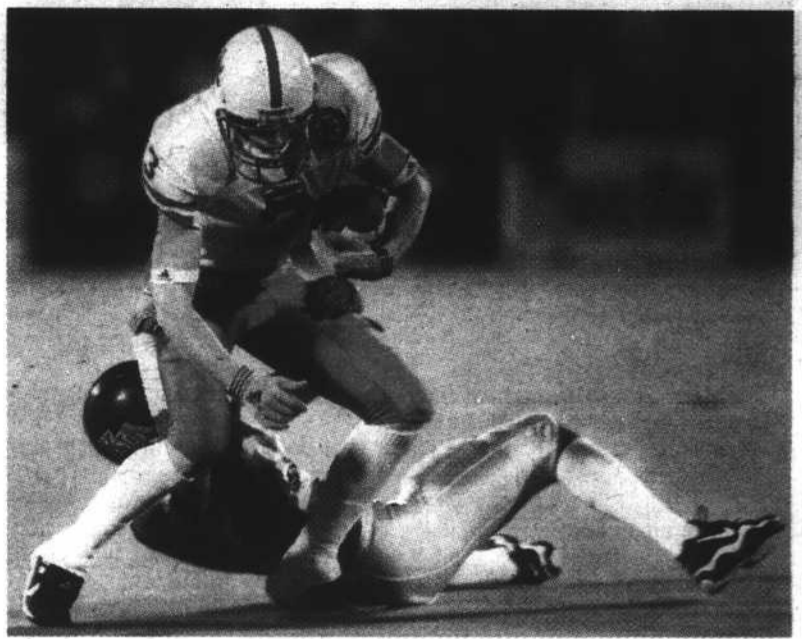
Nee said he was concerned about letting the wide receiver join the team because of what he called the "Matt Davison Watch." But Davison clarified what he believes will be his role on the team.

"I am not coming in here thinking I am going to score 25 points a game or anything like that," Davison said. "I am looking to come into a situation and contribute to a team that I think could win."

Robinson was an AAU teammate of current Husker Louis Truscott and has enrolled in classes for the spring semester at UNL.

He started for New Mexico last season as a freshman and averaged 10.2 points per game while leading the Lobos to the second round of the NCAA tournament. He said his post-season experience should help NU next year.

"There are a lot of great players at Nebraska now, and there will be a lot of great players back next season," Robinson said. "I am excited to have a chance to play with them. I think I bring even more experience to the team, and my NCAA experience from last season should be a big help to next year's team."



Mike Warren/DN

**MATT DAVISON PLAYED** basketball in high school, but isn't expected to play a huge role for the Huskers this spring. He'll come off the bench for depth and help in the outside shooting department. Currently, Nebraska only has three scholarship players in the backcourt -- Danny Walker, Rodney Fields and Cary Cochran. Additionally, John Robinson II transferred from New Mexico to the Huskers and enrolled for classes Monday.

## Jayhawks loom for Nebraska

By David Diehl

Staff writer

The world didn't end for Nebraska women's basketball Coach Paul Sanderford on Saturday after his team's 72-68 Big 12 conference-opening loss vs. Texas.

"I was kind of questioning whether the sun would come up on Sunday," Sanderford joked. "But it did."

Because life continues, so must his team, and a game at No. 23 Kansas, 10-3 overall and 1-0 in the Big 12 Conference, is up next for the Cornhuskers (6-6 and 0-1). NU, who is set to play Kansas tonight at 7:05, is looking to pick up its first win at Allen Fieldhouse since an 80-64 win in Lawrence in 1988.

The two teams have split their last four contests with each team capturing two home victories in the four games.

Sanderford said the KU game, like UT's contest, would hinge on rebounding. Saturday, Texas pulled down 18 more rebounds than NU, and 22 of its 55 boards were on the offensive end.

Kansas poses a similar challenge, Sanderford said.

"Their rebounding numbers are better than Texas," he said, "which sends a little bit of a message to us and to our team."

