

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 Dirkas Kolston or Norm Coufal, shortstop; Virg Gottsch, third base; Fred Seger, second base; Jim Cederdahl, center 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, batting the squad in total hits with 13, has a .371 average. Part-time regulars Mallette and Coufal are hitting .455 and .429 respectively.

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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 Monhattan, 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

Golfers Play

Drake Relays Draw Four Nebraska Track Specialists

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

Nebraska's Cinder Coach Ed Weir has named Cliff Dale, Falls City, for the shot put and discus throw; Ken Reiners, Indianola, for the 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 1/2 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) tryout meet is scheduled at Memorial Stadium as a warmup for the Cornhuskers who face Colorado in a dual

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.



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		ab	r	b	h	2b	3b	hr	sh	bb	so	wp	rbi	po	cs
Mallette, p-of-1b	11	2	5	455	7	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Coufal, ss	16	4	5	459	6	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	8	2	0
Cederdahl, cf	26	7	11	423	15	2	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	6	2
Seger, 2b	35	10	13	371	15	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	4	4
Giles, lf	12	2	3	220	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Becker, rf	28	6	8	286	10	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	4	3	0
Lohrborg, c	24	1	5	250	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Novak, 3b	4	5	5	206	11	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	3
Brown, 2b-of	11	1	2	182	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Backhaus, c	15	2	3	133	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	5
Hofmaier, p	11	1	1	1091	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kornek, of	17	3	1	1069	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Rolston, ss	6	0	0	000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geier, p	3	0	0	000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wright, p	3	0	0	000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keiser, p-2b	1	0	0	000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaw, p	1	0	0	000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska Totals	263	48	66	251	92	8	5	2	7	4	33	4	41	35	32
Opponents Total	254	39	59	222	70	7	3	1	4	7	46	4	37	32	32

Pitcher		CG	W	L	Pct.	IP	AB	R	ER	sh	bb	so	wp	bK	Era
Hofmaier	2	1	0	1.000	23 2/3	58	9	16	8	1	10	1	0	1	3.04
Shaw	0	1	0	1.000	7 2/3	37	3	6	2	2	8	0	4	1	2.35
Mallette	0	1	0	1.000	7	34	4	7	3	0	5	0	4	1	3.86
Wright	1	1	1	.500	20 2/3	90	17	9	2	10	14	0	0	0	3.92
Novak	0	0	1	.000	4	20	3	6	3	1	5	0	0	0	6.75
Wright	0	0	0	.000	5	31	8	4	1	0	8	2	0	0	1.82

Track Awards Go To 106 Prep Stars

Coach Ed Weir of the University of Nebraska track and field squad has recently awarded some more numeral winners in the state track and field circles.

Seventy-four high school athletes received the full blue numeral while 32 performers acquired the half blue award, making a grand total of 106 athletes receiving the honor.

McCook High School had six boys receiving the full blue and four boys receiving the half blue while Kearney had five boys receiving the full blue awards.

York High School, Hebron, Superior and Bridgeport each had four prepsters receiving the full blue.

A total of 46 Nebraska high schools were involved in the latest honors.

Outdoor competition here a week from Saturday, May 1.

University of Kansas golfers

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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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

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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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.

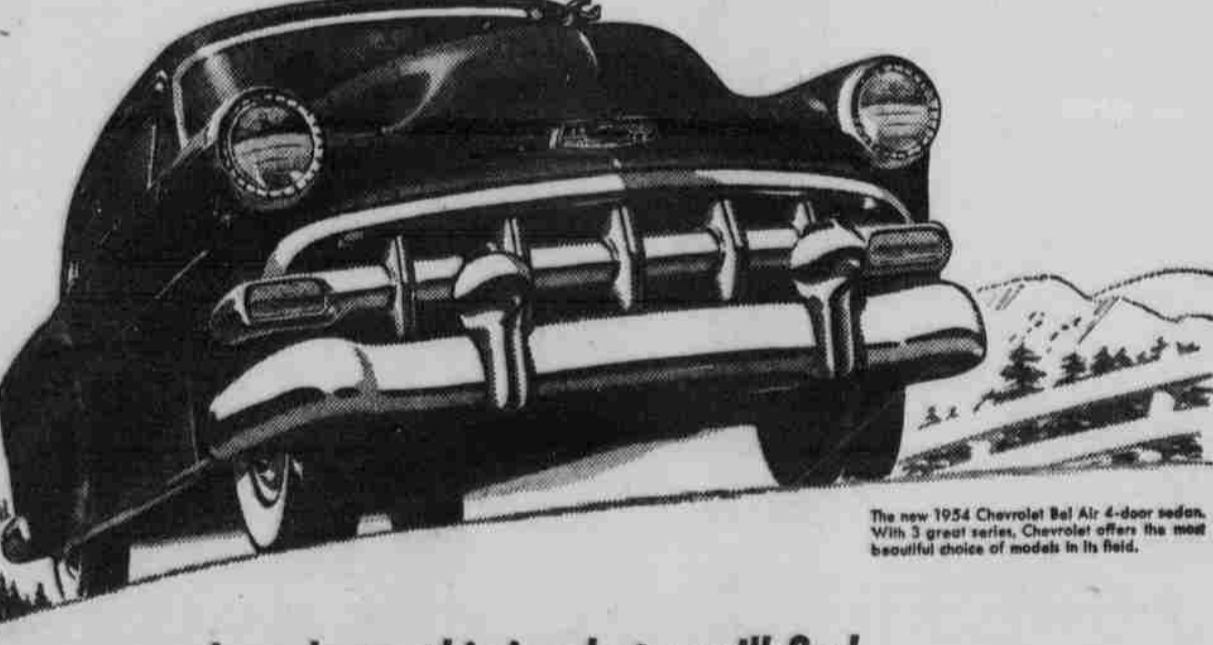
The big tackle from Hastings was one of Coach Glassford's gridiron mainstays, turning in outstanding performance in game after game. He won All-Big Seven honors last fall. He has had an offer to play pro football with the Philadelphia Eagles. However, he has not accepted the pro grid contract.

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.

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