

## Spreading The Word

### Ron Brown says God's will keeps him in Nebraska

BY DIRK CHATELAIN

Hanging from a wall behind Ron Brown's desk is a saying that reads, "We are not all winners and we are not all losers. But all of us are choosers."

For Brown, those choices have led him to Nebraska. And it doesn't appear that he's leaving anytime soon, no matter how glamorous the job offer may be.

The latest big name to come calling with a job offer was Dick Vermeil, coach of the Kansas City Chiefs. Though Brown was tempted, he turned the offer down.

Brown has repeatedly chosen to stay at Nebraska, at the same rung on the coaching ladder he's been at for 14 years. It's not your typical coaching move, but, then again, Brown's not your typical football coach.

His use of one-liners is comparable to how many times Nebraska goes to a five-receiver

set. He doesn't use catchy phrases or clichés.

And he refers to his religion like most people talk about the weather.

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On this Saturday night, Brown is scheduled to speak at Faith-Westwood United Methodist Church in Omaha. People enter the sanctuary, their anxious chatter a contrast to the usual near-silence of a church.

When Brown finally walks in at 8:20 p.m., loud applause follows him. Brown, who speaks at several engagements throughout the state every year, smiles and begins his address. This is Brown's real passion.

"Football is an opportunity to use a skill and talent that God has given me to share what I think are the most important things in life," said Brown, who admits to using football as a

platform to express his Christian feelings. "There is a thrill involved in that. I live for those opportunities."

Brown's confidence is evident as he stands at the podium. His ensuing testimony focuses on devotion to God and touches on the dangers of alcohol, drugs, gambling and premarital sex. He speaks confidently, like a minister, nothing like a football coach.

He seems completely secure with who he is and what he is doing.

"My ultimate goal in coaching is to allow Christ to coach through me, so that when people see me, they're seeing Christ," Brown said. "That's more important than seeing Ron Brown."

When Brown completes his testimony almost two hours later, the crowd files out silent, inspired. One man labels Brown's speech, "intense."

Intense, indeed. Brown lives

for more than Nebraska football, and he's not afraid to tell people about it.

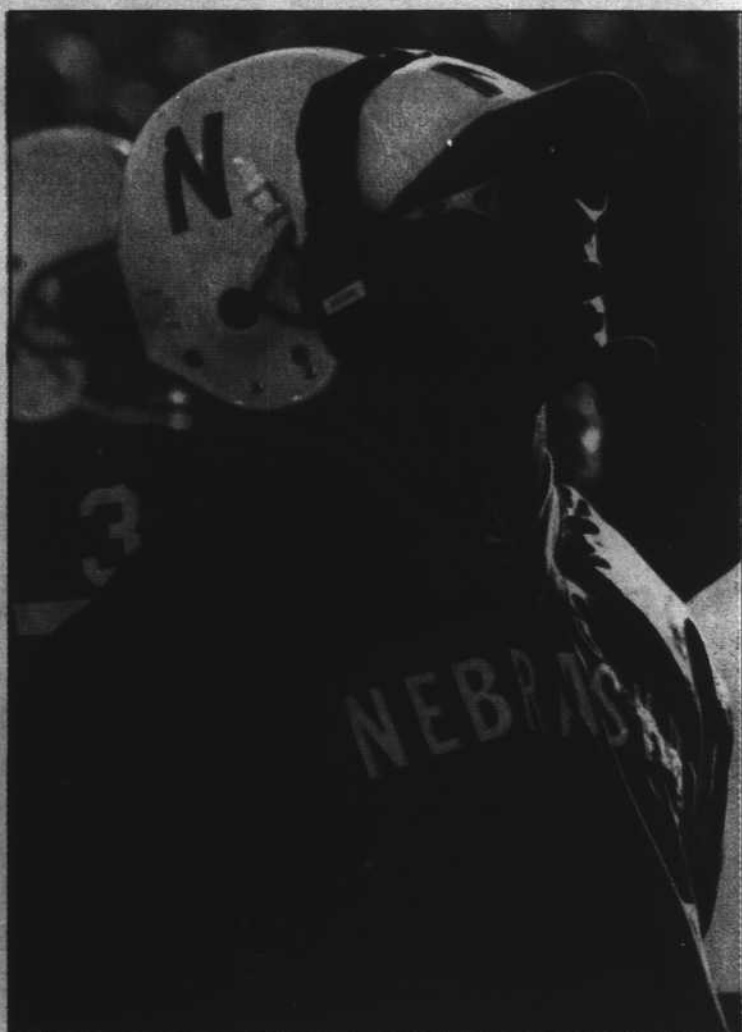
"One thing I've tried hard not to do is separate my coaching from who I am," said Brown, who received public backlash last year when he spoke out against homosexuality. "Some people have a problem with that. They want me to separate my coaching from my faith in Christ. I can't do that. That would be a huge hypocrisy. You have to be who you are."

