



Staff photo by Craig Andrasen

Nebraska's Mark Davis slides into home, scoring Nebraska's third run in Saturday's first game of a double-header with Oklahoma. Davis scored following Ray Hayward's wild pitch.

Cornhuskers lose last two of four-game series with OU

By Jeff Buettner

The Oklahoma Sooners turned things around on the Nebraska Cornhusker Sunday at Buck Beltzer Field, sweeping a double-header to gain a split in the four-game series.

After taking two from the Sooners on Saturday, the Huskers had a chance to move into first place in the Big Eight by winning both games Sunday. The Sooners wouldn't cooperate, winning the first game 4-3 in 10 innings and dumping the Huskers 10-5 in the second game.

The Sooners scored the winning run in the first game after shortstop Craig Reid reached base on a muffed pop-up by right fielder Jeff Carter. Reid stole second and scored on catcher Jeff Kaye's two-out single to left field.

The Sooners scored first in the second inning on Paul Williams' fifth home run of the year, but the Huskers countered with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Ben Amaya doubled to the base of the center field fence to drive in one run and catcher Bill McGuire bounced a single through the left side of the infield to drive in Amaya.

The Sooners tied it at two with a run in the third and went ahead by one on third baseman Jay Searcy's two-out single.

In the Huskers' half of the inning, Carter's sacrifice fly to shallow left scored McGuire, who had walked, and the score was even again after five.

The Huskers had a chance to win the game in the ninth when Amaya ripped his second double of the game into right center field, but he was stranded on second. In the tenth, the Huskers loaded the bases with two outs, but centerfielder Mark Davis fouled to the catcher for the final out.

Anthony Kelley started on the mound for the Huskers, but was tagged for 12 hits in six and one-third innings. He was

relieved by Jeff Koenigsman, 3-2, who took the loss.

"We played three outstanding ball games and won two," Husker coach John Sanders said. "We had the possibility to win three of them and we didn't do it."

"They saw some cracks and they capitalized — they're a good team. When we had (Sooner starting and winning pitcher Bruce) Hinze strung out we couldn't capitalize. With a few different turns, we could have won a couple more games."

The Sooners jumped off to a 2-0 lead in the second game and never trailed. It was 3-0 before first baseman Dan Boever and McGuire each drilled run-scoring doubles in the third inning to make it 3-2.

Oklahoma pushed across two more runs in the fourth on four hits, but the Huskers matched the two runs in the bottom of the inning, capitalizing on a two-base throwing error.

Then the wheels fell off the Huskers' rally wagon in the fifth inning. With two outs, Sooner left fielder Ron Leon singled and five batters later the score was 10-4. Oklahoma's first baseman Bob Straight's two-run triple into the right field corner was the big blow.

The winning pitcher was Keith Hamilton, who entered the game in the third inning and pitched two and two-thirds innings. The loser was Husker starter Bob Sebra, 5-1, who gave up three runs in two innings of work. Husker pitchers were also hurt by five errors.

"That fourth game was a crazy ball game," Sanders said. "They scored five runs after two were out, and that was the difference. We weren't flat or over-confident from yesterday, but our execution was bad. When that happens, it's tough to overcome."

"Our hitters were less aggressive today. They didn't deliver the punch when we needed it."

The losses dropped the Huskers to 8-6 in the Big Eight and 38-6 overall. The Sooners move to 12-4 and 28-15.

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