## **Sports**

## Nebraska, Notre Dame to vie for national title in '88

Hey, sports fans! It's the dead of summer, the interminable basketball season is finally over, and the All-Star game has come and gone. All that can mean only one thing football season is near.

As true gridiron maniacs begin to feel a nervous trepidation about the upcoming season, their heroes are already working out every single day.

The quarterback is throwing hundreds of footballs every day, either to the receiver who lives down the street or to an anonymous swinging tire. The cornerbacks don't walk down to the corner store, they backpedal. And the linemen are still in the weight room, grunting and groaning for every yard they will have to earn this season.

So we thought that you football fanatics might be interested in one of the first few polls (albeit informal)

Jim Muse Sports Editor

of the young football season.

NATIONAL CHAMPS (#1) -NEBRASKA — With just enough games to prove themselves (UCLA, Oklahoma) and just enough patsies (the rest of the Big Eight) that the pollsters don't care, the Huskers are ripe for a championship. Talented QB Steve Taylor can run and pass with the best, and the Nebraska machine keeps making All-Americans out of

The offensive line, as always, will be one of the nation's best with three starters returning. Defensively, linebackers LeRoy Etienne and Broderick "the Sandman" Thomas will

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knock people out — cold.

#2 - NOTRE DAME - I absolutely, fiercely and passionately hate Notre Dame. But they've been hoarding talent for years, and Lou Holtz is one coach who knows what he's

The Irish return their top six runners and seven of their top eight receivers (good ones, too), and have one of the best groups of linebackers in the country. They also have a killer schedule which could vault them to the top if they are successful.

#3 - MICHIGAN - The perennial monsters of the Big 10 are back, after an "off year" of going 7-4. Remember "Jumbo" John Elliott? He's being replaced by Greg "Tiny" Skrepenak, who only goes 6-8, 322 pounds.

They'll need more consistency from QB Demetrius Brown, who threw

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State one week, then beat Iowa the next. Receivers Greg McMurtry and John Kolesar will eat up the conference.

#4 - FLORIDA STATE - Deep, deep, deep — this team is DEEP. Peter Tom Willis at QB, Sammie Smith in the backfield, Deion Sanders at cornerback, Pat Tomberlin at tackle, four starters back on the offensive line, etc., etc., etc. If the Seminoles hadn't blown a 16-point lead against Miami in early October, they would have won the national championship last year.

#5 - OKLAHOMA - Barry Switzer's scout team could beat half the teams in the top 10 — if not all of them. Oklahoma is the only team in the nation that can lose 13 starters and not skip a beat. Okay, maybe Nebraska too. But they'll get Jammin' Jamelle Holieway back from his knee injury, and they'll kick our tails all over Kenan Stadium come injury and "athletic difficulties" September.

#6 — ALABAMA — Ray Perkins is making Bear Bryant proud in Tuscaloosa. They have threats everywhere. Tailback Bobby Humphrey will be a candidate for the Heisman. Linebacker Derrick Thomas (who beat out Chris Spielman for the Butkus award) and DB Kermit Kendrick (who shared the Thorpe

seven interceptions against Michigan award with Donnell Woolford of Clemson) will lead a take-noprisoners defense which returns nine starters.

> #7 - OHIO STATE - John Cooper inherits one tough program in Columbus. Linebackers Mike McRay and Mike Showalter will make people forget who Chris Spielman and Eric Kumerow were - at least for a little while. Tailback Carlos Snow will prove himself worthy after losing his confidence last year, and the offensive line is perennially awesome. Dates with Pittsburgh and LSU will be critical proving games as part of the toughest schedule in the U.S. of A.

> #8 - GEORGIA - Good ol' Mister Dooley has found himself the best little Georgia team since some guy named Herschel was hanging around Athens. Backfield teammates and 1986 starters Tim Worley and Keith Henderson are back from respectively, and will team with last year's starters Rodney Hampton and Alphonso Ellis to form the best backfield in the SEC.

> #9 - AUBURN - Yes, the Tar Heel defense will have the privilege of being lit up by yet another top 10 team. Lawyer Tillman, get an agent! Auburn has been picked to win the SEC in several magazines, and with their rock-solid defense, anything is possible.

They could probably stop some NFL teams dead in their tracks even without Aundray Bruce, the No. 1 pick in the draft. But Auburn lacks a quarterback, which will also stop another band of Tigers (see just below) from contending for the championship.

#10 - CLÉMSON - Okay, they'll still win the ACC easily and hang our jocks from the top row of Death Valley. They've got 17 starters coming back, including All-American cornerback Donnell Woolford, ACC Rookie-of-the-year tailback Terry Allen, and All-ACC tackle Jeff Nunamacher. If only Rodney Williams could pass.

Okay, fanatics. The Kickoff Classic, featuring Nebraska and Texas A&M, is Aug. 27, barely six weeks away. Until then, Arena football and ESPN Super Bowl highlights will just have to do. I know it's difficult, but be patient. Another bloody, brutal, violent, controversial, explosive and exciting season of football is just around the corner.

Nabil

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already been sent to Syria on Ibrahim's behalf, although there has been no response from the Syrian government. This is not unusual, according to Chaney.

"We are starting a new campaign for Nabil," she said. "We plan to get high impact letters sent to Syria. These are letters from government. officials, business leaders as well as religious leaders in the Greek Orthodox and Moslem Churches."

Amnesty hopes that letters from people in authority will make the Syrian government more responsive to Amnesty's cause. The dinner and march begin this increase in Group 84's campaign to free Ibrahim, as 30 members of Amnesty plan to march. The dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Forest Theatre. FLIGUCY

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