

Former prep star joins Husker staff

By Rob Barney

At age 30, John Sanders is coming home. Sanders is UNL's new assistant baseball coach working for head coach Tony Sharpe. He replaces Bob Gates, who became the head coach at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Twelve years ago, Sanders graduated from Grand Island High School as one of the most celebrated athletes in Nebraska prep history.

He was an all-state football quarterback, an all-state basketball forward and a gold medalist and state record holder in the discus.

Prep award was accomplishment

For his accomplishments, Sanders was named 1964 Nebraska Prep Athlete of the Year by the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal-Star.

But the reason Sanders is back in Nebraska is baseball. He was a pitcher-outfielder for the Grand Island American Legion team. In 1964, fresh out of high school, Sanders signed a professional baseball contract as an outfielder with the old Kansas City A's.

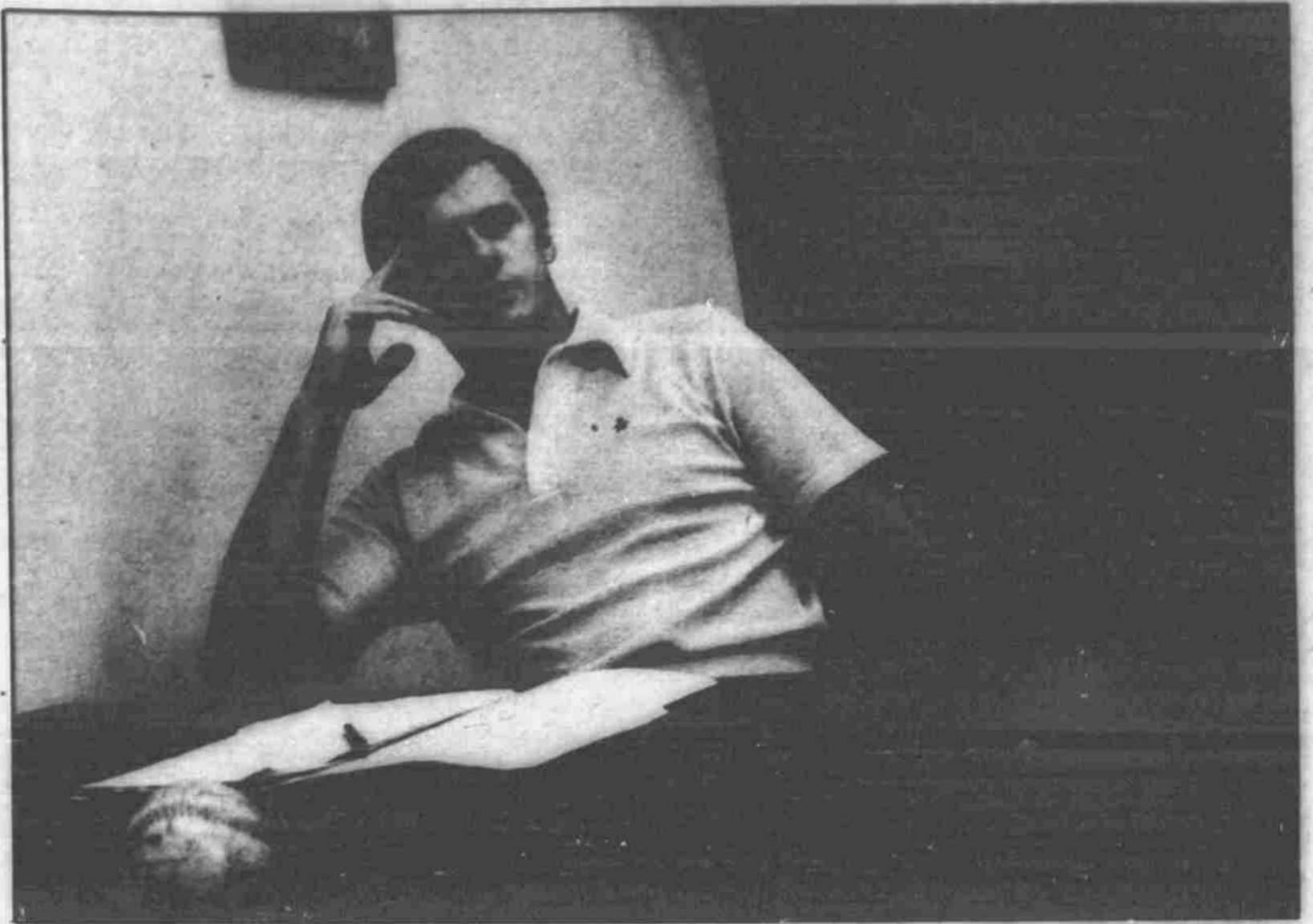
In 1965, Sanders made it to the majors for a couple of months, coming up with the A's right out of spring training. Sanders moved around in the minor leagues through 1968. Then he retired.

"While my career was too short," Sanders said, "it was a rewarding experience which has allowed me to compare techniques and philosophies of major and amateur baseball."

