

## NU gears up for scrimmage

■ Red-White Spring Game offers chance to see 2000 squad.

By Brandon Schulte

Staff writer

He went through the entire spring without his starting quarterback, Eric Crouch.

He lost his back-up quarterback, Jammal Lord, to a knee injury halfway through the spring.

He has nearly sorted out a full stable of running backs.

And he's helped his defensive staff replace six starters.

But for the life of him, Nebraska Football Coach Frank Solich couldn't remember which coaches he delegated to which team in Saturday's Red-White Spring Game when he talked to reporters after Wednesday's practice.

After switching several coaches back and forth between the red and white team and enlisting the help of Cornhusker Receivers Coach Ron Brown, Solich said:

"Do we have it screwed up yet?"

With everyone thoroughly con-

fused, Brown joked back:

"So who's on first?"

No matter which team the coaches end up on by the start of the spring game Saturday at 12:30 p.m., one thing is sure — it will be the first opportunity for Husker fans to see the 2000 squad in action.

Crouch, Lord and several players on the two-deep roster will be held out of the scrimmage. And proven starters — Dan Alexander, Correll Buckhalter, Bobby Newcombe and Carlos Polk — will probably see limited action.

But Solich said he is certain it will be as competitive as usual.

"It will be a spirited game," Solich said. "It will be a game filled with contact, and so we're excited about it and looking forward to it."

The game will pit the No. 1 offense against the No. 1 defense and the second offense against the second defense, with third string players mixed in with the second string.

It will also mark the debut of quarterbacks Joe Chrisman, Brett Lindstrom and Kelly Cook.

Solich said the lack of the quarterbacks' game experience won't change the offense.

"We may throw more than you might expect, knowing that we have such inexperienced quarterbacks," Solich said. "Yet we want to be a running football team, so we'll certainly make sure we work on that fairly heavily in the spring game."

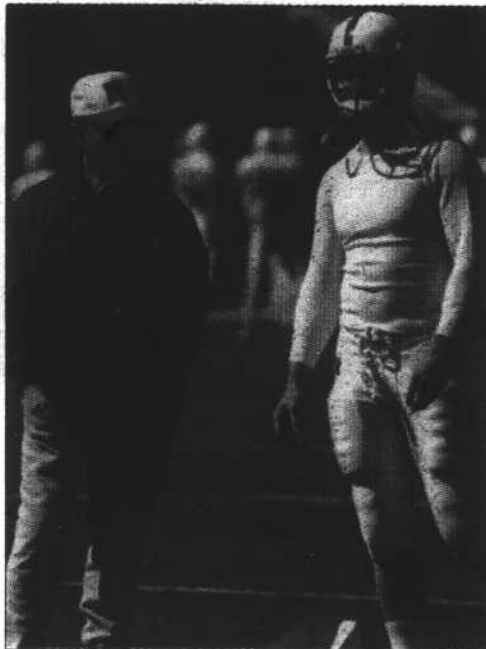
Solich said Chrisman is the No. 1 quarterback, while Lindstrom will lead the second unit and Cook is going to back up Lindstrom. They will all resemble Italian flags as they add a green jersey — meaning they won't be hit — to go with their red and white uniforms.

But that shouldn't affect the game as Solich said the spring game is important to the development of the team, therefore it will be treated almost as a game.

"It's not equal snaps; we'll treat this a little more like a game," Solich said. "Our top unit players will get the majority of the snaps, but we also need to develop some depth."

"We're going to be somewhat basic. We're not going to do a lot of blitzing or be real exotic offensively."

"What we're really interested in seeing is where we're at with our base offense and base defense. After seeing that, we'll know where we're at heading into fall camp next fall."



DN File Photo

**NEBRASKA QUARTERBACK ERIC CROUCH won't be seeing action in Saturday's Red/White Spring Game, but NU Coach Frank Solich doesn't expect that to stop the Cornhuskers' varied offensive schemes from executing well. Joe Christman will run the first team offense, while Brett Lindstrom and Kelly Cook are backups.**

## Brink wins national title

By Jason Merrihew

Staff writer

Senior All-American Heather Brink added another title to her name: national champion.

