

sports

UNL baseball heads west with 10 wins under belt

By Paul Huscher

Nebraska's baseball team finished its five-day, 10-game homestand Thursday with a pair of wins over the University of South Dakota.

The Huskers pushed their record to 10-0 beating the Coyotes 9-0 and 6-0 in cool Nebraska weather.

Hopefully, Coach John Sanders' team will not have to worry about the cold weather as they travel to California to play Pepperdine University Saturday.

Nebraska relied on five-run first inning bursts in both games.

In the first game centerfielder Joe

Scherger's two-run homer highlighted the five-run, six-hit inning. Scherger added a triple in the second inning as he led the Huskers with four runs batted in.

Rightfielder Steve Oakley and co-captain John Russo each collected two hits in three at bats. Both Huskers scored after hitting doubles.

Sophomore pitcher, Tim Burke (2-0) won the game, throwing five innings of one-hit ball. He finished with eight strikeouts and walked three Coyote hitters.

Burke said he felt good despite the cold weather.

"It was kind of chilly out there," he said. "My forearm stiffened up so Gary

(Nolting) came in to finish the job." Nolting threw two innings of no-hit ball to save the game.

Sanders said Nolting, Burke and the second game's winning pitcher, freshman Mike Harlander were given game balls for pitching shutouts.

Pete O'Brien also received a game ball for his three-run homer in the first inning of the second game.

O'Brien, a junior from Pebble Beach, Calif. slammed South Dakota pitcher Russ Dokken's pitch to knock in Jeff Hunter and co-captain Val Primante.

Steve Oakley added two more hits and third baseman Hunter had two hits to

help Harlander win his first game of the 1979 season.

Harlander completed the seven-inning game allowing only three hits while striking out nine South Dakota batters.

Sanders said he was pleased with the week, which included ten games against three different teams.

"The objective of the week was to get some games in and to give the guys some playing time," he said.

The Huskers suffered no injuries and will go to California undefeated.

Sanders said the upcoming two-week trip to California and Hawaii will help Nebraska prepare for this year's 20 game Big Eight season.

Huskers on deck awaiting California, Hawaii sluggers

By Sara Martens

Like the little kid down the street asking your brother to come out and play, baseball Coach John Sanders also has been trying to set up a game.

The question has been, "Can USC come out and play?" as Sanders tries to arrange a game with the defending college champions during the UNL team's California trip.

The Huskers left this morning for a six-day, nine-game stand in California, to be followed by the Rainbow Easter Tournament in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sanders said a game with USC would make the Huskers already difficult schedule very demanding.

The team also is scheduled to meet Cal. State-Fullerton and Cal. State-Dominique Hills, Chapman College, and La Verne and Pepperdine Universities.

These teams may not be from large schools but they are excellent in baseball, said Ray Tromba, a junior transfer from UCLA.

After the California games, the Huskers will meet, among others, the University of Hawaii, currently 26-1 on the season, and Tokai, Japan, the Japanese National Champions.

The two week trip is scheduled to help the Huskers get all the kinks out before beginning their Big Eight schedule on April 7.

Sanders said the idea behind the California trip is to face tough competition, so

that no team on the conference schedule will pose a more difficult challenge.

"We have made a commitment to be competitive in our league," Sanders said.

Playing the California teams will help the Huskers accomplish this, he said.

"We need to play someone who is good, someone who has played a lot. If this doesn't get us ready, nothing will. We could certainly have picked an easier schedule," he said.

The Huskers will arrive in California with a ten-game home schedule behind them.

Even though they have not played powerhouse teams, Sanders said the games have allowed the team to adjust to playing outdoors.

"We needed to have a chance to break loose here, before we break loose against some of the top teams in the country," he said.

Six team members are California natives, and for them the trip has an added bonus: a free trip home.

"It's going home. I'll be playing in front of people I've always played for, but in a Nebraska uniform this time," Tromba said.

Tromba will play against old friends and former opponents, which will be slightly easier since he knows what to expect from them, he said.

"These guys are good but they are not supermen," he said.

Tromba is scheduled to pitch the first game on the tour against Pepperdine.

"I don't feel I really have to prove any-

thing to anyone back there, but I'll be ready. I can already feel the butterflies," he said.

How well will the Huskers fare against some of the top teams in the country?

No one is making any win-loss predictions for the trip, but Sanders said the Huskers will be able to play with the Eastern teams.

"We will be competitive. We're not going to punish ourselves by going out there and losing."

"We may be bruised when we return,

but we'll play tough so we are at the right stage of development when we open league play."

Players share Sanders' confidence about the trip, even though many of them are not familiar with California and even less familiar with the California players.

"I have never seen these other teams. We will have to go on confidence and potential. We've played with and against a lot of talented people, and we have a respectable team, but it's not going to be easy," said Joe Scherger, Husker center fielder.

Women's tennis team plays first match against KSU

After almost five months of practice, the Nebraska women's tennis team will meet Kansas State's women in today's noon match at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The team began practicing in early October and since January has been helped by first-year Coach Mark Ziegenbein. A 1976 graduate, Ziegenbein is the resident professional at the Lincoln Racquet Club Ltd.

"I'm still learning about the program here and getting myself oriented," Ziegenbein said. "I haven't had much of a chance to look at area and Big Eight competition yet, but I think even though we are young, we have a real strong chance of having a good team this year."

The team should be able to win Friday's match, he said.

Sound players

"We are in what can be called a rebuilding year, since we lost a lot of the girls of the team that won the Big Eight two years and tied for the conference honors last year," he said. "Even though we lost some of those people, we have had some sound players come in."

Ziegenbein said he has confidence in his newcomers.

"In fact, it is too bad that the Big Eight has ruled that you can only suit up seven in competition. We have nine on the roster and I would like to use them all," he added.

Three returning members and one transfer student have earned the top four positions on this year's squad.

Ziegenbein said junior Sue Sloboth will be the number one singles player. Following Sloboth are sophomore Judy Hueter, senior Dee Pavelka and freshman transfer student Sue Moore. The remaining team members are juniors Sue Bauers and Laurie Illis; and freshmen Carrie Schmitz, Cindy Krager and Penny Tourtellot. Sloboth said she is anxious and optimistic about the season.

Good year

"Finally we are going to get a meet. I don't know how the year will go, but I think we have a very good shot at being successful," she said. "Although four of the nine players are freshmen, we have had some good people coming in."

Sloboth added that the team is close knit and has a good attitude about the season.

The UNL women actually had a match with the Kansas State women on Feb. 9, when the men visited KSU.

"It was kind of an unofficial meet, a team-tennis-type affair," she said. "Although it didn't count for anything, we bumped off their women. I think it's important to get a victory over a Big Eight team early."

The team's second home match will be March 21 against UNO at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

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