After retiring from professional baseball, Sanders attended Northern Colorado University in Greeley, Colo. There he met his wife, Marilee. They have two children, a daughter, Janie, 8, and a son, John Craig, 4.

Sanders was winning coach

In 1974, Sanders was an assistant coach at Arizona



John Sanders, assistant baseball coach

Photo by Scott Svoboda

Western Junior College (AWJC) in Yuma Ariz. when the team went 12-28.

Last year, he was elevated to head coach and the team went 24-15, playing in the conference playoffs.

"Looking at the overall goals—personal, family and professional—we feel the change and opportunity at Nebraska is outstanding," said Sanders.

Head coach Sharpe said he is pleased to have Sanders. "John has a good baseball background. We're happy to have him," Sharpe said.

'Young coach needed'

"He's young, and let's face it, I don't have too many years left," said Sharpe, who is 60 years old.

Sanders' appointment became effective Aug. 16. His duties include teaching a baseball class.

"The baseball class is open to everyone," Sanders said. "We want to generate interest in baseball."

Another duty for Sanders is recruiting. He has recruited three players for UNL, including outfielder Tim Carroll, who played for him at AWJC.

'Knowing coaches beneficial'

"In my two years in Arizona I came to know a lot of

the coaches," he said. "I think this will be beneficial in our recruiting. Hopefully, we can work out some working agreements."

Sanders would like to establish team meetings with the players to exchange ideas and talk baseball.

A "we" team attitude will be the main goal for coaches Sharpe and Sanders this year, they said.

"First we have to get the players to believe in themselves," Sanders said. "Then we have to get players to believe in what we're doing. We have to demonstrate to the players that we are dedicated to achieving team goals."

sports shorts

A meeting of all intramural managers will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union small auditorium. Any organization, residence hall floor, fraternity, sorority or student group planning to participate in intramural sports during the 1976-77 school year should send a representative to the meeting.

Items to be discussed include a calendar of events, program procedures, eligibility and rule changes, facility review and employment opportunities.

Entries for intramural softball are due Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Recreation Office, 1740 Vine St. A \$7 entry fee must accompany each entry.

Play will begin Sept. 7. For additional information contact Gale Wiedow, coordinator of Program Planning-Intramurals at 472-3467.

A Nebraska all-star team, comprised of students from UNL's women's basketball team, completed a sweep of a three-game weekend series with the Quebec National team, defeating the Canadians 46-40 on Sunday.

Sophomore center Jan Crouch led the Nebraska team with 15 points while senior guard Kathy Hawkins and junior forward Sherry Brink tossed in 12 and ten points, respectively.

Helen McAuley's ten points paced the Quebec team while teammates Debbie Huband and Linda MacPherson added six each.

George Nicodemus, coach of the Nebraska all-stars, said he thought his team played its best game Friday against the Quebec team, winning 59-37.

He said his team had three days of practice prior to the series, adding that he only had time to install one offensive pattern.

"After the first game, they (Quebec) picked up our offense," Nicodemus said. "We've improved individually but we're in terrible condition."

Nicodemus said 14 women played for the Nebraska all-stars, six of whom will be newcomers to UNL's basketball program this year.

Any woman attending UNL and intending to try out for one of the nine intercollegiate sports available to women should attend a meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in the second floor theatre room of the South Stadium office.

The women's coaches will be introduced at the meeting and the practice times for each sport will be distributed.

Women interested in playing field hockey for UNL this fall should attend tryouts being held today, Thursday and Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Women's Physical Education (WPE) Bldg.

Finals tryouts for UNL's volleyball team are being held this week. All women interested should report to WPE 313 at 3:30 p.m. today, Thursday and Friday.

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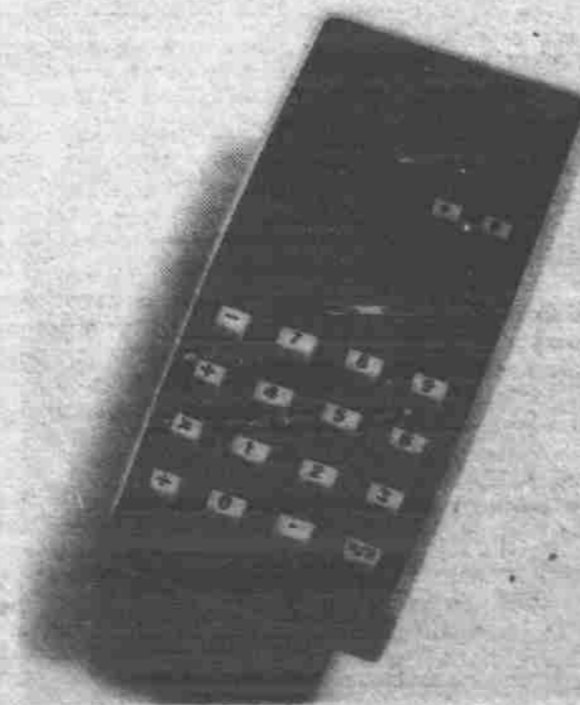
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