

sports

Pitcher on football full-ride

Randy Benish, a 6 ft. 1 in. 190 lb. junior from Norfolk, attends UNL on a four year full-ride football scholarship. Most people however, don't associate him with Cornhusker football. In fact, Benish's name doesn't even appear on a football roster.

He doesn't practice spring ball with the team either. He practices west of the football practice field on the baseball diamond.

Benish is a pitcher on the UNL baseball team and is probably the only university athlete on scholarship for a sport he isn't in.

Football scholarship

Benish was offered a football scholarship from Nebraska when he was a senior at Norfolk High School in 1972. He played freshman football for UNL the following fall as a defensive cornerback.

He was red shirted as a freshman, but during spring football practice a hereditary back problem was aggravated and it was determined that he would be unable to play any more football.

becky morgan jock talk

Benish isn't bothered by not playing football. "The only time I miss it," he said, "is on Saturday afternoons. I like baseball better."

"Sure I was disappointed," Benish said. "But I decided to direct my entire efforts toward baseball since I'd planned to play some college baseball anyway."

Remained on scholarship

The following spring Benish went out and worked his way into the pitching rotation while remaining on football scholarship.

Technically Benish would be on a baseball full-ride due to the loss of his football scholarship.

"It was easier not to make the switch," he said. "It saved a lot of red tape."

Benish is a righthander, throwing a fast ball most of the time.

On the team's spring trip to Oklahoma and Arkansas, Benish pitched eleven innings. He was credited with a win against Arkansas, and his record currently stands at 1-1.

Benish would like to play professional

baseball for four or five years after college before settling down, he said. He is a marketing major.

Playing better

Benish said this year the team is more unified and played better than last year, especially on the last leg of the spring tour.

"It really hurt us to get rained out at Kansas because we were ready to play. I think we could have swept the (three-game) series. That would have given our confidence a boost."

"I hope we can take two of three games from any Big 8 teams we play," he added.

Benish's wish was granted Saturday. Good pitching and power hitting helped Nebraska sweep a doubleheader from OSU 3-2 and 7-4. The two games were played on the UNL diamond and opened up the Husker's Big 8 season.

Haas triple

In the first game with the score tied 2-2, UNL centerfielder Paul Haas tripled with one out in the bottom of the seventh. Third baseman Dick Anderson followed with a single to score Haas and gave the Huskers the win.

Boyd Battenhorst, a junior righthander from Blair, got credit for the win. Battenhorst relieved freshman lefthander Nagel in the fourth inning. He finished the game without giving up a hit to Oklahoma State University (OSU).

In the second game, relief pitching by freshman lefthander Jerry Yingling and two-run home runs by shortstop Bryant Akisada and designated hitter Steve McManaman allowed the Huskers to make up a 4-0 deficit.

Benish started the game for Nebraska giving up two singles, two walks and three runs in the first inning. He was relieved by Battenhorst until the third when Yingling took over.

4-8 record

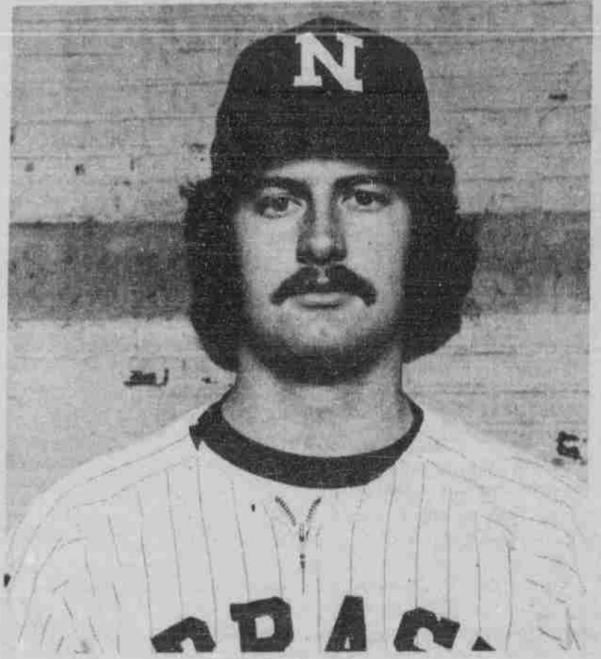
OSU added another run in the second to make the score 4-0.

