

Pierce Eyes U.S. Open
Without her combative father around, Mary Pierce feels at ease as she heads into today's first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. **Tennis Notes, Page 17.**

Pigskin Classic
Fresno State and Ohio State meet tonight in the Pigskin Classic. Fresno State Coach Jim Sweeney says the Buckeyes are tough. **College Football Notes, Page 17.**

Sports

Gary Cut
The Los Angeles Rams cut Cleveland Gary, but the backup running back may find a new home with the Dallas Cowboys. **NFL Notes, Page 17.**

Gaining Respect
The University of Nebraska at Kearney volleyball team, which returns all six starters from last year's 33-7 team, is hoping to earn wins and respect this season. **Page 21.**

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NU Delivers On the Stage

East Rutherford, N.J. Start spreadin' the news. These boys are good. Very good. This is not necessarily stop-the-press material in Grand Island or Valentine. But nearby in the city that never sleeps, where you're only as good as your last show, the critics were holding off on the confirmation of Nebraska football until Sunday's matinee in the Meadowlands was complete. The reviews are in. Read all about it: Huskers are for real. Very for real. The world was wondering. This new image was at stake. National magazines had proclaimed that the Huskers had returned. ESPN's "Sports Reporters" gushed so much over Tom Osborne on Sunday morning that you wondered if maybe Nebraska hadn't hired that other genius, Bill Walsh at Stanford. But what have you won for me lately? That was the question Sunday. While some people are willing to give Nebraska a free pass to Respect, others were waiting to see if that was a mirage in Miami playing against Florida State last January. Surely, the players at Free Shoes University were distracted by their agents.

Huge Game
Go figure. In the Associated Press poll, for instance, Nebraska began at fourth despite having the most No. 1 votes (18) in the poll. Reason: Several voters picked NU ninth or 10th. That was why Sunday's game was bigger than Zach Wiegert. The Huskers, 17-point favorites, were expected to deliver. And afterward, not even their biggest critic could complain. "We played well," Osborne said. "If you're optimistic about Nebraska, fine, we'll go along with that." Good. Very good.

It was written in black and white: Nebraska dominated in rushing (368 yards to 8), total yards (468 to 89), average gain (6.1 to 1.6), return yards (152 to 10) and first downs (28 to 9). It was as obvious as the sight of Mountaineer defenders calling time out because they were bent over, coughing at the turf.

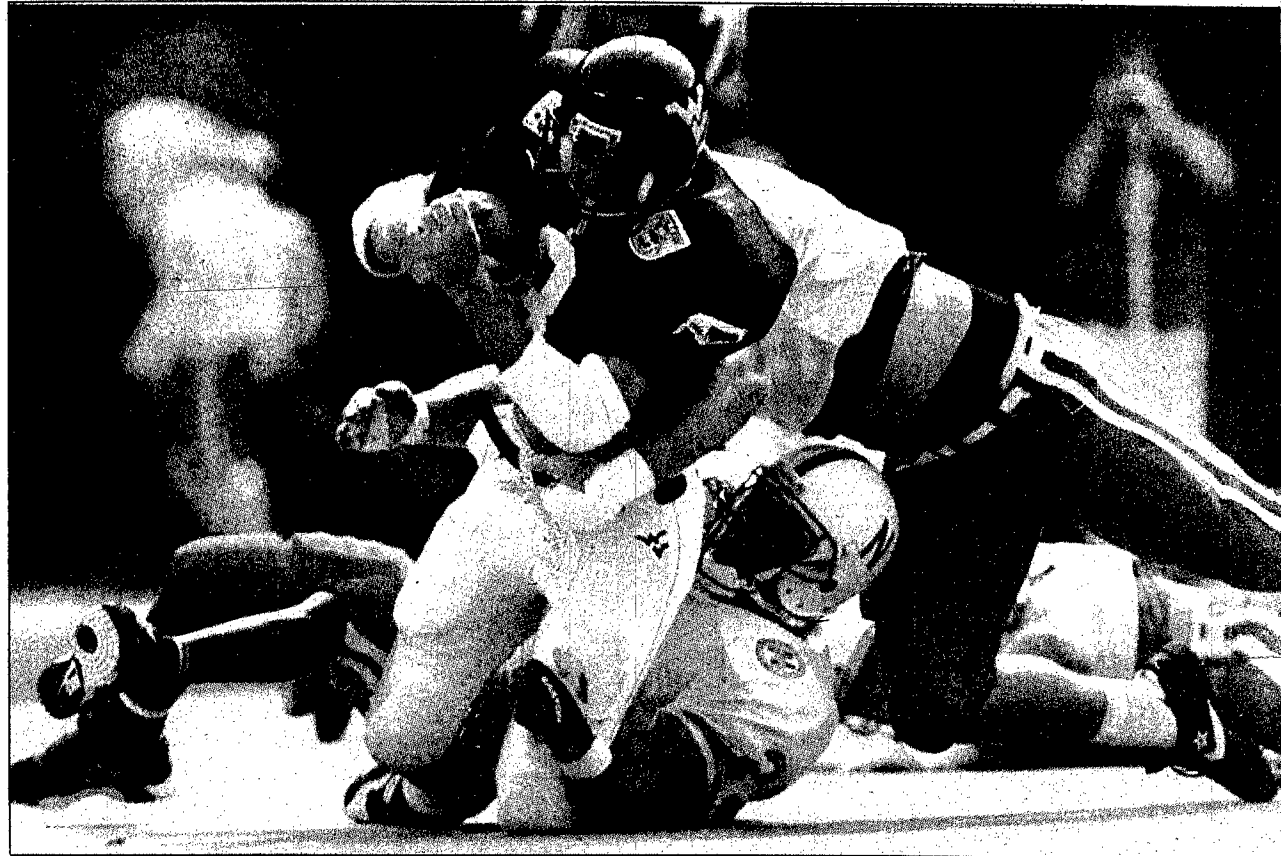
Big-Play Receiver
Thumbs up to the offensive line for making this one a drive down the Jersey turnpike. Thumbs up to sophomore I-back Lawrence Phillips, who already has some people asking, "Calvin who?" Thumbs up to Reggie Baul, who in one game answered a crucial question about this team: Does it have a big-play receiver?

