

# Diedrick still No. 3 I-back, but stuck on sidelines

**DIEDRICK** from page 10

San Jose State allowed Diedrick to see time in the backfield. His 12 yards on five carries vs. the Spartans are his only offensive stats to date.

Coach Frank Solich said closer calls vs. Notre Dame and Iowa required the proven starters.

"We have confidence in Dahrman," Solich said. "But in those types of games you generally go with your top two guys."

Diedrick said he understands that philosophy and, despite his confidence, isn't angry about watching from the sidelines.

"I think I can get in and every-

thing will still run smoothly," the six-foot, 220-pound sophomore said. "But that's a coach's decision."

In 1999, other opportunities were garnered when injuries in the backfield left the Huskers depleted.

Alexander filled in for the injured Willie Miller at fullback vs. Kansas, thus moving Diedrick into the No. 2 running back spot. Diedrick saw some playing time in the game, rushing six times for 27 yards. Diedrick also saw time in the Big 12 title game when Alexander split open his hand.

Injuries haven't been a concern on offense thus far, Solich

said.

Next season, Diedrick will most likely find himself with that same staying power, since he will be the most experienced of NU's four current underclassmen I-backs. The thought of competing for that top spot is what keeps Diedrick going this year, he said.

"That's been my main motivation," he said. "Even though I haven't been playing that much, I know that next year will be my time. I know that as long as I stay in there and progress the way I have, it's just a matter of time."

But Gillespie, Diedrick's position coach who has admitted that Diedrick has improved in many

facets of his game, isn't penciling him as next year's starter right now.

"We need to be sure that the guy that lines up there at No. 1 I-back is a guy we can depend on to be consistent," Gillespie said.

Should Diedrick impress Gillespie enough next season and jump from the sideline and into the spotlight, Diedrick said he'll be ready. Diedrick said he wants to be a main factor in Nebraska reloading for next season.

"Any position at Nebraska there's not a dropoff when seniors leave," Diedrick said. "Somebody just jumps into the spot and plays well."

# Baseball reloading for fall

**BY DANE STICKNEY**

The Big Red machine that came within one win of the College World Series last year lost a few parts over the summer.

Gone is Justin Cowan, a third-team All-American catcher and finalist for the 2000 Johnny Bench award.

Gone is Jamal Strong, the swift centerfielder who stole a record 69 bases in two years.

Gone is right fielder Adam Shabala, the most valuable player of last season's Big Twelve Tournament.

NU also lost shortstop Brandt Vlieger and a trio of pitchers: Scott Fries, Chad Wiles and Trever Bullock.

This season, a group of junior college transfers, redshirt freshmen, true freshmen and holdovers from last year's squad will try to fill the gaps.

But Baseball Coach Dave Van Horn said he isn't too concerned. What the team lacks in experience is made up in depth, he said.

"We've got a lot of open spots, but we've got a lot of talented new players," Van Horn said. "We've got deeper talent this year than last, which means it will be one of the most competitive fall practices we've ever had."

"Hopefully that will make us better."

Junior college transfers Brandon Eymann and Willie Jones will compete for the starting shortstop position, and Jeff Blevins, another junior college transfer, is expected to push incumbent Josh Hesse at third, Van Horn said.

Catcher Travis Anderson, a junior college transfer from California, could quickly become a star, Van Horn said. Anderson hit over .500 last year, leading his junior college league.

Another catcher, Jed Morris, a sophomore junior college transfer, will add strong defense behind the plate, Van Horn said.

Another junior college transfer, outfielder Justin Seely, could add some pop at the plate, as could speedy freshman outfielder Drew Anderson.

"We've been real impressed with Drew," Van Horn said. "He's shown he can do a lot of things for us."

One area that wasn't hit too hard was the Huskers' pitching staff, which had the best earned run average in the nation last season.

The top two pitchers, the closer and many relievers return, but Van Horn said a team can never have too much pitching.

Three redshirt freshmen, Justin Pekarek, Derrick Conte and Brent Potter, and two sophomores, Jeff Blaesing and Waylon Byers, will add punch to an already strong staff, Pitching Coach Rob Childress said.

True freshmen Mike Silman, Jason Burch and Dustin Timm have thrown around 90 mph this fall and are expected to possibly contribute this season.

"We've got a lot of talented arms that we could use, and there will be lots of competition," Childress said. "We need two or three to surface, but which two or three that's going to be, I don't know."

In other news, Will Bolt, the Huskers' starting second base man for the last three years, will undergo knee surgery within the week and will be sidelined for all of fall practice. Van Horn said Bolt should be ready to start the season with no problems.

Aaron Gozart, a backup catcher last season, has left the team.

# Despite offers, coaches stay at NU

**COACHES** from page 10

sidered leaving the Cornhusker State was 20 years ago. He said he interviewed for a coordinator job in Utah, but the "situation wasn't quite right."

Tenopir said it would be hard to find an offensive line coaching position more appealing than Nebraska.

Tenopir added that the assistant coaches have the chance to contribute to game plans.

"Some places, it's a dictatorship. Whatever the coach says, that's how it has to be, but not here," Tenopir said.

Darlington, a 28-year NU assistant, said in the past 10 years, only three or four legitimate opportunities for a higher level job have arisen.

"It's hard to jump ship to a lower school," Darlington said.

Darlington, who is the only original Tom Osborne assistant remaining, said he was satisfied with being an assistant coach, so he hasn't pursued any other jobs.

Judging on past history, one of the current Husker assistants will

get his chance to lead Nebraska on Saturdays.

Bob Devaney passed the torch to Osborne, who passed the torch to Solich.

The two assistant coaches seemingly in line to take the torch next are Brown and Gill. Neither are planning on it, though.

When asked if he stayed at NU so he could eventually be the Husker head man, Brown said that wasn't a motive for sticking

around.

"It might be for some of the coaches, but for myself, I look for promises from no one," Brown said.

The Husker assistants who will not get the job won't complain. Their jobs at present are among the best in the business, Tenopir said.

"Some head coaching jobs don't compare to being an assistant here," he said.

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## Sport Clubs

### On the Road

**Men's Rugby** - Jackalope Tournament in Laramie, WY 9/29 - 10/1.

**Water Polo** - Conference Preliminaries in Macomb, IL 9/29 - 10/1.

**Crew** - Head of the Des Moines, Saturday.

**Men's & Women's Ultimate** - Club Regionals in Blaine, MN 9/30 - 10/1.

**Women's Soccer** - Kansas State University Tournament in Manhattan, KS 9/30 - 10/1.

**Cycling** - Lewis & Clark Mountain Bike Race in Council Bluffs, IA Saturday.

### At Home this Weekend

**NU Women's Rugby** vs. South Dakota State University Friday 7:00 PM Mabel Lee Hall Field (16th & W)

### Results

It was a full weekend for the NU Cycling club. Brent Peterson placed 1st in the Beginning Senior race at the Hitchcock Challenge held September 23. On the 24th the club competed in the Nebraska State Criterium Championship. Placing for NU were

Rick Barret 1st Cat. 4 Race  
Eric Schmidt 2nd Cat. 5 Race



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