



ERIC GREGORY
Lincoln Journal
Star file photo

Nebraska
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Maximum security

Brown has devised new drill to teach Husker offensive players to tuck ball and elbow.

By BRIAN ROSENTHAL
Lincoln Journal Star

Football security drills are nothing new for Nebraska players, and still, neither are their problems with fumbles.

Nebraska has ranked among the nation's worst teams in fumbles during the past five seasons, losing 77 in that span. The Huskers lost an FBS-high 22 fumbles last year — four shy of the school record — and under Bo Pelini have ranked No. 124, No. 61, No. 117,



No. 60 and No. 110 in fumbles lost.

The next five teams on the list of most lost fumbles in 2012 — Army, Memphis, Air Force, Hawaii and Maryland — went a combined 19-42.

Nebraska, meanwhile, went 10-4, and has won at least nine games every season under Pelini, despite the many fumbles.

Imagine what Nebraska, with Tim Beck's experienced, potent offense, could do without them.

"Coach Beck showed us the stats," full-back C.J. Zimmerer said, referring to the Nebraska offensive coordinator. "If we can

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GUEST COLUMN

Husker G-man advises Michigan

By GREGORY STEJSKAL

Special to the Lincoln Journal Star

In 1982, legendary Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler asked the Ann Arbor, Mich., FBI office to talk to his team about the perils of illegal sports gambling.

The senior resident agent, Tom Love, agreed to make the presentation. Love, knowing I had played college football at Nebraska (read: mostly practiced), asked me to help. We explained that sports gambling is not about who wins but about covering the point spread. That gamblers need to get inside information as an edge to better divine how a team will perform and, the Holy Grail of bookmakers, have a co-operating player or referee with the ability to control the point spread: point shaving.

Sports gambling was and is a potential threat to the integrity of sports. The huge amount of money bet illegally in the United States, estimated at more than \$300 billion, is an incentive to control the outcome of a game.

When I started making presentations, Michigan's football team was housed in a relatively small, one-story building. Michigan's transition to the state-of-the-art facilities it has today is emblematic of the change in Division I football in the past 30 years. In those days, college teams such as Michigan might be on TV once or twice a year. Now, a dedicated fan or gambler can watch just about any game played anywhere in the country. With the increase in TV coverage, sports gambling also has increased. And with the advent of the Internet, gamblers have access to more current information and can place bets online.

The FBI recognized the need for educating players early on and developed a sports presentation program. I went through the training and attended periodic conferences with representatives from the NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL and NCAA.

Over the years, I've talked to pro and college teams. (I talked to the Michigan basketball teams several times, including the "Fab Five" teams. That might have been a case of a failure to communicate.) The FBI program still exists, in theory, but priorities have changed, and it is no longer as active as it once was.

Schembechler invited us back the next year, and Love asked me to give the presentations on my own.

Little did I know that it was to be the "beginning of a beautiful friendship" between Bo and me — one that would have a substantial effect on my career.

We worked together on several FBI cases — notably the investigation of Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, two notorious sports agents, who bribed and signed about 20 blue-chip college football players while they were still eligible to play college ball. Walters and Bloom postdated the contracts and kept them secret, a clear violation of NCAA rules. Under those rules, once a player signs with an agent, his college eligibility ends.

Schembechler would be the "star" witness in the successful

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'I had to take a negative and turn it into a positive. I had to go backward to go forward. It's been not only an awakening to what I have not been doing professionally, also off the field. It translated to everything. I had to change a lot of things, from married life to how you parent your children.'

— Josh Brown, New York Giants kicker and former Husker



DON WRIGHT/The Associated Press file photo

The New York Giants' Josh Brown (3) kicks a field goal in a preseason game against Pittsburgh last week. The ex-Husker had a humbling experience last season after being unemployed most of the year. So he re-examined not only his kicking, but everything in his life.

Life rebooted

Missing out on Jets' job last season made Giants' Josh Brown a better kicker, person.

By TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Failing on the football field last season might have been the best thing that happened to New York Giants' place-kicker Josh Brown.

