

Husker baseballers hit 'stormy weather'

After a heartening start in the six game series against Houston this week, the Nebraska baseball team hit some stormy weather — any way you want to interpret it.

The Thursday contest was called because of rain, calling for a doubleheader today.

The physical condition of the players also got cloudy, as five Huskers came up with injuries through the first three games.

Dana Stephenson, Bob Brand and Adrian Fiala will all probably be out for the rest of the trip and Bob Griego and Alex Walter may be in for limited duty only.

Stephenson was lamed by a pulled leg muscle Tuesday, and Brand and Fiala were both hit by pitches, with no serious or lasting injuries.

The series stands even at 1-1, with NU coach Tony Sharp encouraged by early pitching performances of vets

and newcomers, Al Furby and Mick Logue, both of Grand Island, and Keith Winter of Norfolk looked good in their first starts.

The series will wind up Saturday barring more rain.

Jayhawks, Dayton in NIT finals

Big Eight runner-up Kansas and Dayton will clash Saturday afternoon in Madison Square Garden for the National Invitational Tournament crown.

Dayton bumped Notre Dame, 76-74 in overtime, and KU grilled St. Peter's of New Jersey, 58-46, in semifinal action in New York Thursday night.

Dayton was a surprise contender in last year's NCAA playoffs and Kansas finished strong after a bad start in a wild Big Eight race they had been favored to dominate.

Two losses to champion Kansas State dropped them into a runner-up spot, heading them the NIT bid Nebraska collected last year.

Husker Happenings

Today
Baseball — at Houston
Gymnastics — Big Eight at Oklahoma
Wrestling — NCAA at Pennsylvania
Saturday
Baseball — at Houston
Gymnastics — Big Eight at Oklahoma
Wrestling — NCAA at Pennsylvania

Three NU gymnasts end career in Oklahoma

Three gymnasts will be making their last appearance in Husker uniforms this week as Nebraska finishes the 1967-68 season at the Big Eight championships in Norman, Okla.

Team Captain Bob Santoro, Pat McGill and Bruce Jones will lead the squad of twelve from Nebraska at the fifth annual conference meet.

Nebraska won the first two Big Eight titles, in 1963 and 1964.

For obvious reasons coach Jake Geier is not happy to lose his three seniors.

"What can you say about three boys whose departure

you really hate to see?" Geier said.

"All three have been solid in their executions routines," he continued, "and all are extremely capable athletes. The entire squad has held great confidence in them."

Geier extended praise to each of his seniors:

"Santoro had the concern of the whole squad in his thinking during the season. He was a good leader and therefore, a good captain.

"Jones had a late start this year because of an operation but he moved within the squad with his good, steady performances.

—Hruska, NRA vs. the gun control lobby— Is mailorder firearm legislation worth it?

Firearms Used For Crime

In the wake of a few recent crimes involving the use of firearms, there has been a sharp rise in the calls for legislation to "control" the ownership of guns.

Four years ago President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by a bullet fired from a mail-order rifle, and a year ago, 14 persons were gunned down on the University of Texas campus before the slayer, Charles J. Whitman was himself shot dead.

Increased racial discontent has also involved the use of firearms in the past and there is fear that they may be used again.

Legislation Causes Problems

Legislation to control firearms, however, has its drawbacks.

How, for example, can Congress keep firearms out of the hands of criminal types without destroying the constitutional right to "keep and bear arms" and infringing on the rights of hunters, target shooters, collectors and other sportsmen?

It should be pointed out that of the between 30 to 50 million homes in the United States which contain firearms, such weapons are used in only three percent of what the Federal Bureau of Investigation considers serious crime and that further figures indicate that the rate of death from firearms has declined 50% in the past 20 years, while our population has doubled.

The remainder of the firearms are used for sports such as hunting, trap, skeet or target-shooting, etc.

How Do You Know?

Another thing which must be considered is, how does



anyone know which applicant to buy a firearm is a potential killer and which is not?

Under every firearm bill proposed or in effect, Charles Whitman would have qualified to legally purchase a gun.

There is a general opinion among criminologists that the availability of firearms has little to do with their use in crimes of passion or social ill-health.

In other words, in cases of what might be considered casual homicide and not the work of professional or habitual criminals, whatever comes to hand—a baseball bat or a butcher knife—will do the job if the neighbors are too noisy or the wife goes beyond the barriers of normal nagging privileges.

Bills Before Congress

President Johnson has asked several times for firearms control legislation and more than 40 bills to that effect are currently before the House and Senate.

One of the bills now before Congress was introduced by Sen. Thomas Dodd who began introducing gun-control legislation as far back as 1963, concerning the sale of handguns through the mails.

Dodd had the backing of the National Rifle Association on many of his earlier bills, but lost that support when he stated that the ease in obtaining firearms "is a significant factor in the prevalence of lawlessness and violent crime in the United States."

NRA Now Backs Hruska

The National Rifle Association's primary concern, although it has vigorously opposed what it regards as needless restrictions on the rights of the shooting fraternity, is that the Constitutional right of citizens to "keep and bear arms" will cease to exist.

With Dodd's proposals now threatening to inconvenience sportsmen, ranchers and farmers who mostly bought their guns by mail, the NRA switched its allegiance to a bill sponsored by Sen. Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska.

Hruska's bill, which also has the support of the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Sporting Arms Manufacturing Institute among others, would "try to reconcile the lawful and wholesome use of firearms by 20 to 30 million Americans with the necessity of trying to keep the guns sold in this country out of the hands of the wrong people."

NRA Idea Similar

The NRA has its own suggested program of legislation which is quite similar to that of Hruska's.

The NRA recommends that Congress:

1. provide a mandatory penalty for the possession or use of a firearm transported in interstate commerce or foreign commerce and used in commission of a crime.
2. prohibit licensed manufacturers or dealers from shipping any firearm to any person in any state in violation of the laws of that state.
3. place "destructive devices" (bombs, grenades, mines, crew-served military ordnance, etc.) under the tax and registration provisions of the National Firearms Act (of 1934).
4. require that a person who orders a handgun by mail or over the counter in a state other than his own submit to the seller a sworn statement that he is over 21 years of age, is not prohibited by federal law from receiving a handgun shipped in interstate commerce and his receipt of the firearm is not in violation of any state statute. The affidavit would contain the name and address of the principal local law-enforcement officer of the locality to which the handgun would be shipped, and the seller would have to forward the affidavit by registered or certified mail to that law-enforcement officer and receive from him a reply indicating receipt of this notification. The seller would be required to wait at least seven days after receipt of the notification by the law-enforcement officer before shipment could be made.

NRA, Hruska Supported

As one who cherishes hunting and all other sports related to firearms and taking into consideration that some form of control must be placed on their acquisition and use, this writer places his support behind the NRA and Sen. Hruska.

Their proposals, I believe, come closest to preserving the rights of all sportsmen, while doing all within the constitutional limits to keep guns out of the hands those who would abuse the right to "bear arms."

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