

Die-hard Cards fans gamble on brewing trouble

Barring another rainout in Busch Stadium, the World Series will have been decided when you read this.

Either the Milwaukee Brewers or the St. Louis Cardinals are now the world champions of baseball.

And probably, not many people in Nebraska will even care. But those baseball-loving, never-give-up Cardinal fans



Bill Allen

in the state will care.

Yes, as I write this Blair Swing and Gary Uetrecht have no idea who won the Series. This column went to print before the Series was over.

Both are UNL students, both are juniors and both are hard-core Cardinal fans.

After the Cardinals won Tuesday night, forcing the Series into seven games, the two were very optimistic about a Cardinal victory.

That's why, depending upon the outcome of the Series, their comments in this column will make them look like great sages of baseball . . . or total idiots.

"I read what that other columnist (Jeff Goodwin) had to say about the Series last week," Uetrecht said. "He

predicted Milwaukee would win it in the seventh game. Well, I think he's . . ."

Some things are better left unsaid.

Today, we know who was right.

Uetrecht said he was born in St. Louis and has lived there all his life. He said his dad was even offered a pitching contract by the Cards when he was younger but he turned it down and got married.

"He's often regretted that decision," Uetrecht said. He didn't elaborate and I didn't ask. It's funnier this way.

Yesterday his dad turned 43. Uetrecht said the Cards winning the World Series will be his birthday present.

Swing, who says he's been a Cardinal fan since they were in the Series back in 1968, has a perfect system for determining the winner.

"Look at it this way," he said, "Milwaukee won the first game. That was no big deal. Then the Cardinals won two in a row. Then the Brewers won two in a row. Now it's time for the Cardinals to win two in a row again."

With logic like that the man should live in Las Vegas. Jimmy the Greek, move over.

Besides, Swing said he's got \$7 bet on the game.

"That's seven dollars I can't afford to lose right now, too," he said.

It's heartwarming to see someone sacrifice so much for their team.

I'm not saying these are the only Card fans on campus.

Dick Streckfuss, a journalism professor, says he's been a fan of the redbirds since 1942.

"When it comes down to the nitty-gritty, the seventh game," he said, "you can count on Brecheen and Musial to come through."

I didn't have the heart to tell him those players retired years ago.

But getting back to reality, Streckfuss said that Tuesday morning he didn't expect the Cards to win, but after they won the sixth game he changed his mind.

Of course, by now we all know whether these fans were right or wrong.

Either way, both Swing and Uetrecht agree that it has been the best Series they have ever seen.

"A lot of good defense," Swing said, despite the 10-0 win for the Brewers in the first game and the 31-1 rout by the Cardinals in the sixth.

Neither one worries about getting a hard time from friends if their team loses, either.

"I'll just stay in bed all day Thursday if they do lose," said Swing.

Of course, if the game was rained out last night, all this won't mean anything until tomorrow morning, except for the Cardinal fans.

Women swimmers may be best ever

By Mark Krause

A smile broke across Nebraska women's swimming and diving Coach Ray Huppert's face as he talked about this year's team.

"Without a question, this could be the best team we have ever had," said Huppert, who enters his seventh year as coach.

Ten newcomers join 16 returning swimmers from last year's team, which finished 20th in the NCAA meet.

Sherri Hayward, Jane Meyer and Melody Barker return as "proven athletes," Huppert said. Hayward, a three-time all-American, had a "great summer" swimming in international competition, Huppert said. Meyer, who scored in every event she swam in last year as a freshman, should be tough in freestyle events. Barker, who swam only the second half of last season for the Huskers, is an "outstanding swimmer," the coach said.

Huppert said he is excited about his new recruits. Cathy Heisler, Julie Lammel and Kim Walden solidify the breaststroke event, he said. That was a weak event for the Huskers last year. Michelle Brochner, Shauna Gilmore and Emily Ricketts were high school all-Americans and also are outstanding swimmers, he said.

Huppert called the Husker divers the best in the conference, and all return from last year. Marcia Heaton, Wendy Lucero, Cathy Lundy, Ann Biggs, Stacy Porter and Heidi Sloth will be joined by Vicky Hawkins, a junior college transfer and the lone newcomer to Coach Jeff Huber's diving team.

The Huskers must stay healthy this year, Huppert

said, but injuries already have hit the team. Brochner is recovering from a knee injury. Tamara Sullivan has had shoulder surgery and her sister, Rene, is still hampered by a shoulder problem that has bothered her for the last two years, he said.

"We hope that we are getting all the injuries out of the way," he said.

A schedule labeled by Huppert as "challenging" begins Nov. 6 with a home meet against Kansas. He pointed out that a Big Eight team has not defeated the Jayhawks in a dual since 1978.

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The Corncobs will sponsor a pep rally Friday for the Missouri-Nebraska football game. The rally will be south of the East Union, beginning at 6 p.m.

The UNL men's varsity four crew team will compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta Sunday at Boston. The meet is the largest single-day race in the world and will include crews from all over the United States, Canada and Europe.

Nebraska's Brad Kuhn also will race in the single shell event at the meet.

Kickoff for Saturday's football game against Missouri in Memorial Stadium has been moved to 2:50 p.m. to accommodate a regional telecast by ABC.

The Husker volleyball team will meet Oklahoma Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Coliseum.

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