It forced the 34-year-old former Husker who is about to enter his 11th NFL season to re-examine not only his kicking, but everything in his life after being unemployed most of the 2012 season.

The review started with his



BROWN

place-kicking. Did he lose the job with the Jets to Nick Folk because of his work ethic or something else?

And if his kicking wasn't good enough, was he ready to handle retirement? Did he save enough? Was there money for him and his wife and three children, who still have college in front of them.

It can be scary stuff. For Brown, it turned out to be motivation.

"I had to take a negative and turn it into a positive," Brown said Wednesday before practice. "I had to go backward to go forward. It's been not only an awakening to what I have not been doing professionally, also off the field. It translated to everything. I had to change a lot of things,

from married life to how you parent your children. Standards had to go up for me to change everything that had happened."

Brown didn't have an easy 2012.

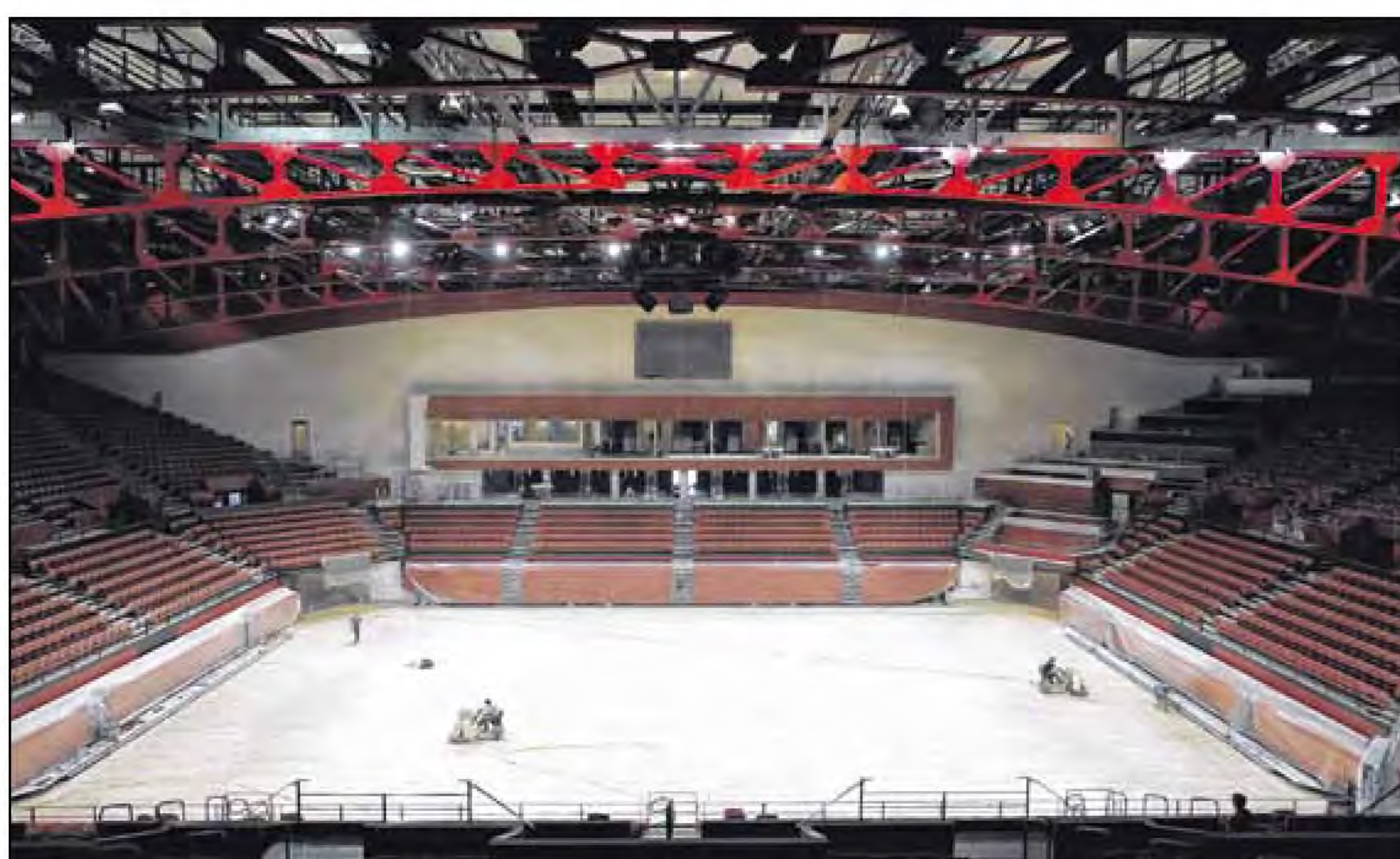
In fact, it was a very strange season for place-kickers. Most did well and there were very few changes.