Two thumbs up to Tommie Frazier, who proved Sunday he has impeccable timing. Put him on the national stage and he keeps getting standing O's. Frazier combined for 230 yards and two touchdowns and wowed a collective group of Heisman voters in the press box who didn't seem to mind a handful of sloppy plays, including two interceptions and a fumble. "He's the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy," said Mark Blaudschun, a voter from the Boston Globe.

The only Huskers looking more confident and in control than Frazier were Nebraska's Blackshirts. These are scary people. Call them the Werewolves of Lincoln. Granted, West Virginia had two babes in the woods at quarterback. But Nebraska, as Osborne said, "never gave them a chance." Eight sacks. Eight yards rushing. The Werewolves answered the question "Can they live without Trev Alberts?" with a stunning slaughter.

Havoc
They are comfortable in the third year of this 4-3 defense and it shows. Scary comfortable. Parts are exchanged without warning. Names and numbers blend together. If Dwayne Harris, Donta Jones and Ed Stewart weren't flying around the ball Sunday, backups Grant Wistrom and Jared Tomich were creating havoc. It was the kind of day that had people reminiscing to 1983, when Nebraska stepped on Penn State 44-6 at the inaugural Kickoff Classic for a springboard to 12-0 before losing the national title to Miami. But there was a noticeable difference Sunday. This year's defense is light years better than 1983. It is better than 1993. The team might be, too. "This is a different season," Wiegert said. "Totally different team. We weren't trying to prove the Orange Bowl wasn't a fluke. We're just trying to win every week and get to another national title game." Good start. Good place to start. If they can make it here, they can make it anywhere.

NU Win Almost Heavenly



THE RUSH IS ON: Nebraska rover Kareem Moss, bottom, and defensive tackle Terry Connealy bring down West Virginia quarterback Chad Johnston for a 7-yard loss to the Mountaineers' 7-yard line with 6:24 left in the first quarter. The tackle was the first of eight Husker sacks.

Frazier Burns West Virginia With 4 TDs

BY LEE BARFKNECHT
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU
East Rutherford, N.J. — A good start for a team that plans on doing something great. That's how Nebraska coaches and players assessed Sunday's 31-0 thumping of West Virginia in the 12th-Kickoff Classic, the third time the Huskers have won the opening game of the college football season. Before a crowd of 58,233 at Giants Stadium — including an estimated 12,000 raucous rooters in red — third- and fourth-ranked NU offered the following performances for the other 106 teams in Division I-A to consider: ■ A defense that posted NU's first shutout since a 55-0 whipping of Oklahoma State 20 games ago in 1992. The Blackshirts and their backups held 23rd- and 24th-ranked West Virginia to 89 total yards, the fewest since limiting Iowa State to 53 yards in 113 games ago in 1984. WVU's 8 rushing yards were the fewest since Colorado's 8-yard day 18 games ago in 1992. "We think we can have a great defense," NU Coach Tom Osborne said. "And to be a great football team, you've got to have a great defense." ■ An award-winning showing by Tommie Frazier, who accounted for 230 total yards and had a hand in all four touchdowns. The junior from Bradenton, Fla., be- Please turn to Page 18, Col. 1