Forward Cisco Gilmore backed up Sanderford's remarks about Kansas' rebounding strength.

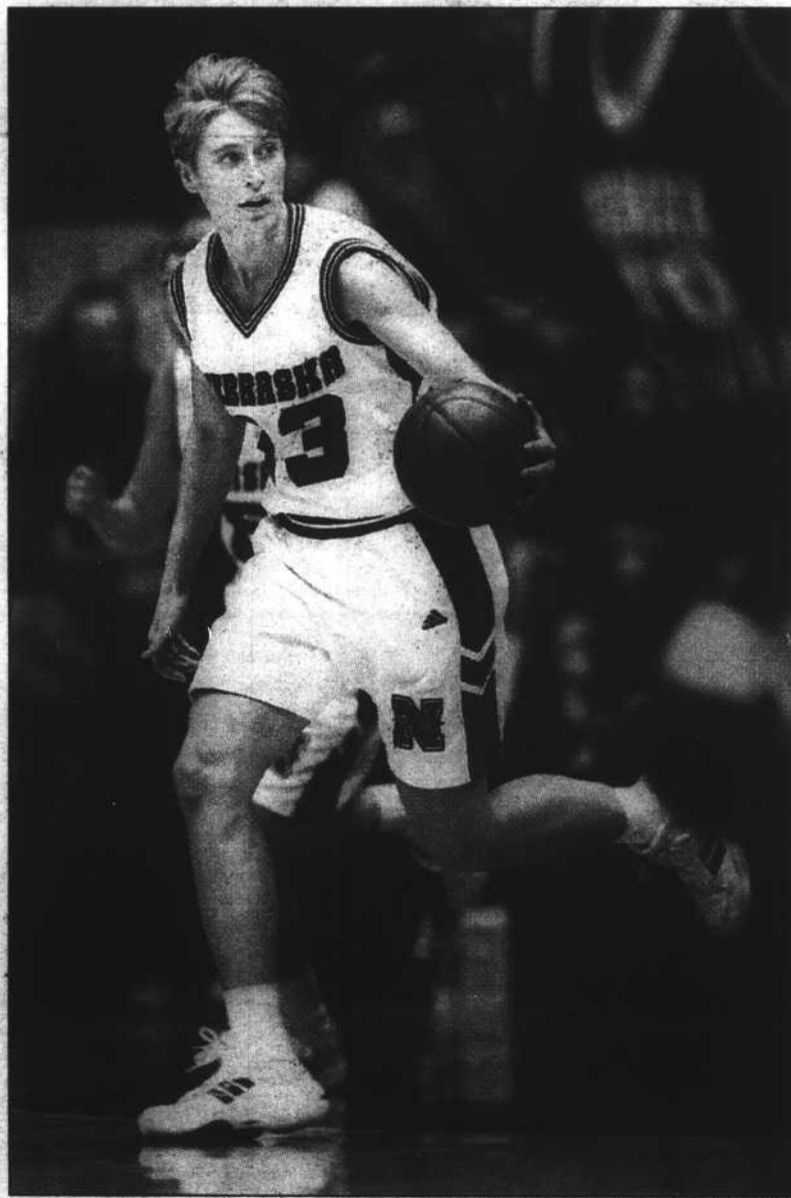
"They have big players, and they're quicker than Texas," Gilmore said. "Against Kansas, you got those big girls who are real quick, and they're going to the boards real hard."

Gilmore said that they haven't done anything but the usual rebounding drills in practice to improve their chances in preparation for Kansas, which averages 22 more rebounds than its opponents.

"We rebound every day in practice," she said. "One thing we have to focus on is the individual boxing out and rebounding on the defensive end. If we don't concentrate on that vs. Kansas, we'll get killed."

The Jayhawks have four players who average double figures in scoring and forwards Jaclyn Johnson and Lynn Pride, the leading scorer, average a combined 17 boards a game.