Brown got tryouts with Arizona and Washington but didn't get a job even though he kicked well in the tryouts. He eventually was hired by Cincinnati and played the final four games of the regular season and one playoff game.

The Giants signed him after failing to come to an agreement with unrestricted free agent Lawrence Tynes, who was their kicker for their Super Bowl wins after the 2007 and 2011 seasons.

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GIVING DEVANEY SPORTS CENTER A FACE-LIFT



MATT RYERSON/Lincoln Journal Star

Workers use power sanders Wednesday to strip years of use from the old basketball floor at the Devaney Sports Center. The crew is getting the floor ready before the Husker volleyball team holds its annual Red-White scrimmage Aug. 24 in the renovated arena. The Huskers — who moved from their longtime home, the NU Coliseum — play their home opener Sept. 6 against Villanova.

PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

City schools set to start season

The Journal Star takes an in-depth look at all 10 city high school football teams gearing up for the 2013 season beginning Friday.

Here's the schedule:

Friday — Parkview Christian

Saturday — Lincoln Lutheran

Sunday — Lincoln North Star

Monday — Lincoln East

Tuesday — Lincoln Christian

Wednesday — Lincoln High

Aug. 22 — Lincoln Pius X

Aug. 23 — Lincoln Northeast

Aug. 24 — Lincoln Southwest

Aug. 25 — Lincoln Southeast and first prep football ratings



Four Huskers set for national championships

Chamberlain excited to compete against nation's best gymnasts.

By **LORI GRIFFIN**
Lincoln Journal Star

Sam Chamberlain knows it's an honor to be competing at the United States Gymnastics Championships.

But the thought of competing against four of the five members of the 2012 Olympic team, as well as some of the best college gymnasts, doesn't bother him. In fact, it energizes him to appear at this weekend's meet.

The Nebraska sophomore qualified for the meet

with his finish at the NCAA Championships in April. Chamberlain will be competing in the parallel bars and floor exercise.

"It's kind of an honor to compete with these guys — to be with the top gymnasts in the country," Chamberlain said. "It's an off-season meet, and knowing that I would be competing has kept me working hard throughout the summer."

"It keeps me in routine shape." Chamberlain took time



CHAMBERLAIN

off after the NCAA meet to nurse a shoulder injury before beginning to practice full-out in June.

One thing that excites Chamberlain is that three of his Nebraska teammates will be in Hartford, Conn., too. Senior Eric Schryver will be competing at the meet for the second straight year, and Wyatt Aycock and Mark Ringle also will be there.

Chamberlain is proud Nebraska is well-represented. "It puts our name

GYMNASTICS

(Nebraska) out there (in international competitions). We have some of the most amount of guys competing," he said. "We are here to rock it."

While Chamberlain is looking toward the future and more national meets, Ringle just wants to go out with his best effort.

"For me, there is not a lot of pressure. Going into my last year, all I want is to do my best for myself and the team. Just to do the best that I can in everything," Ringle said.

"It's definitely a big goal

that I've reached and have been dreaming about since I was a little kid. Finally, I have done it after 18 years."

And if the former Husker makes the national team, he won't have any worries. He's planning to take the next year off before heading to medical school.

