

# High hopes drive women's golf team

While the women begin their season flying high, the men are facing a tougher course, lacking experience.

BY JASON MERRIHEW

As the 2000 fall golf season quickly approaches, the Nebraska men's and women's golf teams find themselves on opposite ends of the totem pole.

The Nebraska women's golf team comes into the fall season with high expectations after earning its first trip to the NCAA Championships.

The Cornhuskers will boast a deep lineup when they set foot on the links in September.

Four of the five golfers who competed for the Huskers last season are back. Elizabeth Bahensky, who finished in 25th place at the NCAA Championships last spring, was the only senior on last year's squad.

Junior Sarah Sasse and senior Amy Roux will compete for the No. 1 spot on the roster.

Sasse is coming off a second-

place showing at the 2000 World University Golf Championships in Coleraine, Northern Ireland. Sasse was one of five collegian representatives for the United States.

"Her showing at the Championships will increase her confidence," Coach Robin Krapfl said.

Sasse also won this summer's Nebraska Women's Stroke Play Championship in record fashion, cruising to a 17-stroke victory.

Despite her impressive summer, Krapfl said Sasse won't automatically be No. 1 for NU.

"Sasse's status at the No. 1 position is not set in stone," Krapfl said. "Roux is going to battle for the top spot."

Juniors Catha Fogelberg and Amanda Sutcliffe also return for the Huskers.

Junior Stephanie Schaefer and sophomore Amanda Krane will battle for the fifth spot on the varsity roster.

With all this experience returning, Krapfl is looking forward to the opening tournament, which is to be held at the Yankee Hill Country Club in

*"With four freshmen starting, you take your lumps. There is no substitute for experience."*

Larry Romjue  
men's golf coach

Lincoln.

"It's nice to start the season out on a familiar course," Krapfl said.

Meanwhile, the men's team is coming off a season filled with growing pains. Last season, Coach Larry Romjue fielded a team that consisted of one sophomore and the rest freshmen.

The lack of experience resulted in a last-place finish at the Big 12 Championship.

"With four freshmen starting, you take your lumps," Romjue said. "There is no substitute for experience."

After a season of taking lumps, the Huskers are looking to improve.

Junior Seth Porter, the only upperclassman on the roster, returns as the top player on the team.

"Seth has been the leader of this team for the past couple of years," Romjue said.

As a freshman, Porter placed No. 82 overall during the 1999 NCAA Championship.

Sophomore Jim Troy returns as Nebraska's top finisher at the 2000 Big 12 Championship.

Troy tied for 43rd after firing a score of 231 during the tournament.

The remaining three spots will be filled from a large group of sophomores and junior-college transfer Blake Humbles.

Humbles, who transferred from Riverside Community College in California, is the lone recruit added to the squad.

The Huskers will begin competition on Sept. 2 and 3.

"We're looking forward to the upcoming season," Romjue said.

# Experience gives teams a running start

BY JILL ZEMAN

Members of the 2000 NU Men's Cross Country team will be running a route many of them have ran before, which could prove to be their greatest strength this season.

Coach Jay Dirksen said this year's team will be marked by depth and experience. He's looking to Senior Captain Marcus Witter and senior Aaron Carrizales to lead the pack.

Dirksen will also bring back four sophomores who gained valuable experience during their freshman season, he said.

"We've got a good mixture of old and new," he said.

Last year's team finished sixth at the Big 12 Championships and narrowly missed an invitation to the NCAA Championships.

Dirksen said he hoped this year's team will finish higher, moving up to second, third or fourth place in the Big 12. He predicted Colorado would win the conference.

"We've got a team that has the potential to be there," he said. "I have the feeling we'll be right in there battling."

While the men can rely on their balance, depth and experience, the women's team must look to other sources. Only a handful of experienced runners will be lacing up their shoes for

the Cornhuskers.

"We have a really good team; we just don't have a lot of depth," Dirksen said.

The women's team finished in 16th place at last year's NCAA championships.

It will showcase five experienced runners, led by sophomore Kathryn Handrup.

Dirksen said he is aiming to land in the upper half of the conference, and he predicts Kansas State and Colorado will be on top.

"It's such a tough conference, that if you're in the top five or six, you can still be one of the better teams in the nation," he said.

Senior Jaimie Kruger said

she wasn't concerned about the team's lack of experience.

"I think everybody can step up, so we'll be all right," she said.

Kruger will be running in her final year as a Husker, and she has run more miles over the summer than she ever has.

"It's my last year, so of course I want to go out with a bang," she said.

The first meet for the team is the Sept. 2 Bearcat Distance Classic, at Maryville, Mo., where Dirksen said the younger, more inexperienced runners will compete.

The rest of the team will make their debut at the Woody Greeno/NU Invitational held at Pioneers Park Sept. 16.

# Secondary confident despite loss of Browns

While Swiney and Groce battle to start on one corner; Craver expects breakout season

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Pass-happy teams like Oklahoma and Texas Tech must be besides themselves.

Could it be true? Not one player named Brown will step onto the field this fall for the Nebraska defensive secondary.

The Huskers lost four-year starter Ralph Brown and Mike Brown, NU's second-leading tackler in history.

With a loaded backfield, the NU offense could join the 1983 and 1995 squads as among the best in Husker history. **C**

The prospect of not having the two first-team All-Americans on the team must have opposing offensive coordinators salivating.

Good, says rover Joe Walker. "They will probably start off trying to pick on us," he said. "But those coaches will be very disappointed if they do that."

While the Huskers are missing the "Brown Brothers," secondary coach George Darlington is quick to point out that he has capable players that

are ready to step up.

