

Crucial Series Opens Today; Hot Huskers, Sooners Clash

Hofmaier, Sanders Probable Pitchers In Opening Contest

By GARY FRANSEN
Sports Editor

Today the two giants meet! Nebraska's high-flying baseball team, sizzling after two excellent pitching performances in their initial taste of Big Seven play against the University of Kansas, clash this afternoon with the classy Oklahoma Sooners, defending conference champs, in the first of a two-game series which could blast the young loop race wide open. Everything takes place at Norman.

A sweep of the crucial series by one club could be the extended invitation of a merry breeze into the College World Series in Omaha this June. A split between the two nines would leave it up to how the Huskers and Sooners, the league's pre-season favorites, do against the rest of the Big Seven opposition. It's no secret that both clubs are solid favorites for conference laurels.

It will be the first look at Big Seven competition for Coach Jack Baer's veteran-loaded Sooners. On the other hand, Nebraska opened with a 12-1 and 1-0 victories over the Jayhawkers in Lincoln earlier this week. Both games were marked by extra-fine mound

stints by southpaws Fran Hofmaier and sophomore Dick Geier, the latter spinning a remarkable no-hitter in the second contest.

COACH TONY Sharpe hasn't definitely named any pitching selections for the two-game brawl with the Sooners, but it is expected that Hofmaier, in his third season as a Husker twirler, will get the opening call today. It's our guess that either righthander, Pat Mallette or Geier will be called on for Saturday's game.

If lefty Mac Sanders, the ace of the Oklahoma staff, gets the expected nod, Sharpe will probably open with Dirkes Kolston or Norm Coufal, shortstop; Virg Gottsch, third base; Fred Seger, second base; Jim Cederdahl, catcher field; Ray Novak, first base; Bill Giles, left field; Don Becker, right field; Murray Backhaus, catcher; and Hofmaier, pitcher. If a righthander like Larry Foley or Jack Van Pool should be nominated to pitch the opener against the Huskers, Mallette will then probably open up in right field in place of Becker.

Other Huskers making the southern trip which includes games with Kansas State on

Monday and Tuesday are Dan Brown, utility; Bob Lohrborg, catcher; Jerry Shaw, pitcher; and Charlie Wright, pitcher.

CEDERDAHL, WHO doubled to start the one-run rally which gave the Huskers their slim 1-0 squeeze past Kansas, will go into this afternoon's tussle as the Huskers' leading regular-playing hitter. The Lincoln junior has been batting the ball at a .423 pace, including one of the team's two homers.

Jim is also leading the club in runs-batted-in with eight. Seger, leading the squad in total hits with 13, has a .371 average. Part-time regulars Mallette and Coufal are hitting .455 and .429 respectively.

Baer has a fine pitching nucleus returning from last season's championship crew. The nifty Sanders was their top winner with a 6-3 mark. Foley and Van Pool, 2-2 and 1-1 records respectively. Another vet back is junior righthander George Loving who compiled a 1953 mark of 1-3.

Best-looking of the new pitching crop are Joe Mobra and Frank Minton, the latter who has a twin brother, Fred, a hard-hitting outfielder Mobra, who could get the second game call against the Huskers, is a 21-year old sophomore standing 6-2, weighing 205. He throws from the right side. Minton, on the other hand, is built like a Warren Spahn, 6-1, 160 lb. and throwing lefthanded.

BIGGEST LOSS on the Sooner club is the absence of All-American Second Baseman Gene Sheets who is now in the Chicago White Sox organization. Best of this season's stickmen are Catcher Buster Cloud, Shortstop Orville Rickey and Third Baseman Billy Knox.

Cloud, dividing the catching duties last season, hit at a .391 clip. Regulars Rickey and Knox both swatted the ball well over the 300 mark. Rickey had a solid .358 average and Knox rapped the horsehide at a .348 pace. Back again is Buddy Leake, who lettered during his freshmen year, but who skipped baseball last season. Leake is working at Sheets' vacanted second sack position.

Last season the two clubs divided in their two games at Lincoln. Sanders was beaten 3-2 in the first contest and Van Pool came back to beat the Huskers 9-5.

Kansas State, the Husker foe on Monday and Tuesday, lost three out of four games to Nebraska last season. The Wildcats won the first game 4-1 at Manhattan, but dropped the second 5-3. In Lincoln, Sharpe's squad racked them 9-7 and 16-8.

Wright, a veteran Husker righthander, should be ready for the two-game series with the Cats. The Scottsbluff senior has been recently bothered by a blistered finger. Novak, the Scarlet mound ace last season, is still being bothered by his ailing flipper.