"When you've been in it this long, it's hard to realize that you are finishing with the sport, and stopping all of a sudden is hard," he said.

Aycock has competed in the U.S. Championships at the junior level, but this will be his first time as a senior competitor.

"This meet is a little

different, because during the college season, there are a number of meets to prepare for," Aycock said. "This meet, I had to go to the qualifier and I went to keep in shape, and qualifying has helped me keep in shape this summer."

Aycock will compete on the pommel horse, and Schryver will be the only Husker in the all-around.

Preliminaries are Friday, with the finals Sunday. All sessions will be televised. The finals will be on NBC (Channel 6).

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Security

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turn that around, it can be the difference between 10-2 and 12-0."

Yes, securing the football has been preached this fall camp, just as it was last August, and the August before that.

Will this season yield results?

"It's been a huge emphasis, all camp long," sophomore running back Imani Cross said. "Protecting the ball is part of having a great year of offense. That's the first step, and it's something we try to focus on every day."

While Nebraska's fumbles certainly haven't been confined to running backs, it's been their position coach, Ron Brown, who has implemented another drill in hopes of alleviating the problem.

This one came after careful off-season film study by Brown, who noticed players weren't always keeping their ball-carrying elbow locked to their rib cage.

"The way you get fumbles is in the open field, when everybody starts thinking they're Kobe Bryant, getting ready to make a cross-over dribble," Brown said. "It doesn't work that way in football. In basketball, that's great, but you don't dribble the football. You lock the football up."

"You really want the ball 'pledge allegiance' across your chest, and you want the elbow attached."

So Brown, in some drills, has stuck a towel underneath players' ball-carrying arms.

Lift your elbow, and the towel falls to the ground.

"And as far as I'm concerned," Brown said, "that's a fumble."

A fumble in practice — of a ball, or a towel — has consequences, usually in the form of pushups, for the entire offense.

"We're all going to pay for that," Brown said, "because the whole team pays for that when we let go of the ball."

Brown said teaching some football fundamentals, like how to properly secure a ball, is becoming more of a demand on college and high school coaches because players aren't being trained properly at the youth level.

"Quite frankly, if you look at little kids nowadays when they come up through the ranks, they're not teaching those fundamentals," Brown said. "It's all about schemes and games and traveling across the state, seeing how many games a little boy can win."

The stress of ball security, players say, has made a difference in fall camp. Footballs aren't falling to the turf so often.

Will that translate to games?

"Carrying the ball, you don't think, 'I've got to lock the rock! It's a habit,'" Cross said. "We're all creatures of habit. Whatever you do every day, every time you touch the ball, that's how you're going to do it in the game. You shouldn't overthink it."

"Just the way we carry the ball every day, I think we're improving more and more, and focus on it more and more."

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Stejskal

Continued from C1

federal prosecution of Walters and Bloom. Walters had organized-crime connections, and it was believed that the ultimate goal of signing so many star athletes was to get some of the players involved in point shaving.

Schembechler also convinced me to pursue an undercover operation targeting the illegal trafficking of anabolic steroids. That operation was international in scope and resulted in the successful prosecution of more than 70 dealers. We also learned that a number of Major League Baseball players were using steroids. Ironically, I first warned MLB about the steroid problem in 1994 at an FBI sports presentation conference.

Although illegal sports gambling continued to be the primary topic over the years, other concerns were discussed, such as drugs, steroids, domestic violence and, more recently, the use of social media.

Something I didn't always do, but learned was important, was to ensure that the head coaches stayed during the presentations, because if the coaches didn't think it was important to be there, the players wouldn't, either.

Schembechler had a concept of a "Michigan Man," a student-athlete who not only demonstrated traditional values such as integrity, honor and responsibility on the field, but lived them, as well.

After Schembechler retired in 1989, I continued to talk to the Michigan football teams. Later, I was fortunate to become friends with Lloyd Carr during his



COURTESY PHOTO

Ex-Husker player Gregory Stejskal (right), who went on to a long FBI career, spent many years talking with Bo Schembechler's Michigan football teams about illegal gambling.