"We are blessed with six players that have started games in the past," said Darlington, who will be entering his 28th season at NU. "All we can do to replace the seniors is to hope that the younger players play up to their ability."

Erwin Swiney will step into Ralph Brown's right cornerback position after missing last season with an abdominal injury. But Swiney is no stranger to the position. In his freshman year - 1997 - he was named a starter by his fourth game alongside Ralph Brown.

He started every game the following year but was held back by injuries.

The junior, listed alongside sophomore DeJuan Groce as the starter at right corner, is now ready to reclaim his role.

"I am very confident," Swiney said. "I think I am very close to where I was my freshman year as far as healthwise, and I think I have matured and learned a lot more since then."

Last year gave Swiney a chance to observe from the sidelines - a role in which he said he

took advantage of.

"I think I learned a lot mentally from a spectator's point of view," he said.

Opposite of Swiney is Keyuo Craver, a junior who came into his own last season. Craver backed up Swiney as a freshman and then started in his spot last season, recording 51 tackles and 12 pass break-ups.

Craver was tested week in and week out as teams looked to throw opposite of Ralph Brown. Darlington said Craver came into his own as a player last season.

"I think Keyuo was a dominant corner last year," he said. "I think a lot of people gave him more attention because of having a four-year starter on the other side. We anticipate that Keyuo will be even better this year."

Darlington points out that while his secondary will be tested, it will be nothing it has not seen before.

"Keyuo, DeJuan and Erwin give you three guys that have been on the field with the game on the line," he said. "So that is an enjoyable feeling for a coach."

*"I am very confident. I think I am very close to where I was my freshman year as far as healthwise, and I learned a lot more since then."*

Erwin Swiney  
right cornerback

The safety position is not much different from the cornerback position.

The loss of Mike Brown will hurt, but three players with starting experience will help to lessen the pain.

Clint Finley, Dion Booker and Walker all have at least five games of starting experience behind them. With 76 games combined, all are proven competitors.

NU first-year defensive coordinator Craig Bohl wasn't worried about life after the Browns.

"Usually when a guy leaves, there is another guy groomed to step up to the plate," Bohl said.

# Get rid of crowd noise on offense? Coach says no

The Titans nixed the ear pieces they were told they could only use with the ball.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Count Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher as a "no" vote against using technology to block out home field advantage.

His Titans and the St. Louis Rams used the devices called "Noise Exterminators" Monday night during their exhibition game as part of a test being run by the NFL's competition committee this preseason.

The tiny high-tech pieces tune out the crowd and help linemen hear the quarterback.

But Fisher wanted to use the devices for his defense, not his offensive line.

"I, however, for whatever

reason assumed that it was going to be OK if I fitted the defensive players, and I got a call yesterday that defensive players couldn't use them, so we did not use the 'Noise Exterminators' yesterday," Fisher said Tuesday.

"My thinking was, 'What good is that device going to do my offensive line here when we're at home? We can hear. It's the visiting offensive line that should be able to use them.'"

These are the devices that then-St. Louis coach Dick Vermeil wanted to use last season when the Rams visited the Titans on Halloween, and NFL officials turned him down.

The Rams lost that game after starting the season 6-0.

Fisher, who joined the competition committee earlier this year, said members decided to test the device this preseason. He had eight or nine players fitted with the "Noise

Exterminators" and planned to use them mostly for his defensive linemen.

"They thought that was way too smart. It made way too much sense, but it didn't fall into criteria for the test," Fisher said.

Fisher had not had time yet to talk with the Rams for their opinion on how the devices worked in the game Tennessee won 30-3.

Rams left tackle Orlando Pace was flagged twice for false starts in the second quarter, and Fisher said he had heard that Pace's ear piece fell out.

"He was doing the same things Fred (Miller) did when he lined up against Jevon (Kearse, last season)," Fisher said.

Miller, who played for the Rams last season before joining the Titans as a free agent, was penalized repeatedly for false starts in that game.

Miller was scheduled to use

one of the ear pieces, but he declined to use them at home. He said Tuesday after practice that dealing with the noise is part of the game.

After the game, he sympathized with Pace.

"I definitely had to laugh at him. I knew it was going to happen. It was either going to be Orlando or Ron Tucker because of our defensive ends and the crowd noise here in our stadium," Miller said. "This is a great place to play if you're the home team, and we use it to our advantage at home."

When the devices come up for a vote by the competition committee, Fisher plans on voting against the "Noise Exterminators."

"Philosophically, I would say I'm opposed to such a device. The game needs to be played the way it is. It's too technical as it is," he said.

# 50-meter freestyle record broken

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Get ready, Alexander Popov. Gary Hall Jr. is coming after you again.

Hall broke a decade-old American record in the 50-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic trials Tuesday night, edging Anthony Ervin in 21.76 seconds — the second-fastest swim in history.

Ervin claimed the second trip to Sydney in 21.80, the third-fastest time ever that also beat the old American mark of 21.81 set by Tom Jager in March 1990.

Hall's performance set up another showdown with Popov, the Russian star who has swept the 50 and 100 at the last two Olympics. Hall won the silver in both events at Atlanta, but his life was dealt a couple of major blows in the ensuing four years.


First, Hall was suspended for three months after testing positive for marijuana. Then, he was diagnosed with diabetes, altering his training routine and

requiring him to take up to eight insulin shots a day.

At the trials, however, Hall earned two more Olympic chances to knock off Popov, who set the 50 world record of 21.64 at a June time trial.

Hall and Ervin now have the fastest times in a full, eight-man field.

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