

Sports

Beta Theta Pi beats Jamokes

By Kirk Zebolsky

Five runs in the top of the third inning propelled Beta Theta Pi to an 11-3 win against the Jamokes Tuesday night in the finals of the all-university intramural slow-pitch softball tournament.

Beta Theta Pi had only one error in their second university championship. They held the Jamokes under ten runs — the second time this season a team has stopped the Jamokes under ten.

"Our defense up the middle was really good," said Beta Theta Pi manager Dan Bunde, "and you've got to be able to field in softball."

The Jamokes' defense made many mistakes, and Beta Theta Pi took advantage of them.

"That's the way we played all year, but you can't win any ballgame with three runs," said Jamokes manager Doug Dreesen of his team's defense.

The Jamokes had come from behind in every game this season, Dreesen said including Monday night's quarter-final game, in which they came back from six runs down in the final inning.

"We're a little disappointed that we couldn't win it all, but they hit the ball better than we did," Dreesen said.

Beta Theta Pi was sparked by Dan Woodward, who collected four singles on offense and made two outs with strong throws from his defensive rover

position to first base.

"He plays a lot of summer softball," Bunde said of Woodward. "He knows how to play the game."

The Jamokes scored first with a run in the first inning, adding two more in the bottom of the third.

Beta Theta Pi, after taking the lead 5-1 in the third, added four runs in the fifth, and two in the seventh.

The stage was set for another Jamokes comeback in the bottom of the seventh and final inning, when Joel Ficke led off with a single. Beta Theta Pi's second baseman Larry Lubeck then made a diving snag of Steve Faxon's line drive, and threw to first for the pick-off play.

Beta Theta Pi carried a 10-2 record into the finals, and took second in the fraternity A league.

"We never figured on being here," Bunde said. "We just try to go out and have fun. It's been a total team effort all year."

Dreesen said the Jamokes who compete only in softball, were shooting for the independent B league championship this year. "Anything on top of that is gravy to us," he said.

Dreesen said this was the Jamokes' second year of softball competition.

The Jamokes lost two starters to injuries, including their lead off hitter, in Monday night's tournament games, Dreesen said.



Staff photo by John Zoz

Mike Rozier gets help with his poncho from a young fan late in Nebraska's 69-19 victory against Colorado Saturday.

Participation, pride spur success in intramurals

By Kirk Zebolsky

All-university point standings are supposed to indicate the overall top intramural organization in the fraternity, residence hall and independent leagues at UNL.

The men of Alpha Tau Omega and Abel 11 are familiar with the complicated point systems to determine that champion. During the past three years, the two have been at the top, or near the top of the final standings, and both entered this year as the defending champion in their respective divisions.

"We've started out well already," Joe Heater, intramural chairman for ATO said. "In the team sports in general, we're going to be strong. For just about every event we get participants."

Through five sports this season, ATO is leading the fraternity division, according to intramural director Kendra Schelle. Those sports do not include men's slow-pitch softball, where the ATO B team reached the semi-finals, or men's flag football, where all three ATO teams qualified for the playoffs.

On the residence hall side, Abel Six and Abel 11 are "neck and neck" for the division lead through five sports, Schelle said.

Abel 11 beat out Abel Six 875-622 last year, while ATO outdistanced Beta Theta Pi 1,417-1,289.

Heater said the main factors in the success of ATO are participation, motivation and pride.

"We set it as a goal in the beginning so we have more motivation," he said.

"It's not just a handful of guys that do the job here. We've got the whole house involved," Heater said. "We know how to play together."

As evidence of that, ATO has already won one "Esprit de Corps" event this season in punt, pass and kick. In "Esprit de Corps" events, the winners

aren't the organizations that perform the best, but those that have the most participants.

Heater said ATO, which has won the fraternity league nine out of the last 11 years, has about 50 of 70 members back from last year. The new pledge class is also enthusiastic and fired up about intramurals, he said.

Heater said contrary to what opponents have said, ATO does not recruit athletes.

"We're not a jock house," Heater said. "We're well-rounded guys. We look at it (intramurals) as a break from school."