Nebraska scored two runs in their half of the second inning on Akisada's home run.

The Huskers exploded for three runs in the bottom of the fourth when Fowler doubled with one out and scored on a single by Akisada. McManaman, then smashed a pitch over the left field fence to put Nebraska ahead 6-4.

"We played the way we should," said Tony Sharpe, head coach. "I don't want to single out anybody particularly because the whole team played well."

Nebraska is now 2-0 in the Big 8 and 4-8 overall.



Randy Benish

New linebackers young but talented

By Pete Wegman

At least one thing seems certain about Nebraska's linebackers for next fall: the Huskers won't have a linebacking trio like Tom Ruud, Bob Nelson and John Starkebaum drafted into the pro football ranks.

In fact, according to linebacking coach Bill Myles, the Husker squad going through drills this spring won't have a single linebacker picked by the pros next year.

However, that is not because of any lack of talent in the linebacking area, Myles said following Saturday's practice and scrimmage session in Memorial Stadium.

"We just don't have any senior linebackers; these kids are going to be around for a while," he said.

Replacing the top three linebackers from last fall's Husker team will be quite a task, Myles admits. The 14 or 15 candidates for the weak- and strong-side linebacker positions are all good athletes according to Myles.

"The problem is getting the better ones to rise to the top quickly, so we can start getting them ready to play for us next fall," Myles said.

Pulled muscle

Sophomore letterman Percy Eichelberger, who has as much experience as any linebacking candidate, pulled a muscle on the first play of spring practice last Monday and hasn't played since, according to Myles. Also, freshman linebacker Joe Dervin was injured in Saturday's scrimmage.

Following the scrimmage Saturday and the first week of practice, Myles said the linebacking positions "are still wide open."

He cited Eichelberger and Dervin, along with freshmen Jeff Carpenter, Steve Lindquist, Jim Wightman and Larry Young; and sophomores Jim Belka, Randy Lessman and Cletus Pille as the top candidates for the two open positions.

Sour note

Saturday's scrimmage began on a sour note for the number one Blackshirt defensive unit. Last year the longest run for a touchdown against the Blackshirts was 21 yards.

Saturday, on the Blackshirts' first scrimmage play of spring practice, second-team offensive back Dave Gillespie burst through the middle of the Blackshirt defense for what Monte Kiffin, head defensive coordinator, called "about a 90-yard touchdown."

One bright spot of the scrimmage session was freshman Curtis Craig. Craig, a high school All-American from Iowa, scored one touchdown on a pass reception while picking up good yardage on the ground. Craig operated out of the I-back position while alternating between the third and fourth teams.

Saturday's session was not entirely a scrimmage as was originally planned, since weather forced cancellation of one practice last week. The team will run through a full-scale scrimmage session at 3 p.m. today in Memorial Stadium.

sports shorts

UNL's gymnastic team finished fifth in the NCAA championships in Terre Haute, Ind., last weekend, California won the title.

Top individuals for the Huskers were all-arounder Gene Mackie (fourth in the all-around), Pete Studenski (fifth in the still rings) and Jim Unger (fifth in vaulting).

Coach Francis Allen was quoted by the Lincoln Journal as saying the big thing was

everybody knew the team was there, and he wondered how well they could have done if they hadn't had to compete late Thursday night after a snow storm delayed them for 27 hours in Chicago.

The Huskers were almost disqualified because of the delay, but coaches at the meet decided to let the team perform compulsories once they arrived.

After a single game with Oklahoma State Sunday, the UNL baseball team hosts Buena Vista today for a doubleheader at 1:30 p.m.

Play will begin Tuesday in the UNL intramural horseshoe doubles and golf.

Play in Co-Rec golf and archery and women's archery also begins Thursday. For further information call the Recreation Office, 472-3467.

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