

## Sluggers slam in Season with a swing through South

by Dave Sittler

Nebraska's baseball team opens its 1973 season with an 11-game southern tour beginning Tuesday in Shreveport, La., with a doubleheader against Centenary College.

Inexperience will be the major problem facing coach Tony Sharpe. Only five lettermen return from last year's squad, which finished seventh in the Big Eight Conference with an 8-11 record and 12-17 overall.

Beginning his 27th season as head coach, Sharpe will build his squad around lettermen pitchers Ryan Kurosaki and Dennis O'Doherty, infielders Sam Sharpe and Jim Smith and outfielder Bob Munson.

"Our infield will be pretty solid defensively and should be the strong point for us this season," Sharpe said.

Heading the infield will be Sharpe's son Sam, voted to the all-Big Eight team last year while playing second base for the Huskers.

Sharpe will move to first base this season to make room for junior college transfer Dennis Shibata at second. Shibata, a former Lincoln Plus X standout, transferred to Nebraska after playing the last two seasons for Waubesa Community College in Sugar Grove, Ill.

Joining Sharpe and Shibata in the infield, will be shortstop Bryant Akisada, a sophomore transfer from the University of Hawaii, and Lincoln Northeast graduate Smith at third base.

Playing a record 44-game schedule this spring, the Huskers will depend heavily on the all-around play of Munson, the leading hitter on last year's team with a .417 average.

The only senior on the team, Munson also tied Sharpe for the team lead in RBI's with 15. But the Bradford, Vt., native may be most

important to the Cornhuskers with his defensive outfield play. Last season he set a Nebraska fielding record with a .991 percentage set on only one error in 108 chances, breaking the record of .986 set by Dick Becher in 1948.

Teaming with Munson in the outfield will be centerfielder Mike Ginn, a freshman from Wayne, and Rich Sanger, the junior who handles the kicking duties for Nebraska's football team.

Finding a replacement for catcher Maury Damkroger will be another task for Sharpe this season. Damkroger, a leading candidate for the starting fullback position on Nebraska's football team, decided to pass up baseball to concentrate on spring football workouts.

Sharpe has indicated that sophomore Doak Fowler of Omaha is the likely candidate to take over the catching job vacated by Damkroger.

Kurosaki and O'Doherty, both right-handers who ranked among the Big Eight's top 12 earned-run-average pitchers last season, will head the pitching corps for Nebraska.

Poor weather has forced the Huskers to practice inside for almost all preseason workouts, a fact that could hurt the team's early season games.

"The weather and our lack of experience may hurt us on this trip south," Sharpe said. "But these 11 games should provide us with some excellent experience."

After their doubleheader with Centenary, the Huskers will continue their swing south with five games against Louisiana Tech and four contests with Oral Roberts University.

Nebraska will open its Big Eight Conference schedule March 30-31 when it hosts the Iowa State Cyclones.



Football place-kicker Rich Sanger . . . anchors the Husker baseball outfield.

## Netters hope to bounce from last place

by Andy Riggs

The UNL tennis team will try to bounce back after its last-place Big Eight finish in 1972, according to first-year coach Jim Porter.

Porter said he is optimistic about the chances for the young, 11-member squad which has no seniors and three freshmen starters.

He speculated that part of the reason the Huskers didn't do well last year is that only tuition scholarships are given to tennis players.

"We can't pay for books and housing too," he said. "Tennis just doesn't get that kind of money for recruiting."

The tennis team has been practicing since fall, a Porter innovation.

Despite losing the first match to Northwest Missouri last week, Porter said he is not discouraged.

"They were a top team," he said. "I

believe they are as good as any Big Eight team."

Porter said he is familiar with the strengths of the Big Eight teams the Huskers will face, but he doesn't know some of the non-conference foes.

"Oklahoma will be very strong again this year," he said. "They will probably win the title again."

Porter said he knows little about Drake, Luther and Washburn.

The Huskers have only three lettermen returning from last year's squad. Tryouts cut the team from 34 to 11. The top players are junior lettermen Jim Crew, Sig Garnett and Dave Lux. Rounding out the top six are freshmen Marty Ward, Billy Roberts and Steve Waltman.

"I think that many persons will be surprised by our young team," Porter said. "They have good potential, all they have to do is be consistent."

## Division champs crowned Friday

Six division champions were crowned in intramural basketball at UNL Friday.

Kappa Alpha Psi won the Fraternity A Division with a decision over Delta Upsilon.

Tom Gregory's 21 points led the Celtics to a 39-28 win over Slaughterhouse Five in the Independent Division.

The Dorm B Title went to Harper Three while Phi Delta Theta won the Fraternity B crown.

Poddy's Team won the Small Fry Division, whipping Phi Epsilon Kappa 41-28. The Fraternity C Division winner was Delta Tau Delta.

**ROYAL GROVE**  
5c DRAWS  
MON-THURS 7-8<sup>30</sup>  
  
THIS WEEK  
MON-THURS  
OEDIPUS  
FRI & SAT  
LAST CHANCE  
340 W CORNHUSKER

**TACO KID**  
  
Today is Burrito Day Again  
**4 Meat Burritos for \$1.00**  
and this weekend Sat. and Sun.  
**6 Tacos for \$1.00**  
  
When hunger hits remember Taco Kid.  
**17th & Van Dorn**

**ALL UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA EMPLOYEES**  
  
**MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd**  
  
7-10 PM  
Love Library Auditorium  
  
**ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT:**  
Employee Classifications      Salary Levels  
Merit Promotions      Fringe & Retirement Benefits  
  
**SO IS NAPE**  
  
**Don't Miss This Opportunity To Hear And To Be Heard!**  
  
\*Nebraska Association of Public Employees  
Sponsors of this meeting