Neb. Sports' Dream Season Ends

Omaha Team Drops to 59-4

BY RICH KAIPUST
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER
Boyetown, Pa. — The alarm finally went off Sunday night on the Nebraska Sports baseball team's "dream season." Salem, Ore., Post 136 put away Nebraska Sports 5-1 in an elimination game of the American Legion World Series. The 1-2 finish at the national tournament at Bear Stadium ended the Omahans' season at 59-4.

"It's awful hard to prepare for the end when you've had so much success," said Nebraska Sports Coach Bill Olson. "They played hard, and I still thought we had a chance to win this game. They didn't die quietly. "We're still one of the five best teams in the United States. That's a fine tribute to these young men. There were some high expectations and we lived up to most of them."

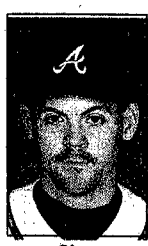
Nebraska Sports just had to settle for a little less than what it wanted. For eight of the 12 players, it was their final Legion game. There were few dry eyes around the Nebraska Sports dugout after Olson's final talk. "It meant a lot," said Drue Council. "We had a lot going. I thought we were one of the top teams. We knew it all along."

| Legion World Series | |
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| At Boyertown, Pa. Results Sunday | |
| ■ Blissfield (Mich.) 7, Brooklawn (N.J.) 6 | ■ Salem (Ore.) 5, Nebraska Sports 1 |
| ■ Chino (Calif.) 19, Miami 9 | |
| Games Today Times CDT | |
| ■ Blissfield (Mich.) vs. Miami, 3:05 p.m. | ■ Salem (Ore.) vs. Chino (Calif.) 6:35 p.m. |

The reality started to settle in when Salem pitcher Josh Lokan was carrying a shutout through five innings. That allowed the Oregon team to build a 5-0 lead. Nebraska Sports had hits in seven different innings — and 10 total — but managed its only score on Brian Blessie's solo home run in the sixth. "Ten hits is decent," Olson said. "You can't complain about that. They just didn't help us with any errors or walks." Nebraska Sports didn't help itself when it looked like it would jump on Please turn to Page 21, Col. 1

Olson Holds Firm on Strike

BY RICH KAIPUST
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER
Boyetown, Pa. — If you compare other professional sports, Gregg Olson said, he doesn't understand major league owners' claims that a salary cap would be good for baseball. That's why the Atlanta Braves relief pitcher feels that the players union is fighting for a worthy cause in the 17-day-old baseball strike. "Our reasons why are just look at football and basketball," Olson said. "They (baseball club owners) say it affects the competitive balance and makes the league more competitive. "But then you look at basketball and they've had like five teams win it over the past 15 years. That's competitive? Then you see Phil Simms not being able to stay with the Giants (in the NFL) because of the salary cap. If we take the salary cap, free agency is gone." Olson, a former Omaha Northwest star, said forget about the rest of the baseball season if the owners don't give in on their demand for a salary cap, the main issue in the strike.



"We're done. If they're not going to come off the salary cap, then we're done," Olson said. "That's the basic pillar. We're not going to accept the salary cap." Olson got a weekend fix of baseball by traveling to Boyertown to watch the American Legion World Series. He was in the dugout on Friday and Sunday to watch games involving Nebraska Sports, coached by his father, Bill Olson. "I wasn't doing anything in Atlanta," said Olson, who did have to travel back for a baseball card show Saturday. "I've never had the chance to do it before. It's a big deal for him. The least I can do is come up and be a part of it." Gregg Olson is somewhat of a 1980s legend in Legion baseball. The World Series record book lists him as the winner of the Bob Feller Pitching Award in 1985, when he and teammate Steve Nelson also shared the Louisville Slugger Batting Award. That 1985 Omaha Northwest team, the Gladiators, finished third at the national tournament. Olson on the team was Clark Preble, who played with Olson at Auburn and is now a Nebraska Sports assistant. "It definitely was a memorable time," Olson said. "It was the last time I played with a lot of those guys. It was the last Please turn to Page 21, Col. 3

