

# Baseball team to go to bat with five returning lettermen

By Sara Martens

The Huskers have lost a number of key players from last year's baseball team which proved to be the best in Nebraska history. The 1979 Huskers compiled a 48-13 record before being eliminated from the NCAA Northeast regional tournament in the semifinal round.

Gone to the pro draft is junior first baseman Pete O'Brien, and seniors, catcher Val Primante, second baseman John Russo, designated hitter Bob Gebler and pitchers Tim Pettit and Jeff Costello. But this is far from a rebuilding year for the Huskers as they return five lettermen to go with six prep recruits and five junior college transfers.

"Coach Sanders has had another fine recruiting year. The pro draft contested Nebraska for the players we wanted, not other colleges," said Joe Scherger, a three year letterman for the Huskers who was selected to the All-Big Eight, All-Big Eight tournament and All-Big Eight academic teams.

The Husker recruits include three prep players selected in the pro draft. Pitcher Stan Kyles from Chicago, was chosen in the fourth round by the Chicago Cubs. He went 11-2 his senior in high school with an earned run average of 1.12.

Kyles is joined by another pitcher, Steve Gehrke from Murray, Utah. Gehrke was drafted by the Cubs in the fifth round.

Other recruits include: Steve Stanicek, a first baseman who went in the 16th round to the St. Louis Cardinals, and Nebraska players Steve Hergenrader, a shortstop from Omaha Burke, catcher Nick Richards from Papillion, and Lincoln Southeast standout Mark McManaman, brother of former Husker Steve McManaman. Steve shares the UNL season pitching record of 6-0 in 1977 with Ray Novak, who pitched in 1953.

Junior college players transferring to Nebraska include shortstop Chris Chavez, a .377 leadoff hitter for West Los Angeles Junior College. Chavez earned first team All Western State Conference honors.

Rick Evans, a designated hitter-pitcher from El Camino Junior College, has been drafted three times in his baseball career. Last season he hit .353 and was 1-0 with a .60 ERA.

Another former pro draft choice to join the Huskers is catcher Mark Haley, who was Santa Barbara Junior College's most valuable player, hitting .326.

Two more junior college transfers, Tim Sinovich, two-year starting catcher at Central Arizona State and Mark Prior, shortstop from Mt. San Antonio College, complete Nebraska's recruiting list.

Adding the recruits to the returning Huskers, Scherger predicts another successful year.

"I'm going to go out there, have fun playing ball, and win the Big Eight."

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