Brink claimed the all-around crown after posting a 39.6 score in her four events. The Lincoln native was on fire, qualifying for three of four individual event championships, which will be held Saturday.

"It feels great; it's something you work for all of your life," Brink said. "But I would trade it all in for a team title."

In addition to the all-around title on Saturday, Brink will have the opportunity to add vault, uneven bars and floor exercise championships to her quickly expanding resume.

"I'm really, really happy," Brink said. "It'll probably hit me more during the award ceremony tomorrow."

Her floor exercise score of 9.95 set the school record. Brink also used a 9.90 in the vault, 9.90 in the uneven bars and a 9.85 on the balance beam to tally up the second best all-around score in school history.

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## Collier begins rebuilding with discipline

*Telephone calls, tough workouts all part of coach's plan to get NU back*

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

Nebrasketball is undergoing a reconstruction. Gone are the days of the cakewalk practices under Danny Nee. In are the days of Barry Ball and working on fundamentals.

Player after player walked off the court Thursday, drenched in sweat and gasping for air. Barry Collier was already beginning to insert his stamp on the Cornhusker basketball program.

In Lincoln for just over one week, Collier has begun to implement a system that he said will produce wins next season.

It is one that stresses fundamentals, mutual

*"The essence of any organization to have good leadership..."*

**Barry Collier**  
NU basketball coach

respect, effort and leadership.

And with that, Collier describes the type of team he wants — hard-nosed, tough and one that won't back down from any challenge.

"It can be boring, but so what," Collier said. "That is the way it is."

And with that, Collier describes the type of team he wants — hard-nosed, tough and one that won't back down from any challenge.

But most importantly, one that will go into battle as a unit.

"There is a mutual respect and understanding of what needs to take place and the leadership that is provided by the coaching staff," he said. "It may sound kind of vanilla, but it is the essence of any organization to have good leadership and good followership."