Courtesy Lincoln Star

Geier's No-Hit Flipper

Centerfielder Jim Cederdahl, who started Nebraska's winning rally with a two-out double in the fifth frame, lifts the Huskers squeaked out an arm, a talented flipper that shut

out the visiting Kansas Jayhawkers Tuesday without a run or a base hit. Geier also faced only 27 men, the minimum, as sophomore Dick Geier's left arm, a talented flipper that shut

chucker also sent back ten Kansans to the bench via the strikeout route. Today Geier, Cederdahl and their Husker mates are meeting tough Oklahoma

Golfers Play

Drake Relays Draw Four Nebraska Track Specialists

Four Cornhuskers will participate Friday and Saturday in the Drake Relays at Des Moines.

Nebraska Cinder Coach Ed Weir has named Cliff Dale, Falls City, for the shot put and discus throw; Ken Reiners, Indianola, shot put; Charles Humley, Falls City, javelin throw, and Phil Heideck, Fairbury, high jump.

Reiners was the lone Nebraska place-winner in last Saturday's Kansas Relays at Lawrence. He was fourth with a heave of 50 ft. 2 1/4 in.

Meanwhile, two squad members are on the injured list. High jumper Merle Brestal, Chappell, is out with a broken toe, and Jack Skalla, pole vaulter from Beatrice, is recovering from a knee sprain.

Friday afternoon an all-squad (varsity and frosh) trout meet is scheduled at Memorial Stadium as a warmup for the Cornhuskers who face Colorado in a dual

tangle with Coach Bob Hamblet's Nebraska links squad on the Hillcrest Country Club course Saturday at 10 a.m.

Nebraska golfers have won one, lost five and tied one so far this season.

Nebraska entertains Creighton University of Omaha in tennis on the Cornhusker courts here Friday afternoon. Kansas' Jayhawkers will appear here for matches Saturday. Both affairs are scheduled for 1 p.m.

The Huskers have a 0-6 record to date.

NU Grid Contract Limit Suggested

Senator George Syas of Omaha stated Wednesday he plans to introduce into the Nebraska State Legislature next week a resolution directing the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to limit the duration of contracts with athletic coaches to four years.

Head Football Coach Bill Glassford has a five-year contract, but a five-year option in effect gives him a 10-year pact.

Glassford earlier this year was under some pressure to resign, but was protected by the contract.

"We all know that coaching is a hazardous business, but this is not a Glassford-should or Glassford-shouldn't proposition," commented Syas.

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Husker 'B' Team Meets Hastings

The University of Nebraska "B" baseball team will meet the Hastings College nine on the University diamond Friday. Game time is slated for 3 p.m.

Among those playing for the Husker reserves in Friday's tilt include Don Keiser, Denny Korinek, Brian Sievers, Bill and Dick Thimigan and Larry Dunning. All are also members of the Nebraska varsity baseball team which is currently down south for a four-game series with Oklahoma and Kansas State.

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Sooner Stars

Two of Oklahoma's top hitters this spring are Shortstop Orville Rickey (left) and Third Baseman Bill Knox. Rickey last season. The two infielders

apple well over the .300 mark and Knox both rattled the also hit a total of five homers and batted in 25 runs between them.

NU Baseball Statistics

Player	BATTING										
	ab	r	h	tb	hr	sh	bb	bb	rbi	so	
Mallette, p-of-1b	11	2	5	455	7	0	1	0	0	2	0
Coufal, ss	16	4	5	459	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cederdahl, cf	26	7	11	423	18	2	1	2	2	2	1
Seger, 2b	35	10	13	371	15	2	0	0	0	4	4
Giles, lf-3b	28	6	8	286	10	1	1	0	0	4	4
Becker, of	20	1	5	250	5	0	0	0	0	4	0
Lohrborg, c	24	5	5	206	11	1	1	1	0	2	1
Novak, lf-3b	11	1	2	182	4	0	1	0	0	2	0
Brown, 2b-of	11	1	2	182	4	0	1	0	0	2	0
Backhaus, c	15	2	3	133	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hofmaier, p	11	1	1	109	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Korinek, of	17	3	1	109	1	0	0	0	0	5	1
Kolston, ss	6	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Geier, p	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wright, p	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keiser, p-2b	1	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaw, p	1	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska Totals	263	48	66	251	92	8	5	2	7	4	33
Opponents Total	254	39	56	222	70	7	3	1	4	7	46

Pitcher	PITCHING										
	CG	W	L	Pct.	IP	AB	R	ER	sh	bb	so
Hofmaier	2	1	0	1.000	22 2/3	58	9	16	8	1	10
Shaw	0	1	0	1.000	7 2/3	37	3	6	2	8	0
Mallette	0	1	0	1.000	7	34	4	7	3	0	5
Wright	0	1	1	.500	20 2/3	90	17	9	2	10	14
Novak	0	0	1	.000	4	20	3	6	3	1	5
Wright	0	0	0	.000	5	31	8	4	1	0	8
Nebraska Totals	2	3	1	1.000	62 2/3	240	37	42	24	26	47
Opponents Total	1	0	0	1.000	5	31	8	4	1	0	8

Connor To Tackle For All-Star Game

Ted Connor, Husker tackle, will play in the annual College All-Star football game scheduled to be held in Chicago next August.

