

## 12th-ranked UNL baseball team opens at home Saturday

By Jeff Buettner

The Nebraska baseball team will begin a season this weekend that it hopes will end in Omaha at the College World Series in June.

Eighteen lettermen return from last year's 44-13 squad. Coach John Sanders said he will try to find the right combination of veterans, junior college transfers and freshmen to improve on last year's record.

The Cornhuskers are ranked 12th by a nationwide collegiate baseball panel of coaches, sportswriters and sports information directors. Oklahoma State, which appears to be the biggest obstacle in the Huskers' bid for a Big Eight championship, is ranked fourth.

"Of course, the coaches' poll is an external evaluation of teams by their records, schedules and who they return from last year," Sanders said Wednesday. "It's nice to be ranked, it's positive, but the most important thing is how we evaluate ourselves, not how others look at us."

Sanders said his starting lineup Saturday against Huron College of South Dakota tentatively will look like this: Chuck Spiegel, first base; Kurt Eubanks, second base; Ben Amaya, third base; Matt Butcher, shortstop; Bill McGuire, catcher; Dave Bailor, left field; Mark Davis, center field; Dan Boever, right field and Reggie Dymally, designated hitter. Right-hander Todd Oakes will be the first of several pitchers who will pitch a predetermined number of innings.

Four of the starters are newcomers. Spiegel, Butcher and Dymally are transfers from junior colleges in California and McGuire is a freshman from Omaha Creighton Prep. Sanders said he also expects important contributions from freshmen left-hander Brent Frieauf, freshman third baseman Mike Stanford and junior shortstop Turner Gill.

Eubanks was the Huskers' regular second baseman last year and Bailor played left field most of the time, but Amaya and Boever are moving to different positions. Amaya spent most of his time behind the plate and Boever was the Huskers' shortstop. Davis played sparingly last year.

The pitching staff is loaded with talent and experience. Sanders said that he and pitching coach Ray Tromba haven't

settled on a starting rotation, but there are several possibilities. Besides Oakes, he listed sophomore left-hander Jeff Koenigsman and junior right-handers Jeff Anderson, Anthony Kelley, Chris Knust and Bob Sebra as candidates for spots in the rotation. Steve Gehrke is also under consideration, but the right-handed senior is still bothered by an arm injury suffered last season.

Sanders said he thinks the Huskers will have an offensively balanced team capable of hitting the long ball and stealing bases. He said the Huskers may run more this year to take advantage of the team's quickness on the base paths.

"I think we have a mature pitching staff with quality and quantity," Sanders said. "Defensively, we appear to be sound and we should be deep enough on offense to overcome slumps and to adjust when the other team changes pitchers (from left to right-hander or vice versa)."

The Huskers will be without the bat of first baseman Steve Stanicek, Nebraska's career and single season home run leader, who signed a contract with the San Francisco Giants after his junior season. But Sanders downplayed the task of finding replacements for drafted and graduated players.

"I don't know if you can say we're trying to replace someone," Sanders said. "That's not our philosophy. We try to recruit the best possible players and put them together in an effective combination."

"It's not our goal to recruit someone to have better numbers — we recruit to have a better team."

The Huskers will play a pair of nine-inning double headers this weekend starting at 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. They will be in Albuquerque, N.M., from March 11 to March 21. The first Big Eight game is scheduled for March 26 at home against Missouri.

Sanders said Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Missouri will be tough and Kansas and Iowa State have improved since last year, so "it should be a real dogfight right to the end."

Season tickets are on sale at the South Stadium ticket office. Reserved seats are \$12 and \$10 for the public and \$3 for students. Tickets to individual games (all home games are doubleheaders) are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students with student ID cards.

## Husker women's tennis team face tough weekend schedule

Nebraska's women's tennis team will meet Iowa, Minnesota and Wichita State this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"All three of the teams that are coming in we dropped matches to in the fall," Cornhusker coach Kathy Hawkins said.

Hawkins said Minnesota is probably the strongest of the four teams and Wichita State and Iowa are "very similar" in strength to her own squad.

The Iowa match will be at 9:30 a.m. today, with the other two teams playing at noon. Nebraska will meet Minnesota at 5 p.m. Saturday and the Shockers and Hawkeyes square off at noon. The Huskers will play Wichita State at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, while Iowa and Minnesota meet at

noon.

Hawkins said the Huskers might be a little tired by Sunday, but the schedule is purposely tough to prepare for the conference schedule in April.

The Huskers split their inaugural matches last weekend in Illinois, when they defeated Illinois 7-2, but dropped a 5-4 decision to Southern Illinois.

"Win or lose, it was good competition for us," Hawkins said. "I wasn't happy with the result of the second match, but it was a close match. They just happened to get the breaks."

No. 1 singles player Cindi Reiman won both of her matches, as did No. 3 Ann Swanson and No. 4 Liz Mooney. The No. 3 doubles team of Lee Ann Givens and Susan Hayes also won two matches.

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