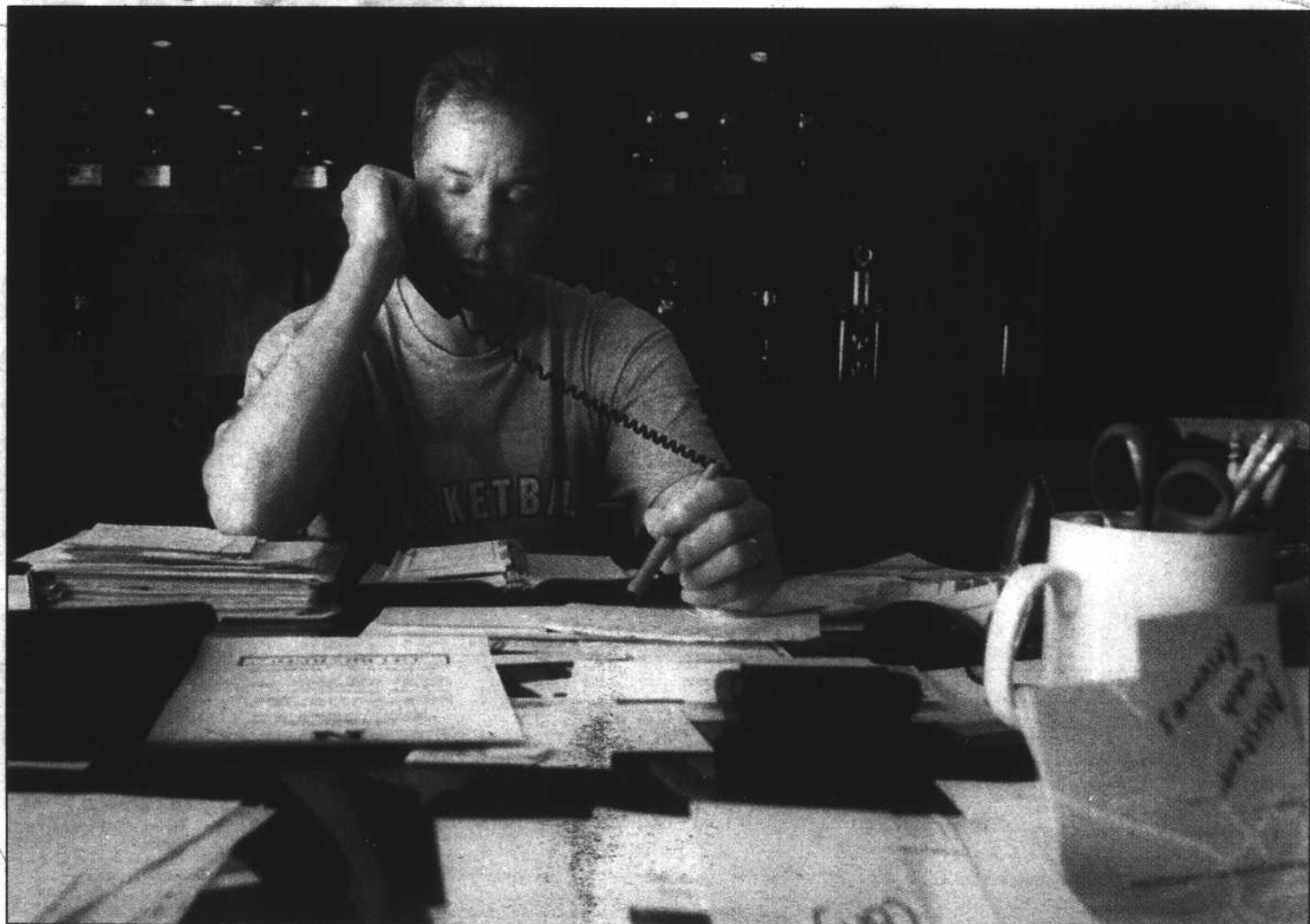
Collier said his players in the past have responded well to his toughness and know that it will pay off in the long run.

Thad Matta, a former player under Collier at Butler University and now his successor at the same school, said Collier demands a lot and gets it in return.

"He gets everything out of his players," Matta said. "As a player, I loved playing for him, and I always knew where I stood with him. I liked that feeling."

And it seems as though the NU players like that feeling, as well. Not one complaint was heard after shuffling, lifting and shooting their muscles into knots.

"He has plans for this team," Kimani Ffriend said. "Next year, we are going to be headed in the



Nikki Fox/DN

**Barry Collier, the new NU men's basketball coach, makes phone calls in his office Thursday night. He said he usually works until midnight.**

right direction."

### Pressure

So the question is, does Collier feel pressure to turn this sinking ship around?

"I put pressure on myself," he said. "I guarantee no one wants to win as hard as I do."

Matta described Collier as a workaholic who knows what is important and gets it done. He said his colleague is always fine-tuning and is committed to becoming better.

"Nebraska is getting one of the best defensive coaches in the country," Matta said. "If you look at great programs — those who win championships —

they are fundamentally sound."

Collier took over Butler in 1989 and subsequently led them to a 6-22 record. But the Bulldogs won 18 games in 1990 and only had one losing season after that, in 1993. His teams won at least 20 games in his final four seasons at Butler.

His boss at Butler, Athletic Director John Parry, said the wins piled up when Collier grew as a coach.

"When he first got here, we played games in the 90s," Parry said. "He then made a strong commitment to defense and became less concerned with the officials and more concerned with developing his players."

On April 5, Collier brought his system to NU

and said he will attempt to rescue the Huskers from last season's 11-19 record.

He was hired to win right away and with seniors galore, Collier said he feels the heat and welcomes it with open arms.

"I don't think pressure is a bad thing," he said. "If nobody cared, then we wouldn't have 14,000 people in the stands, and the NCAA Tournament wouldn't be as big as it is."

While Matta described Collier as a workaholic, he also mentioned that he has a great peace about him.

And Collier said he knows he must roll with

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