13-year tenure as Michigan coach. Carr coached my son when he was a walk-on from 2000-03. Those presentations were special for me: I was not only an FBI agent speaking to Michigan's football team, but a father seeing his son in a group of men representing a program that I had come to respect.

Retired in 2006, but I continue to talk to the Michigan football team and am doing so again this week. Brady Hoke, a former assistant under Carr (1995-2002), is Michigan's coach now.

It is Michigan's 134th football season, and it will be my 32nd year.

The topics have changed, but the message stays the same: making good choices based on good values.

I always end my talks with a quote attributed to John Wayne: "Life is tough. It's tougher if you're stupid."

Gregory Stejskal enjoyed a 30-year FBI career (1975-2006) after graduating from UNL and law school. He also played football for the Huskers from 1968-70.

GOING FOR THE GREEN



KRISTIN STREFF/Lincoln Journal Star

Mike Reeder of Franklin, Tenn., chips onto the green during the second round of the 65th Annual National Amputee Golf Association Championship on Wednesday at Wilderness Ridge Golf Club. The tournament is open to the public and concludes Thursday.

Wie in spotlight again

Captain's pick for Solheim Cup team is used to dealing with scrutiny.

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
The Associated Press

PARKER, Colo. — Michelle Wie hasn't won a tournament in three years. She didn't come close to earning a spot on the Solheim Cup. Being a captain's pick for the second time on the past three American teams stood out even more this year because one of the players left out won on the LPGA Tour this year.

This would seem to be a good time to do whatever she can to blend in at Colorado Golf Club.

Except for the socks.

Wie added her own touch to the



WIE

U.S. uniform of a khaki skirt, red shirt and a blue cap. She showed up on the practice range with knee-high socks of red-and-white stripes capped off by a thick blue stripe with white stars.

"It's a bit patriotic," Wie said. "I see things and I'm like, 'Oh, that would be great for Solheim Cup.' And I just brought them out."

It's far more important that she bring out her very best game as the Americans try to stay perfect on home soil and win back the Solheim Cup from Europe.

U.S. captain Meg Mallon met with Wie after the Women's British Open to tell her she was on the team. The next thing she told Wie — after the 23-year-old from Hawaii stopped

crying — was to not think of herself as a wild-card selection, but one of 12.

"It's tough being a captain's pick," Mallon said. "There's a lot of pressure that players put on themselves being a pick."

Then again, that's a big reason why she took Wie.

Few other golfers have received so much attention for winning so little. Wie first was recognized in golfing circles when she was 12 and blasted 270-yard tee shots during a Pro-junior event at the Sony Open alongside PGA Tour players. Scrutiny followed a short time later, and it has been relentless.

If there is additional pressure as a captain's pick, who better to handle it?

"She lives on this stage almost every day that she plays," Mallon said. "So walking into this environment is not going to affect her."



THIS WEEK'S TOURNAMENTS

LPGA TOUR/LADIES
EUROPEAN TOUR

Solheim Cup

Friday-Sunday in Parker, Colo.

Tv: Golf Channel, Friday 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-8 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 1:30-7 p.m.

Format: Team match play, Friday and Saturday, four morning foursome (alternate-shot) and four afternoon fourball (best-ball) matches; Sunday, 12 singles matches.

Teams

United States (c-captain's pick): Paula Creamer, Cristie Kerr, Jessica Korda, Brittany Lang, Stacy Lewis, Brittany Lincicome, c-Gerina Piller, Morgan Pressel, Lizette Salas, Angela Stanford, Lexi Thompson, c-Michelle Wie. Captain: Meg Mallon. Assistant captains: Dottie Pepper, Laura Diaz.

