

Versatile hurlers key NU's diamond hopes

by STEVE SINCLAIR
Assistant Sports Editor

Pitchers usually aren't considered to be good hitters, but Nebraska baseball coach Tony Sharpe is planning to use his pitching staff to beef up the Husker hitting attack this spring.

It won't be unusual to find three of Nebraska's starting pitchers in the lineup at the same time, according to Sharpe.

GENE STOHS and Glen Gilmore are the two starting pitchers that Sharpe plans to use in the outfield, when they aren't on the mound.

"Stohs and Gilmore are both good hitters and real good fielders," Sharpe said. "Stohs is as fine an outfielder as you will find in college baseball."

Nebraska finished in the Big Eight cellar for the first time last year, and Sharpe said the team's problem was caused by poor hitting.

In addition to giving his pitchers additional playing time, Sharpe hopes that added experience will help the team's hitting.

RON JOHNETTE, Jim McCormick, and Al Furby were the only losses from last year's club and the top two hitters, Adrian Fiala and Tom Tidball return.

"We have the potential to be an average college hitting team," Sharpe said. "With average hitting and good pitching we have a chance of winning quite a few ball games."

The Nebraska pitching staff ranked near the top of the league last year and Sharpe predicts he will have a strong staff again this season.

Last year was the first year that freshmen were allowed to pitch on the varsity and five of the six Husker pitchers were rookies. Stohs, Gilmore, and Paul Mareck are the returning starters. George Hinman and Bruce Cramer return in the bull pen. Hinman was a sophomore last year, but it was his first year on the varsity.

DEPTH IN THE bull pen will be provided by freshmen Bob Munson and Steve Cain. Munson played freshmen basketball and has just joined the team.

Sharpe said that the Huskers' fielding will be as good as most clubs. "Good fielding comes with good pitching."

The veteran coach has made some position changes to bolster his infield. Bob Griego and Tidball have switched positions with Tidball moving to second base and Griego going to third.

PAT ELGERT has moved to first base where he will battle Arnold Placke and Bill Slaughter for the job vacated by Johnette. Slaughter is also being tried at catcher and in the outfield. "Slaughter has been looking good with the bat," Sharpe said. "We are trying to find a place to play him at."

Steve Alcheipohl and Dennis Jorgensen are battling for the shortstop job. Alcheipohl started last year and is the better hitter of the two, according to Sharpe, but Jorgensen has the edge in fielding.

The catching position is held down by Husker footballer Adrian Fiala. He has been the team's leading hitter the past two seasons. Randy Spiels, Joe Baker, or Slaughter will back up Fiala.

ANOTHER FOOTBALL player, Paul Topliff, is bidding for a job on the team for the first time. "He is looking better all the time," Sharpe said.

Topliff will be used at third base, or in the outfield, according to Sharpe. The Husker mentor is waiting to get outdoors to find out which players can handle the outfield positions.

The list of players being considered for outfield positions are Stohs, Gilmore, Slaughter, Topliff, Elgert, Tom Stuckey, and Neal Garvey.

NU opens the season on March 28 at Houston University, where the Huskers meet the Cougars in a six game series. "We're looking at the season

optimistically," Sharpe said. "We know we have along way to go, but with normal progress we are going to improve. I'm ready to go and so are the kids."

The schedule:
March 28, 30, 31, April 1, 2, 3 — at Houston; April 10*, 11 — at Kansas State; April 17*, 18 — Oklahoma; April 24, 25* — at Missouri; May 1*, 2 — Colorado; May 8*, 9 — Kansas; May 15*, 16 — at Oklahoma State; May 20*, 21 — at Iowa State.
* Denotes seven inning double header.

SPORTS

NU grapplers meet Missouri

The Nebraska wrestling team closes its dual season against Missouri at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night at the Coliseum.

Coach Orval Borgianni's Huskers are 6-5-1 in dual meets and will compete in the Big Eight wrestling championships at Kansas State Friday and Saturday.

Nebraska's lineup:
118—Joe Orta
126—Rick Pinkerman
134—Doug Erickson
142—Tom Lotko
150—Tom Meier
158—Joe George
167—Jerry Munson
177—Jim Haug
190—Bill Knippel
Hwt.—Keith Burchett

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"Happy Birthday, Tricie"

Cornhuskers to compete in NCAA

Nebraska will compete in three events at the NCAA indoor track championships at Detroit's Cobo Hall this weekend.

The Husker competitors will be Garth Case in the 600, Don Quarrie in the 60, and Ron Lange, Bob Pierce, Leighton Priestley, and Case in the mile relay.

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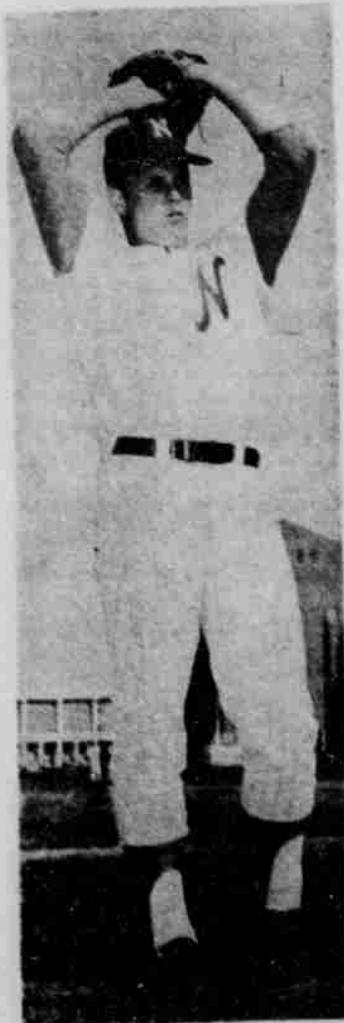
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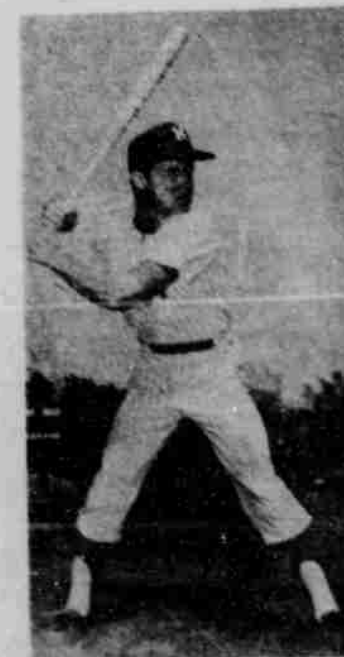
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