Gilmore said she will be defending Pride, who puts up 18.2 points per game, for most of the night.



Matt Miller/DN

**CHARLIE ROGERS AND** the Nebraska women's basketball team face a critical contest tonight against Kansas.

"Most teams aren't physical with her," Gilmore said. "I'll try and bump her every time she cuts through the lane."

"She's their fire. She's their fuel. When Lynn Pride is going, when she's fueled up playing her best, Kansas is at their best."

KU has beaten Arizona, who Sanderford said was the best team in the Pac-10 and also Top 25 UC-Santa Barbara. But the Jayhawks have also lost on the road at Creighton and at home to Arkansas State.

"They have some big wins, but evidently they have a hard time getting up for certain teams," Sanderford said. "If you're not ready to play, Creighton is good enough to beat you."

Sanderford said that his team had to "steal one on the road" after the UT loss, and doing that against Kansas, he said, would provide some relief.

"We just need some confidence right now," Sanderford said. "We need a win. A win at Kansas would cure a lot of problems."

### — RECRUITING —

## Husker football finds Texan commitments

By Sean Callahan

Staff writer

While the Nebraska football players were preparing to play in the Fiesta Bowl in December, the Cornhusker coaches added six more verbal commitments to make the total number of high school seniors who plan to play for the Huskers next year 19.

The main area of concern for NU during this recruiting season is the linebacker position. Nebraska has filled that void by gaining commitments from four different linebackers thus far.

One of those backers is T.J. Hollowell out of Copperas Cove, Texas. Hollowell, who is 6-foot-2, 205 pounds, plans to play strong side linebacker. He runs his 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds. He bench presses 320 pounds and squats 480 pounds.

According to his coach, Jack Welch, a player like Hollowell is a hard one to replace.

"A player like T.J. doesn't come along very often," Welch said. "He is hard to block, and I feel Nebraska's scheme fits him very well."

In three years of high school play, Hollowell finished with 296 tackles. In 11 games his senior year he had 139 tackles, including 21 for losses. He was all district three years in a row and second team All State in Class 5A in his senior season. 5A is Texas' largest classification. He was also listed on the Texas Top 100 list.

Along with Welch, Hollowell also has high hopes for his career at Nebraska and is very excited to become a Husker.

Hollowell said he found himself bragging a lot after Nebraska's 31-21 Fiesta Bowl victory.

"I can't wait to play ball for them," Hollowell said. "I plan on coming in July because I want to get everything down as fast as I can."

Hollowell chose the Huskers over Oklahoma, Kentucky and

Texas A&M.

The other linebacker NU received a commitment from over the break was Lanny Hopkins out of Rowlett, Texas. Hopkins is a 6-2, 185-pounder and runs his 40-yard dash in 4.55 seconds.

His coach, Tommy Watkins, who has coached at Rowlett for four years says Hopkins is one of the best, if not the best, players he has seen in his 43 years as a coach.

Watkins said that includes players such as Keith Mitchell, who now plays linebacker for the New Orleans Saints.

"He's got it all," Watkins said. "He has a great work ethic, and he's an excellent leader. He never missed a workout for me."

In 10 games during his senior season Hopkins finished with 152 tackles and 12 sacks. In his junior and senior years, Hopkins blocked nine punts.

In his senior year, Hopkins was the district defensive player of the year and was listed on the Texas Top 100 list.

Hopkins plans to play weakside linebacker for NU. He chose Nebraska over Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas A&M and Memphis.

Another defensive player the Huskers added over the break was 6-foot-4 rush end Bernard Thomas out of St. Frances High School in Mountain View, Calif.

According to the Rivals.com recruiting site, Thomas is rated 28th among defensive ends in the country. He was first team All State in California's largest classification.

Thomas, who runs his 40-yard dash in 4.81 seconds, may also play linebacker for the Huskers.

He chose NU over Southern California and Arizona.

Continuing the heavy recruiting in Texas, Nebraska received a fourth commitment out of the Lone Star

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