Royals Lose Home Finale

BY DON LEE
WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT
Omaha wasted Tom Goodwin's three-hit game and three first-inning runs Sunday as Louisville closed out the Royals' home season with a 4-3 win at Rosenblatt Stadium. The Redbirds kept on the path toward eliminating Omaha from the American Association playoff picture. The loss left 65-71 Omaha 5 1/2 games behind the 70-65 Redbirds as the two teams scrap for the last spot in the four-team, postseason playoffs. Goodwin battered the Redbirds for a second straight game, going 3 for 5 as Omaha outlit Louisville 11-8. On Saturday night, Goodwin hit two home runs in an 8-3 Omaha victory. The Royals take to the road for their final eight games of the regular season, with the first stop in Des Moines against Iowa at 7:15 tonight. Manager Jeff Cox is to start Dennis Rasmussen (10-5), Omaha's top pitcher, in the first game. "It will be a tough row, with eight games left," Cox said. "We need some help from other people. We can't afford to lose — and somebody can't afford to Please turn to Page 21, Col. 1



Schumacher Is Disqualified; Hill Wins Belgian Grand Prix

Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium (AP) — Michael Schumacher, the apparent runaway winner of the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday, was disqualified when race stewards found that a speed-limitation device on his car did not meet requirements. The ruling gave the victory to Britain's Damon Hill, reopening the world championship points race only four hours after Schumacher seemed to have locked it up with his eighth victory in 11 races. Race stewards ruled that a mandatory wooden plank under his car, aimed at slowing down drivers, did not meet legal measurement requirements. It was too thin, giving him an advantage over his competitors. The stewards ruled out Benetton Ford's claim it could have been caused by Schumacher's accidental spin during the race. "The stewards concluded that not one of the defenses offered is acceptable," the ruling said. "Stewards of the Belgian Grand Prix have decided to inflict a penalty on Benetton Ford and driver Michael Schumacher of exclusion from the event," said Tom Walkinshaw, international FIA federation spokesman. The crude wooden board was introduced into the high-technology sport halfway through the season following the deaths of Brazilian Ayrton Senna and Austrian Roland Ratzenberger at the San Marino Grand Prix in May. The incident is the third this year to jeopardize Schumacher's dominance, which once seemed vulnerable only to the guardians of Formula One racing. Schumacher, driving under an appeal of a two-race suspension for disregarding a black flag at the British Grand Prix, will learn the fate of his appeal on Tuesday in Paris. A loss could cost him the points earned during the appeal, as well as resulting in a lengthened suspension. His Benetton Ford team is under investigation for an alleged infraction in the refueling procedures at the German Grand Prix. Now, instead of leading the world standings by 35 points over Hill, Schumacher has 76 points to Hill's 55, and more sanctions could be coming. If he misses the Italian and Portuguese Grand Prix races and Hill wins both, the margin could be cut to one point with three races to go. The German so dominated Sunday's race that even a sloppy spin in the 18th lap failed to allow the competition within striking distance. He finished 13.663 seconds ahead of Hill. The spin could have shaved some wood off the board, which is 30 centimeters wide, one centimeter thick and Please turn to Page 16, Col. 4

Daly Fights Over Course Etiquette

Akron, Ohio (AP) — John Daly, golf's longest hitter, got into a fight with the father of another golfer over course etiquette Sunday after Daly shot an 83 in the final round of the World Series of Golf. According to witnesses, the 28-year-old Daly was grabbed from behind by Bob Roth, 62, after the two exchanged words near the entrance to the pro shop. Roth was upset because Daly twice had hit balls into the group ahead of him on the Firestone Country Club North course. Roth's son, Jeffrey, was in the two some ahead of Daly. The elder Roth and Daly fell to the ground, wrestled briefly and were separated by the crowd. Neither was hurt badly, although Roth's left elbow was scraped and needed to be bandaged. Akron Police Lt. Michael Woody said he spoke with representatives of both combatants, and neither wanted to file charges. Police planned no further action, Woody said. "It's out of proportion now, so it doesn't need to be expounded upon," the elder Roth told The Associated Press as he sat in a car in the contestants' lot. He declined to comment further. Daly apparently had left the



JOHN DALY: Golf's longest hitter exchanged words with the father of another golfer, then briefly scuffled with the man. ■ Jose Maria Olazabal enhances his career Sunday by winning the World Series of Golf. Page 16. grounds and could not be located for comment. But Terry Travis, the caddy for golfer Ito Shirahama, said Daly was not at fault. Travis said he saw the fight break out and pulled Daly away from Roth. "John's coming out of the clubhouse," Travis said. "There's something said. It looked like John said, 'Sorry about that,' and started to walk away. Then the guy grabs him from behind.