

sports

Baseball team leads early, sweeps doubleheader

By Pat Clark and Jeff Goodwin

The Nebraska baseball team raised its record to 6-0 for the season yesterday, sweeping a doubleheader against Benedic-

tine College by 10-6 and 8-4 scores at Buck Beltzer Field.

"It wasn't a work of art, but you have days like that," said Coach John Sanders of the performance of the ninth-rated

Huskers. "Looking over the whole situation, we saw some good things."

The Huskers took an early lead in the first game, scoring three runs in the first inning off Benedictine starter Mike Van Gaasbeek. Shortstop Chris Chavez reached base on an error by Benedictine right fielder Les Hubble. He scored on a triple by Mark Prior, who later scored when Roger Hill doubled to center.

"We expect good things from our players offensively," said Sanders of the Huskers' success at the plate.

Benedictine tied the score in the second when designated hitter Joe Pellegrino cranked a three-run home run to right center field off winning pitcher Steve Gehrke.

The Huskers iced the victory by scoring four runs in the third inning and two more in the fourth. Designated hitter Rick Evans and the catcher Mark Haley sparked the attack with back-to-back doubles in the third inning.

The Huskers scored early again in the second game, with three runs in the first inning. The Huskers loaded the bases on a walk and two singles. Benedictine pitcher Tom Gieseke then walked first baseman Steve Stanicek, allowing a run to score. Designated hitter Tim Sinovich then singled to right, driving in two more runs.

Benedictine came back to score two runs in the second and scored two more in the fourth off winning pitcher Mike Harlander to go ahead. Outfielder Rich Suazo doubled to lead off the inning and was driven in by Kevin Bachkora's single. Bachkora advanced to second on a passed ball and scored on a single by catcher Tom Niemann.

Rightfielder Mark McManaman tied the game with a leadoff homer in the fourth inning. After that it was all Nebraska as the Huskers went on to score four more runs in the fifth to wrap up the victory.

Nebraska plays a doubleheader with Augustana 1:30 Friday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field.

UNL gymnasts test Aggies

The UNL women's gymnastics team will be hosting Utah State Sunday at 2 p.m.

Utah State is ranked ninth in the nation. Coach Judy Schalk said the Aggies best performer is former Australian national champion, Juanita Lynch.

Although Utah State will be a tough meet, Schalk said, the team is hoping to score the best that they've done all season.

"Our goal is 140," Schalk said. "That's a big jump over the past. It might be overly optimistic, but we're shooting for the regionals."

Schalk doesn't feel any one team member will "outshine" the others.

"It will be pretty much a team effort," Schalk said. "Each girl has worked up to her potential. We're spending more time on evaluations and on routines," she added.

After the meet with Utah State the team will be preparing for regionals, Schalk said UNL is at an advantage this weekend going against a top-ranked team.

"A lower caliber team would just drag behind us," Schalk said. "They (Utah State) will pull us toward a better performance, and that's what we need going into the regionals."

Friday the 13th could be an omen of luck

Husker's strength lies in defense led by Unwin

By Ward W. Triplett III

Defense, according to UNL women's basketball Coach Colleen Matsuhara, is the name of the game.

One of those who got the message, according to Matsuhara, is forward-guard Donna Unwin.

Unwin has drawn the toughest defensive jobs nearly every game, and has come away with praise from Matsuhara, as well as rival coaches for the "scrappy, alert, ball" that No. 12 has come to be known by.

After a pivotal win against Missouri that clinched the Huskers a berth in this weekend's regional tournament, Matsuhara took special care to point out Unwin's play.

"I've said all year Donna was our best defensive player, and tonight was no exception," the first-year coach said. "Donna had a great game all around, and made some plays on the other end that really kept our offense going."

Missouri Coach Joan Rutherford added, "Nebraska's

guards did the job when they had to, and No. 12 was giving us problems all night."

Although Unwin herself doesn't make a big deal out of her defensive capabilities, the sophomore from Orange Park, Fla., recognizes defense as her main priority going into the regional competition.

"I think we all have a job to do, and if we all do it, we play well," Unwin said.

"I really don't think I have any one thing I'm best at, but I'm sure the reason I'm starting is because of defense."

Different styles

Unwin began developing her skills with the sport in the half-court, or "Iowa" type of ball, as Unwin put it, in Texas while in sixth grade. It wasn't until moving to Florida in the ninth grade that she began playing the full-court ball that most girls already were accustomed to.

"I didn't like the half-court stuff," Unwin said. "It was all pretty boring. You didn't have much work to do."

Although not a big scorer, Unwin was recruited by several schools, and like roommate Kathy Hagerstrom, was attracted to Nebraska because of the bright picture former Coach Lori Gallagher weaved out of the developing Nebraska program.

"I got a few other offers for full rides, but most of them were small colleges. Nebraska was a major school and Gallagher made it sound real good over the phone, so I thought, why not?"

There was a big difference in the Florida-style ball, and the Midwest ball, but Unwin said she has adjusted well.

Florida's style of play was more run-and-gun, but the Midwest teams ran a pattern offense.

"I like the freedom of running, but I don't like it to get out of hand. So I prefer something kind of in the middle of those," she said.

State basketball invasion underway, stolen fight songs are sure sign

*Here we come, walking down the street
We get the funniest looks from everyone we meet
Hey Hey we're a pep club!
We just keep pepping along
In letter jackets and pom-poms
We hellow out our school fight song
We try to look uptown
In our purple and white saddle shoes
We just have one little problem
We're too young to buy our own booze.*

kim hachiya

Pun'sutawney Phil move over.

You may have a piece of the national spring forecasting action, but in Nebraska, noble groundhog, you are No. 1. You see, along with warming trends, longer days, and the return of the Sandhills cranes, there exists a flock of people who signal the end of winter is near.

They are called State Tournament Fans. And depending on one's philosophy of life, they can be either amusing, confusing or terrifying.

Unwin credits her defensive ability to Matsuhara, as well as her improvement as a player overall.

"I didn't really notice it, but when we played in Texas, my parents saw me play, and they said I have really gotten better. Colleen's (Matsuhara) really taught me a lot about defense."

High hopes

Going into the final games of the year, Unwin, though disappointed with the team's final regular season record, has high hopes for the regionals.

"I think if we play like we can, we have a good shot at being number one or two."

The Huskers have split home-court victories with their first-round opponent Missouri, but Unwin said she sees an omen of luck and personal motivation as good signs for a win.

"We play them on Friday the 13th, and the last time we played them was also a Friday the 13th, and I had my best game of the year. I don't know why. It was a big game, for the division championship and all, and I really had my head in it."

As for the future, Unwin is planning to marry Husker men's basketball assistant Mike Medill, and it is "almost definite Mike won't find a coaching job in Lincoln," Unwin said.

"It's sad. It seems like we just got started as a team and all, but I've got my own way to go."

Wherever the couple ends up, Unwin said she plans to finish her next two years of eligibility.

"I have a lot of mixed emotions going into this game," Unwin said.

Both she and senior Carla Saveri were presented with framed team and individual pictures at a gathering after the Arizona State game as going away presents.

"But, I will probably go out and give it my all, because I know I have to, and it will be my last shot here."



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Donna Unwin (12)