Europe: Carlota Ciganda, Spain; c-Caroline Hedwall, Sweden; c-Charley Hull, England; Karine Icher, France; Caroline Masson, Germany; Catriona Matthew, Scotland; Azahara Munoz, Spain; Anna Nordqvist, Sweden; Suzann Pettersen, Norway; Beatriz Recari, Spain; c-Giulia Sergas, Italy; c-Jodi Ewart Shadoff, England. Captain: Liselotte Neumann, Sweden. Assistant captains: Annika Sorenstam, Sweden; Carin Koch, Sweden.

OTHER TOURNAMENTS

PGA: Wyndham Championship, Thursday-Sunday, Greensboro, N.C.

USGA: U.S. Amateur, through Sunday, Brookline, Mass.

CHAMPIONS: Dick's Sporting Goods Open, Friday-Sunday, Endicott, N.Y.

WEB.COM: News Sentinel Open, Thursday-Sunday, Knoxville, Tenn.

NATIONAL CHIP SHOTS

RYDER CUP APPEARS HEADED TO BETHPAGE BLACK: PGA of America president Ted Bishop recalls a Ryder Cup practice round with Phil Mickelson and Rickie Fowler three years ago when the conversation turned to the best courses for the matches in America.

It wasn't long before Bethpage Black was mentioned. "Phil said, 'Would that not be the best to have the Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black?'" Bishop said last week at the PGA Championship.

Turns out the PGA was way ahead of him. "Bethpage Black is very much on our radar screen," Bishop said. "The PGA is highly interested in having a Ryder Cup and a PGA Championship there. We feel it's a golf course that's worthy of both. We've been interested in Bethpage going back to 2009."

The Ryder Cup is going to Scotland in 2014, Hazeltine in 2016, France in 2018 and Whistling Straits in 2020. The next available date for Bethpage Black would be 2024.

END OF THE LINE: The Wyndham Championship is not just a last chance to get into the FedEx Cup playoffs.

It's a last chance to keep a PGA Tour card. Because of the short year ahead of the wraparound 2013-14 season that starts in October, the top 125 golfers in the FedEx Cup and the top 125 on the PGA Tour money list will keep their cards for the new season.

That's good news for Nicolas Colsearts and Pdraig Harrington. Both are outside the top 125 in the FedEx Cup (Colsearts at No. 127, Harrington at No. 129) but are well within 125 on the money list. Harrington's exempt status from winning two majors in 2008 runs out this year.

HERE'S GREG?: Johnny Miller has one more year to call the U.S. Open before the USGA starts its new 12-year television contract with Fox Sports.

Golf Digest says the man replacing him could be another two-time major champion — Greg Norman.

Norman told the magazine's website that he already has been offered the lead analyst job when Fox broadcasts the U.S. Open in 2015. The Shark said in an email to goldigest.com that Fox "has reached out to me, we have spoken and yes, they have offered me the job."

MAJOR PERFORMANCE: Adam Scott and Jason Day tied for lowest aggregate scores in the majors this year at a combined 2-over par.

The tiebreaker is easy — Scott won the Masters, Day hasn't won a major (he has only one PGA Tour event).

Scott and Day were among 13 players who made the cut in all four majors this year. The others were Tiger Woods, Brandt Snedeker, Sergio Garcia, Matt Kuchar, Lee Westwood, Dustin Johnson, Henrik Stenson, Jason Dufner, Martin Kaymer, K.J. Choi and Phil Mickelson.

MISSING IN ACTION: The Solheim Cup is missing five of the top 10 players are the LPGA Tour money list. Four of them are from South Korea, the other is Karrie Webb of Australia.

DIVOTS: This week's PGA tournament ends the points race for spots in the FedEx Cup playoffs, the four-event series that starts next week with The Barclays at Liberty National in Jersey City, N.J. The top 125 players will be eligible for the opener. ... Sam Snead won the tournament a tour-record eight times from 1938-65. His 1965 victory made him the tour's oldest winner at 52 years, 10 months, 8 days. ... The Web.com Tour stop is one of four remaining events from the tour's first season. Wichita, Kan.; Boise, Idaho; and Springfield also have had events since 1990. ... The Cox Classic is next week at Champions Run in Omaha.