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Brown, who wasn't initially attracted to the coaching profession, came to Nebraska in 1987 from Brown University, his alma mater.

The move from the Ivy League to a college football power was a significant one, but

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Courtesy Photo

NU Wide Receivers' Coach Ron Brown says his primary goal is to display his religion to his players and the people of Nebraska.

## Ticket sales on rise for NU basketball

Attendance at the games has increased for the first time in four years.

BY DAVID DIEHL

Nebraska's Cookie Belcher, who's been at NU longer than anyone else on the basketball team, has seen some pretty lifeless arenas in his day.

Thinking long and hard to pinpoint the deadest arena he's ever played in, he mentions Oklahoma's Lloyd Noble Center and another that comes close.

"There wasn't a lot of noise in here last year," Belcher said of the Bob Devaney Sports Center during NU's 11-19 campaign last season.

That's totally different now, Belcher said, as increased attendance and a rowdier crowd have breathed new life into the 23-year old arena.

After witnessing a decline in attendance for the better part of the past half-decade, attendance figures and season ticket sales for the Devaney Center are finally seeing an upswing. Average attendance at NU's 11

home contests this season has been 8,602, up 1,300 from its 1999-2000 season average.

Should that average stay constant through Nebraska's remaining three home games, it will be the first time in four years that the average home attendance at NU hasn't gone down from the previous year.

Nebraska, who hasn't sold out a game since March 2, 1997, saw its biggest crowd this year when 11,240 turned out to watch Nebraska lose to in-state rival Creighton on Jan. 2. That was the largest crowd in the Devaney Center since 11,294 showed up to watch Nebraska host Texas A&M two seasons ago.

"I think the attendance here has been real good," Nebraska Coach Barry Collier said. "The people have supported us and the Red Zone has become a real plus for the team and the program."

The Red Zone, Nebraska's student section at each end of the court, has added to the intensity of the games at the Devaney, both Belcher and

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## Husker basketball grabs in-state giant

Garth Glissman will join the team without a scholarship due to restrictions.

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Nebraska Coach Barry Collier has nabbed his latest in-state recruit by way of New Hampton Prep in New Hampshire.

Garth Glissman, a 6-foot-6, 205-pounder from Lincoln who played at Waverly, has agreed to play for the Huskers next season.

But Glissman, who told Collier he wanted to become a Husker during winter break, won't be signing his John Hancock to the dotted line of a national letter-of-intent anytime soon.

Because of scholarship restrictions and NU's need to sign a big man for next season, Glissman will enroll in school in the fall and join the basketball team without a scholarship.

"It's an agreement between Coach Collier and Garth, and his family, and I do know that Garth is comfortable in choosing Nebraska," said Jamie Arsenault, Glissman's coach at New Hampton.

Glissman's father, Blayne, said as a parent, he could not be more proud of Garth's decision.

"It's an agreement between Coach Collier and Garth and his family, and I do know that Garth is comfortable in choosing Nebraska."

Jamie Arsenault  
Glissman's coach

"I found myself as excited as I get about athletics," Blayne said. "I found myself being excited that Garth was going to have opportunity to be around a man like Coach Collier for the next four to five years."

Arsenault said Collier and the Husker coaching staff had been interested in Glissman from the start, but came away from his 27-point performance against Hargrave Military Academy even more impressed.

