NU pitching sags, but hitting stronger

by STEVE SINCLAIR

Assistant Sports Edito

. What a difference a year can make.

At this same time last year the Nebraska baseball team was in last place in the Big Eight standings with only one victory. Coach Tony Sharpe's pitchers were ranked at the top in conference statistics, but the squad was suffering from an anemic hitting attack.

This season with practically the same team returning the Huskers are in the race for the conference championship and one of the main reasons is a beefed up hitting attack, while the pitching has been weaker.

"We have been pleased with the overall balance of our hitting," Sharpe said, "but we have had a few problems with our pitching.'

'Glen Gilmore and Bruce Cramer have been doing a fine job," Sharpe said, "but Paul Marek and Gene Stohs have had a few problems. If our pitching staff starts to jell we will be in every game we play.

The third place Huskers travel to Missouri this weekend for a three game series, while first place Iowa State and second place Oklahoma tangle at Norman.

Missouri is tied with Oklahoma State for last place in the conference, which isn't any indication of the Tigers strength, according to Sharpe.

"They are a real good hitting team," Sharpe said,

"but they have been having problems with their pitching."

"They got off to a bad start, when Iowa State got the jump on them," he added, "but their pitching should get better from week to week."

The Tigers' hitting attack is paced by sophomore catcher Steve Patchin. An all-Big Eight performer as a freshman, Patchin is currently the league's leading hitter with a .563

The Tiger pitching staff is last in conference pitching statistics with a combined earn run average of 6.26. Nebraska is only one notch higher in seventh place with an earned run average of 4.95.

The Huskers fair better in other statistical categories. They are still ranked first in team fielding with a .956 average, and fourth in team hitting with a .263 average.

The combined batting average of the Nebraska starting

The Huskers' leading hitter is pitcher-centerfielder Stohs. He is ranked fifth in conference statistics with a .429 batting

Sharpe plans to pitch Gilmore in Friday's single game. Marek and either Cramer or Stohs will be on the mound for Saturday's doubleheader.



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NU tennis golf teams on the road

The Nebraska tennis and golf teams are on the road this weekend with each team competing twice.

The tennis team will meet the Air Force Academy Friday afternoon at Colorado Springs and will move to Boulder Saturday to face Colorado.

The golf team will be at Lawrence, Kan.,friday to meet Kansas, Iowa State, and Kansas State, and will switch to Manhattan, Kan. Saturday to face the same teams.

The tennis team blanked the University of Nebraska at Omaha, 7-0, Wednesday afternoon to even its season dual record at 5-5.

Singles winners for the Huskers were William Brunell, Tom Wiese, Jim Rathe, John Hendry, and Bob Duffek.

Doubles winners were Wiese and Hendry, and Rathe and

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