

OSU sluggers invade Lincoln

by Dave Sittler

Coach Tony Sharpe's injury-plagued Nebraska baseball team will make its first home appearance of the season today when powerful Oklahoma State invades Lincoln for a three-game series against the Huskers.

Oklahoma State brings a 5-0 conference record and a 16-1 season's mark into the series which begins with a doubleheader at 1:30 p.m. today and winds-up Saturday with a single contest at 1 p.m.

Nebraska enters the series with the possibility of playing without leading hitter Bob Munson (.370) and first baseman Sam Sharpe.

Both players were injured last week when the Huskers opened their Big Eight conference schedule by taking two of three games against the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

Munson apparently ruptured a lung sliding into second base during the third game at Kansas, while Sharpe is still groggy after being hit in the head by a pitch during the same game.

Sharpe said Thursday that Omaha freshman Norm Glismann would replace Munson in right field and sophomore Dan Ekfelt would take Sharpe's place at first base if necessary.

Coach Chet Bryan's Cowboys are led by strong hitting Dan Massari and a solid pitching staff composed of Harold Tompkins (3-0, 1.72 ERA), Bill Berg (2-0, .55 ERA) and David Lewis (4-0, .70 ERA).

Massari, who is hitting .388 which includes two grand slam home runs this season, was named Big Eight baseball player of the week last Thursday.

Going against such a strong pitching staff without Munson, Sharpe said his squad will have to rely on their pitching and good defense to win against the Cowboys.

"We have to hope for top pitching efforts from Ryan Kurosaki, Terry Redler and Denny O'Doherty if we want to stay in the game with Oklahoma State," Sharpe said.

The Nebraska coach said O'Doherty had regained his spot in the starting pitching rotation after the sophomore from Omaha allowed just one hit in five and two-thirds innings of relief against Kansas.

"O'Doherty will play center field for us in the first two games and then pitch the third contest," Sharpe said. "Norm Glismann or Gary Healey will take over in center field when O'Doherty is pitching."

Nebraska, 5-3-1 overall and 2-1 in the conference will go with the following line-up in today's doubleheader: Dennis Shibata, 2B; Bryant Akisada, SS; Munson or Glismann, RF; Ekfelt or Sharpe, 1B; Rich Sanger, LF; O'Doherty, CF; Jim Smith, 3B; Doak Fowler, C and Kurosaki and Redler, pitchers.

Receivers lauded

Nebraska's pass receiving corps drew praise from football coach Tom Osborne after the Cornhuskers' first spring scrimmage on Wednesday.

Drawing top mention from the Husker head coach were split ends Frosty Anderson and Tim Lackovic.

"All of our receivers have been doing a pretty good job this spring," Osborne said. "But Frosty and Tim impressed me during the scrimmage."

"We expect Frosty to do a good job for us because of his experience," Osborne said of the 175-pound senior. "But Lackovic has impressed me much more than I expected."

The quarterback play of Dave Humm and Steve Runty also pleased Osborne.

"If we have any advantage this year over a year ago, it has to be our experience at quarterback," he said. "Both Runty and Humm did a good job of throwing today."

Osborne said he has decided to move split end Dave Shamblin to wingback even though he thought Shamblin was better suited at split end.

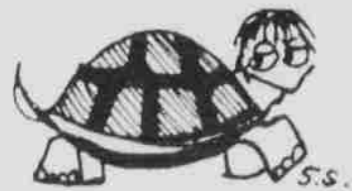
"We have so much experience ahead of Dave at split end that we are trying to find a place for him to play," Osborne said. "He may be out of position a bit, but he's such a fine receiver that we want to give him a chance."

Tony Davis, a sophomore I-back red-shirted because of knee surgery, said his knee is in fine shape now.

I-back Dave Goeller suffered a hip injury early in the scrimmage. Although the injury wasn't considered serious, he sat out the remainder of the practice.

Osborne said that one thing is becoming quite evident to him as spring practice progresses.

"We just don't have as many great players as we had a year ago," he said. "We've got some good players, but you don't have 10 players drafted in the first 11 rounds and then replace them easily."



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