"They are one of the top schools in the country, talent-wise," said Arsenault of Hargrave. "Eight or nine of their top players are all going ACC or Big East."

New Hampton gave Glissman another chance at extending his

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## Setbacks don't deter MU's goals

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Missouri Coach Quin Snyder said last week he was still committed to developing a championship program, one that puts the team's success ahead of individual glory.

With that in mind, Snyder suspended his second-leading scorer, Clarence Gilbert, indefinitely and dismissed former walk-on and little-used reserve Kenge Stevenson from the team.

The punishment Snyder handed down occurred just days after the second-year coach found out he would be without the Big 12's leading scorer, Kareem Rush, for the remainder of the year due to torn ligaments in his thumb. Rush was injured after he fell on his hand in the waning moments of the Tigers' loss to Oklahoma State on Feb. 5.

It's all part of a process Snyder describes as "taking a step back in order to take a step forward."

"We've been through our share of adversity," Snyder said. "Adversity can make you stronger and make you appreciate prosperity."

Mizzou stands 15-8 and 6-4 in the conference after its 72-64 loss at Iowa State on Sunday.

The ISU game saw the Tiger lineup sport four freshman (Rickey Paulding, Wesley Stokes, Arthur Johnson and Travon Bryant) on the floor at one time - Stokes, Johnson and Paulding are currently starting, while Bryant is the first Tiger off the bench.

In some ways, most notably the development of MU's young talent, the absence of Rush and Gilbert may help Mizzou.

"I think our team has come together and is improving," Snyder said. "In my mind, what we are doing right now is extremely positive, and I am really excited about where our guys are going."

Of course, without Rush and Gilbert, who was expected to meet with Snyder on Monday

to determine his playing status for Wednesday night's matchup with Colorado, the Tigers are missing 40 combined points per game in conference play.

Snyder said Gilbert's suspension had to do with discipline, or lack thereof. Gilbert, who is known for his fun-gunning, smack-talking style, was evidently suspended in part because Snyder believed the junior guard hadn't totally bought into his coaches' idea of a team concept.

"The situation is indefinite, and there are a number of things that need to be cleared up," he said. "It's not a complex situation, it's just a question of a young man doing the things that all the other players are doing and being part of the team."

Snyder claimed that if Gilbert were to return to the team after their meeting on Monday or at some point after, repairing the

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Derek Lippincott/DH

Although their personalities and playing styles are different, sisters Leslie (left) and Rebecca Harvey said their decision to play tennis together at Nebraska was mutual. Both sisters are undefeated this season.

## Undefeated sisters lead NU tennis

BY VINCE KUPPIG

They don't look the same, they don't act the same, and they don't play the same.

One has blond hair and is shorter than the other, a redhead with several body piercings.

One spends her time studying, while the other isn't as concerned about schoolwork.

One is loose on the court, a finesse player; the other is focused and is an intense, power player.

The only common bonds are the freckles and the incredible

tennis talent. But the attachment of Rebecca and Leslie Harvey, sisters separated by a year, is unbreakable - when one finishes her match early, she immediately shifts her attention to the others' match.

The Harvey sisters, a large part of Nebraska's tennis future, are absolutely inseparable.

"We are each other's success, we are each other's fan club, we are each other's motivation," Rebecca Harvey said. "It's just always been that way for us."

Since arriving at NU last fall,

the freshmen have taken the Nebraska women's tennis team by storm.

Leslie has been unstoppable this spring, posting a 5-0 singles record with her all matches being decided in two sets, the closest 6-2.

Playing at the No. 1 spot last weekend for her third consecutive match, the younger sister is fast becoming a top contender for the No. 1 spot during Big 12 play.

Rebecca Harvey also has had no problem with the opposition in her first year of college tennis.

The elder sister, who attended the Air Force Academy last year but didn't play tennis, is 4-0 this spring at the No. 5 and 6 singles spots.

Like her sister, Rebecca Harvey has yet to drop a set. In Sunday's match, she didn't give up a single point in her match, winning 6-0, 6-0, as well as her doubles match, 8-0.

Add the Harveys' numbers up, and collectively they've won 18

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