

Stohs hopes for pro slot

by Kent Seacrest

What Nebraska baseball player didn't play high school baseball, led the Huskers last year in pitching and hitting, leads the Huskers again in hitting this year as a centerfielder and has even played semi-pro baseball in Alaska?

The answer is Gene Stohs.

Stohs, a senior, can most simply be

described as a talented baseball player. His coach, Tony Sharpe, can say nothing bad about him.

"Gene is an excellent outfielder, base runner and hitter," Sharpe said. "He does everything consistently well. He is just great."

Stohs went to high school in Grand Island where there was no high school baseball program. But that didn't stop him or his talents.

When he first came to Nebraska, Stohs was primarily a pitcher. "I've always been a pitcher, though the last three years I've gradually become an outfielder. It was hard playing two positions. So the coach and I decided this season it would be best just to concentrate on playing the outfield."

Last season, while playing both outfielder and pitcher, Stohs led the team in hitting with a .339 average and registered the best pitching earned run average of 1.69.

This year Stohs leads the Huskers again in hitting (.385), runs scored (15) and bases stolen (11). His five stolen bases in Big Eight play lead the conference and his .379 hitting average against conference foes puts him in a tie for fifth place.

Playing in the major leagues has always been one of Stohs' goals. "If I do get drafted by the pros I'll have to make a decision whether to sign or not," he said. "But if I don't get drafted, my decision is made for me. I'll simply hang up the old spikes."

Two summers ago Stohs played semi-pro ball in Kansas and was chosen as an All-American. Last summer his talents traveled to Alaska.

"Last summer I played for the national champion Anchorage Pilots. It was quite a unique experience playing baseball during the long summer days in Alaska."

Stohs and the rest of the Husker team (3-6 in Big Eight play) will play their three-game series against second-place Colorado at Ryder Field in Grand Island Friday and Saturday.

The series was shifted from Lincoln to Grand Island because the new UNL baseball field is not yet completed and Lincoln's Sherman Field will be hosting Nebraska Wesleyan and high school games this weekend.

Stohs is happy to be returning home this weekend. "I'm really looking forward to playing in front of my friends and in my old summer Legion baseball park," he said.



Gene Stohs... returns home this weekend when Nebraska faces Colorado in a three-game series in Grand Island.

gary seacrest sports

One of the last bastions of male dominance—sports—is rapidly opening to females. Women's Liberation won two big victories in Nebraska last week that will pave the way for greater involvement by women in competitive sports in Nebraska high schools and colleges.

A federal district court got the ball rolling when it ruled Debbie Reed should get a chance to try out for the Norfolk golf team, until now an exclusively male squad.

Then the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) finally reversed its antiquated rule against female competition in basketball. NSAA also began planning definite seasons for interscholastic contests among women in cross country, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming and tennis.

It is nice to see that the stereotype which pictures men as jocks and women as cheerleaders is rapidly crumbling. An expanded program of women's high school sports is undoubtedly going to affect women's sports in Nebraska colleges. Intercollegiate women sports at UNL are just beginning to get off the ground and will benefit from the expanded high school programs.

In other parts of the country, Women's Liberation is also making inroads in sports. The University of Oregon crew has a female coxswain—18-year old Vicky Brown. However, several schools have demonstrated their male chauvinism by refusing to row against Oregon with Brown as coxswain.

Do you think Oklahoma would refuse to play Nebraska if Bob Devaney started a girl at quarterback?

It's bad enough when pro basketball raids colleges of their undergraduate players. But now it seems the pros are even getting a discount over the colleges when it comes to renting auditoriums.

When the NBA's Cincinnati Royals move to Kansas City for the 1972-73 season they will pay about \$1,100 per game in rental fees for the use of Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium. Big Eight Commissioner Charles M. Neinas is upset about this fee because the Big Eight paid more than \$13,700 for the use of municipal auditorium for the conference's four-day basketball tournament last December.

Neinas, in protesting the fee inequity to Kansas City officials, noted professional sports reflect a history of skinning communities financially by threatening them with moving their franchise elsewhere.

The Kansas City fee incident is just another sad example of the increasing conflict between pro and college sports over the sports dollar.

Newsman honor Kinney

Sportswriters and sportscasters who cover Nebraska football have selected Jeff Kinney as the recipient of the 1971 Tom Novak Trophy.

The award is presented annually at the spring football game—this year in a pre-game ceremony on May 6—to the Husker senior who "best exemplifies courage and determination despite all odds in the manner of Nebraska All-American center Tom Novak."

Kinney earned All-Big Eight and All-American honors in 1971 as he led Nebraska's rushing attack with 1,136 yards and 17 touchdowns.



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