Daily Nebraskan

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Softball team places third in tournament

By Julie Bauer

UNL's women's softball team traveled to New Mexico State last weekend for a 20-team invitational and finished third even though the tournament was the Huskers' first spring competition.

Nebraska was 5-2 overall in the tournament. In their first game, the Huskers defeated Mesa College of Colorado 5-1. They then beat Central State of New Mexico 3-1, a team that Coach Wayne Daigle calls one of the strongest junior colleges in the country. Next the Huskers defeated Northern Arizona 5-1. Their only loss of the preliminary round was to New Mexico, 1-0.

In the final round, UNL took on the host team, New Mexico State, and won 7-0. Perhaps the most disappointing loss of the weekend was to Utah State, Daigle said. The Huskers lost 7-1 to the Aggies, but they bounced back and defeated New Mexico 2-1.

Daigle was pleased with his team's performance.

"I wasn't surprised at all the team did so well," Daigle said. "I have a lot of confidence in the girls. I know

they can play well, but with the lack of practice, I have to say it was a pleasant experience to see us do so well."

Two Huskers, outfielder Wendy Turner and third baseman Ann Schroeder, were named to the alltournament team. Turner hit .620 for the tournament, the best of anyone in the invitational.

"Wendy was unstoppable at the plate. Out of about 25 times at bat, she made only 2 outs," Daigle said.

Schroeder was honored for her fine defensive effort, Daigle said. Daigle also praised shortstop Denise Day-Eckert for her fielding and second baseman Lori Richins for her hitting

Daigle has some high expectations for his team but he believes the Big Eight will be very competitive this year. Oldahoma State, which won the tournament at New Mexico State, is a strong team, Daigle said. He said he expects Missouri and Kansas also to be extremely competitive.

The Huskers will be at home for a March 21 double-header against Iowa before going on a 22-game 10day road trip.

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