

# Facilities brighten future of spring sports teams

By Samuel McKewon  
Senior editor

The biggest breakthrough of the spring sports season happened in the city towing lot.

There marked the groundbreaking of Nebraska's brand new baseball-softball complex, set to be ready for play in 2001.

Or maybe it happened just south of the current baseball stadium.

There marked the opening of one of the finer track surfaces in the nation.

The spring sports, they are movin' on up, Jefferson-style. New digs. A better rep. It's no longer just a period of time for practice football. Well, it sort of is still, but it's improving.

The facilities' upgrade prove it. It's unlikely that any spring sports are going to elicit team national championships, but things are going the right way. An update as of Friday, April 28, on the direction of spring sports:

**Baseball:** Nebraska is enjoying an encore performance of 1999's season, even without standout Ken Harvey. NU stands at 33-12 overall, poised for a run in the NCAA Regionals and a shot at the College World Series.

**Pitcher** Shane Komine has mowed down opposing batters with 114 strikeouts and a 2.03 ERA.

**Softball:** It was a rough begin-

ning, but the Nebraska softball team has righted the ship nicely in recent weeks, pulsing through the schedule and ending up with a 41-18 record right now. The team is 11-2 in the Big 12 conference, good for second, behind highly rated Oklahoma.

**Track:** Nebraska regained its top spot in the Big 12 with indoor conference titles, defeating Texas, which had begun flex its muscles. NU has several athletes in contention for national honors in the outdoor season, including sprinter Chris Chandler, jumper Dalhia Ingram, thrower Melissa Price and pole-vaulter Eric Eshbach.

The Huskers lost one of its strongest competitors earlier this season when shot-putter Carl Myerscough was asked to sit out until an alleged positive drug test taken in his native England had been cleared up.

**Women's Tennis:** While NU cruised through the regular season with its best record ever at 19-5, it's hard to say whether that will get the Huskers into the NCAA Tournament, as the team lost in the second round of the Big 12 Championships.

But it wouldn't put a damper on Sandra Noetzel's career if that bid didn't come. Noetzel won her 100<sup>th</sup> career match this season and is easily the most decorated tennis player in NU history. She leaves many major career records.

And things are looking up in the

program with the recruitment of two highly touted freshmen from California.

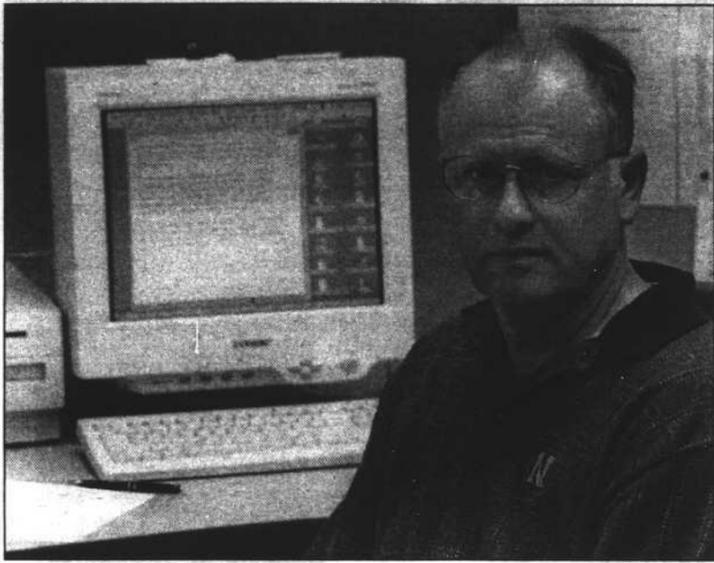
**Men's Tennis:** In what might have been considered a transition year for the Nebraska, the Huskers failed to win a Big 12 conference match. The season ended with a 4-3 loss to Colorado at the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, Kan.

**Men's Golf:** After the best season in school history, there was bound to be a letdown in the program, as four key seniors graduated from the team. Compiling a team of mostly freshmen, Nebraska was in the second tier of the Big 12 Conference most of the season. The team finished last at the Big 12 Championships.

**Women's golf:** Led by All-Big 12 sophomore Sarah Sasse, the women's team finished third at the Big 12 Championships and awaits a possible bid for NCAA regionals. Sasse helped NU win the Susie Maxwell Berning Classic earlier this season.

**Bowling:** By the time you read this, Nebraska may very well be national champions, as the Huskers trailed leader Wichita State by less than 200 points at the Intercollegiate Bowling Championships at the Northrock Lanes in Wichita, Kan.

Diandra Hyman already has a large trophy to add to her case after winning Player of the Year by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association on Wednesday.



Josh Wolfe/DN

**TERRY PETTIT, former volleyball coach, is getting accustomed to his new position as a liaison for the Athletic Department. Pettit retired after the 1999-2000 season and was replaced by Assistant John Cook.**

## Pettit turns attention toward team in final season as coach

By John Gaskins  
Staff writer

Terry Pettit finished his career as Nebraska's legendary volleyball coach the best way he knew how — his way.

There were plenty of opportunities in his final season to tell the world that after 23 seasons, nearly 700 victories and a national title that it was time to step down.

He could have made a "this year will be my final year" speech at a preseason press conference, in which he announced he had lured former assistant and successful Wisconsin Coach John Cook to become his "Associate Coach" and heir apparent.

He could have said goodbye in front of 8,000 fans — the third-largest crowd in school history — at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Nov. 21, near the end of the season, on a night that celebrated 25 years of the program's success.

But the always-sharp Pettit — well-known by reporters, peers and players to be tight-lipped when he wanted to be — brushed aside those opportunities, and regular inquiries from reporters about his future, to coach volleyball. One last time.

The 53-year-old announced his retirement, and the passing of the torch to Cook, five days after NU's season ended in an NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 loss to UC-Santa Barbara.

"I've known for some time that I was moving in this direction," Pettit said. "I didn't want to go to the University of Missouri or the University of Oklahoma and have the focus be that this is Terry Pettit's last match at Oklahoma and Missouri."

Instead he focused on his job, and some believed 1999 was some of his finest work. The Huskers endured uncharted territory — NU's first 0-2 start, a shocking early Big 12 loss to Kansas State and being behind in conference standings — to gut out the 21<sup>st</sup> conference championship of Pettit's career.

It was a team and a season that reflected Pettit's insistence to stay quiet.

"We could have spit the bit out or jumped ship at any point throughout this season, but we didn't," Pettit said after NU clinched its title against Texas in the season's last match.

What Pettit won't be able to hide from now is the history he made at Nebraska — right up to the end. His end.

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