The big tackle from Hastings was one of Coach Glassford's gridiron mainstays, turning in outstanding performance in game after game. He won All-Big Seven honors last fall. He has had an offer to play pro football with the Philadelphia Eagles. However, he has not accepted the pro grid contract.

Fencers Schedule Match For Sunday

The Nebraska Fencers Club will meet the Omaha YMCA fencers Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the Physical Education Building. Ten University students will comprise the Nebraska team entered in the dual fencing match. The fencers are: David Kistler, Doug Henry, H. J. Ball and Robert Higgs, foil; Jim Rogers, John DePutron, Cyril Harvey, epee; Rudolph Link, Dick Dahl and Bob Day, sabre.

Two High-Classed Relays Ready For This Weekend

Two of the nation's largest track and field meets, the Pennsylvania and the Drake Relays, will be run off this weekend. Competition will be tough in both meets. A third meet, the Colorado Relays, will also be held this week.

In the Drake affair at Des Moines, recently-married Wes Santee, Kansas' great miler, will be the big attraction. The Jayhawk star will not run his pet event, the mile, but will run as anchor man on four of Kansas' relay teams.

The two-mile race is slated to be a close one too with the busting of record possible. Included in the field are Iowa's Rich Ferguson, Purdue's Gene Matthews and Washington's Dennis Myers. Ferguson is NCAA champion.

It will be the 60th year for the fabulous Penn Relays in which a record list of 3,212 contestants from 511 colleges and high schools

The meet is being held on the large Franklin Field layout in Philadelphia. Gordon Riddell, Colorado A&M's great vaulter, is the big headliner of the Colorado meet.

Thirteen Alumni Ready For ISC

A total of 13 lettermen, currently enrolled, will be the nucleus of the 1954 Alumni team which will attempt to even the five-year football series with the Iowa State varsity May 8.

Bill Wilson, guard who is in charge of the alumni squad, listed 12 members of the 1953 squad and two others now back in school for graduate work. The non-1953 veterans are Bill Weeks, All-Big Seven Quarterback, and Emory Eichorn, former halfback. Wilson said a number of graduates had indicated they'd be back for the game and expected to have a squad of about 25 lettermen for the game. In addition the alumni will also be assigned some members of the varsity squad.

The list of "in-school" alumni includes the following men: Ends—Bob Rohwedder. Tackles—Jack Lessin, Ron Thompson, Chuck Coey. Guards—Gean Kowalski, Erhard Moosman, Jim Champlin, and Wilson. Center—Jim Rawley. Quarterbacks—Bill Plantan and Weeks. Halfbacks—Dick Cox, and Eichorn.

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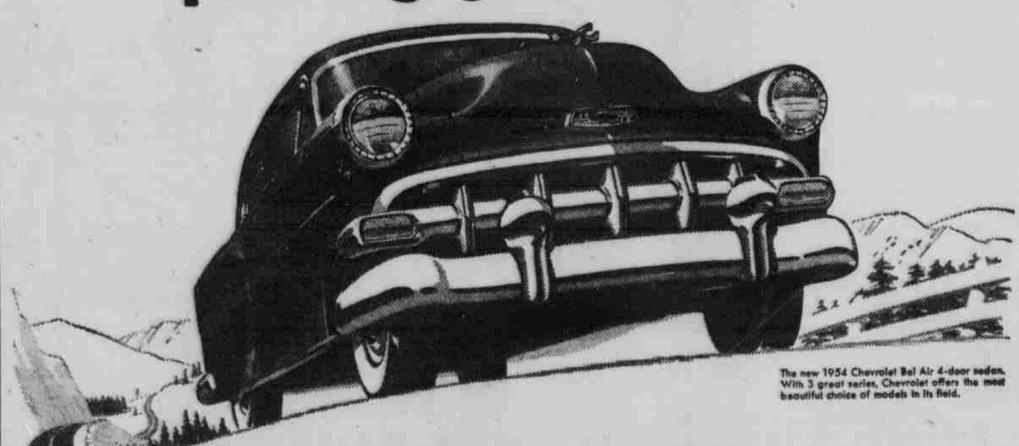
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