

# Huskers ready for season

PLAYERS from page 16

that went 12-1 and finished ranked in the top three in both major polls.

The two starters lost on offense were both from the offensive line, but the "pipeline" should be far from clogged next fall. The line got an added boost with the return of Jason Schwab, who missed last season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. Sophomore Toniu Fonoti will step into starting lineup, and the line should go at least seven deep next year.

The running backs and receivers are just as deep. With the starters and top backups in place at both running back and fullback, Running Back Coach Dave Gillespie's job was to establish the bottom of the depth chart.

All played well with I-back Chris Butler and fullback Judd Davies having breakout performances in the spring game.

Receivers Coach Ron Brown had the same luxury as Gillespie, but several receivers missed time because of injuries.

But if Bobby Newcombe, Matt Davison and Tracey Wistrom heal by fall camp, the Huskers will have a dominant aerial arsenal.

But the receivers will only be as good as the quarterback who throws to them. With starter Eric Crouch and backup Jammal Lord sidelined during the last half of spring with injuries, the lack of depth at the position became incredibly apparent.

Quarterbacks Joe Chrisman and Brett Lindstrom were successful this spring, but it's doubtful that they will be able to lead the offense effectively

next fall. But Solich was satisfied with their performances to date.

"We're only operating with one quarterback that's been a true quarterback for us, and he's a young player," Solich said. "The other two quarterbacks just started at the position this spring. And usually they're the trigger for what you're going to get done."

"If they don't operate with some efficiency, you're not going to get anything done."

The defense will run just as smoothly. It was hit hard by the loss of play makers from a year ago, but it shouldn't be lacking in leaders to mold the young defense.

Craig Bohl's first campaign as defensive coordinator after taking over for Charlie McBride should be aided by the charisma of rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch and middle linebacker Carlos Polk. If the entire defense exudes the drive of Vanden Bosch, the Blackshirts will be as good as ever.

"I don't think I'll ever be the player that I want to be," said Vanden Bosch, after he recorded three sacks for 28 yards of losses in the Red-White Spring Game. "I'm really my own worst critic. (In the spring game) I made a couple of plays, but I also made a couple of mistakes that don't always show up. I still got a ways to go."

With the return of a healthy Erwin Swiney to go with Keyuo Craver, Joe Walker, DeJuan Groce and Clint Finley, the defensive secondary makes strides to replace NFL draftees Mike and Ralph Brown.

Strongside and weakside linebacker positions were open this

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Kyle Vanden Bosch  
NU rush end

spring, and quality players have moved to the top of the depth chart. Scott Shanle and Rod Baker will split time at strongside linebacker, while Randy Stella and Mark Vedral will do the same at weakside linebacker.

The defensive line should be an imposing front four once players return from injuries. At least five defensive linemen were held out of spring practices. Once they return there will be plenty of talent on the line.

And the kicking game will be the same as last season. That's because everyone returns.

With such a well-oiled machine puttering away at South Stadium, the only thing standing in the way of NU's rise to the top of the polls could be some dead weight that limits efficiency.

But Solich said that will be taken care of immediately.

"We have some guys that are a little overweight," he said. "We'll need to get that under control, and we'll do that immediately. The guys that need to lose some pounds are on the offensive and defensive line, but we have a little of that every year at that time."

# Kenya dominates marathon

■ For 10th consecutive year, Kenyans take Boston Marathon's top spots.

BOSTON (AP) - First it was the Kenyan men. Now, even the women are winning the Boston Marathon.

Kenya's domination in Boston extended to a record 10 consecutive victories Monday, as Elijah Lagat out-kicked Ethiopia's Gezahenge Abera and Kenya's Moses Tanui in the closest finish in the race's 104-year history.

Lagat and Abera were both timed in 2 hours, 47 seconds, with Tanui three seconds back.

The women's ending wasn't as close, but it was still the same: a Kenyan wearing the laurel wreath.

Catherine Ndereba, competing in only her third marathon, pulled away in the final mile and became the first Kenyan winner, at 2:26:11. Ndereba thwarted the bid of Ethiopia's Fatuma Roba to become the first competitor - male or female - to win the race four consecutive times.

The struggling Roba finished third at 2:26:27, the same time as runner-up Irina Bogacheva of Kyrgyzstan, who came from behind and beat her in the final stride.

Like the men, the women's finish was the closest ever between the top two and among the top three runners.

"I'm not only happy to win, but I'm going to the Olympics and represent my country," said Lagat, who took up running professionally only after his doctor told him in 1992 he had a heart condition and might die.

With this race being an Olympic qualifier for the Kenyan men's Olympic team, Lagat and Tanui earned places on the squad, joining Kenneth Cheruyiot, winner of Sunday's Rotterdam Marathon.

The 33-year-old Lagat said his doctor warned him that he had a lot of fat around his heart and urged him to lose weight. At the time, he weighed 158½ pounds. Now, he weighs 125½.

Abera, running on his 22nd birthday, contended the Kenyans were kicking and pushing him.



Photos by Darren McCollister/Newsmakers  
TOP: CATHERINE NDEREBA of Kenya crosses the finish line in a time of 2:26:11 in the 104th Boston Marathon.  
ABOVE: KENYA'S ELIJAH Lagat crosses the finish line ahead of Gezahenge Abera of Ethiopia to win the Boston Marathon in a time of 2:09:47.

# Rankin named NU assistant coach

From Staff Reports

After hiring his first assistant from inside the state, Nebraska Men's Basketball Coach Barry Collier went all the way to the deep South for his second hire.

Reggie Rankin, formerly an administrative assistant at Georgia, was named the newest Husker assistant Monday.

Collier said the new NU assistant would help the team in all aspects, including on-the-floor coaching and recruiting.

Rankin was excited about his new job.

"This is a great opportunity Coach Collier has given me," he said. "It provides me with a fresh start and a new beginning. Coach Collier is an experienced and proven head coach, and our program is going to get great direction and leadership from him."

"I think it's just a matter of time until Nebraskans have a basketball program they are extremely proud of."

Rankin spent three years at Georgia, the first two as a full-time assistant under Ron Jirsa. Last year,

Rankin handled day-to-day duties, including video work and practice scheduling.

The new Husker assistant has been an assistant coach since 1993 and has had stints at Ohio, Wyoming, Boston and Bowling Green in addition to Georgia.

Collier said Rankin's background was a major reason for the hire.

"Reggie's Division I experience has helped him develop a strong coaching background and at the same time has led to multiple successes in recruiting," Collier said.

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