Abel 11 will have to rely on participation and upperclassman leadership to win another championship according to intramural chairman John Jatzak.

Unlike ATO, the floor does not have many of its main athletes from last year returning.

"About 70 percent of us are freshmen this year, but they want to be winners," Jatzak said. "We've got some really good seniors and juniors from last year who know the ropes and help out the freshmen."

Abel 11 was knocked out of the softball playoffs early, but the two flag football teams made it to the playoffs. The B team played Harper Two in a late game last night, while the A team, which is ranked No. 8 in the last flag football poll, opens its playoff schedule at 4:30 p.m. against Burr One East.

Jatzak said the floor is not getting the participation he had hoped for. Although plenty of people are signing up, he said not all of them are showing up for the events.

Rich Skillett, a senior and former Abel 11 intramural chairman, said one of the floor goals is to have a team in every division of every team sport.

"We've got the trophies from the last two years, and we bring them to the floor meetings," Skillett said. "The trophies have been a big motivation."

Husker record sets mark

Plagued by inner-team turmoil and a disappointing 17-18 record, the UNL softball team experienced what might be termed a rather unpleasant 1983 spring season.

But a new season brought a new team on the field, and under new coach Wayne Daigle, they proved to be a competitive and successful unit. They finished the fall season with 23-5

record, the best fall record in six years.

"I never expected at the beginning of season we would do so well," Daigle said. "With a new coach, a new program, and what the girls went through last year, I really didn't know what to expect. But all the girls were positive and they worked hard."

Small college football receives little press

Editor's Note: This is the second in a five-part series on the range of importance of college football across Nebraska.

Analysis by Jeff Browne

The press contingent at even the most uneventful Nebraska football practice consists of at least six to seven writers from local newspapers.

Football coach Tom Osborne is usually gracious enough to allow a short, impromptu press conference after practice for four or five of those writers. Others are content with chasing down players for interviews.

Once Osborne and his players have told and retold everything they know or don't know about any number of subjects, the writers then hurry to get off yet another story about Mike Rozier's Heisman Trophy chances, the backup quarterbacks, last week's injuries or whatever.

Such is the everyday grind of covering Nebraska football. The change in that routine comes when someone like Douglas Looney of Sports Illustrated visits the campus. But, for Nebraska Sports Information Director Don Bryant, even those occurrences are starting to border on ordinary.

The media blanket which the Huskers both tolerate and enjoy is more like a tarpaulin compared to the relative obscurity in which Nebraska's state college and private university football teams play because of the scant media attention that they get.

Nebraska Wesleyan Sports Information Director Bill Bennet, who used to work for Bryant at UNL, is well aware of the differences in the two programs.

Bennet said at Nebraska, the sports information department would do a bit of obligatory promoting of the team, but normally the team's performance on the field and their prominence in the eyes of the nation made promotion easy.

At Wesleyan, Bennet has fewer responsibilities, he said, but he has had to take a more active role in promotion. For instance, Bennet

mailed a four-page letter to Ara Parseghian at CBS Sports. The letter said Nebraska Wesleyan is in a unique position of being in the same city as UNL and having to almost completely give up any chance at being in the spotlight because of the imminent pressure of the Huskers. It also suggested that Parseghian might want to do a story on the Plainsman football team for national television.

Bennet said it has been easier for Wesleyan to get attention in the Nebraska media this year because they have been nationally ranked. His job, it seems, is more challenging than busy.

Bennet rarely hears requests for press passes, so a student writer's request was accepted quickly and happily. Instead of having to apply for a pass to a game through the mail and presenting credentials at the gate, all one has to do is call.

Peru State College's Vince Henzel is even less informal. Since KAUB radio in Auburn, broadcasts all of the Bobcats' games, Henzel's press box space is limited. But giving out press passes is again as simple as a phone call and a friendly word.

It is adequate to give Henzel a call the morning of the game to obtain a pass. Even apparent trouble rarely comes to anything important.

"I don't see your name here. Are you sure you talked to Mr. Henzel?"

"But I..."

"Just go on in. It doesn't matter."

Don Briggs, the sports information director at Kearney State College, said he is a little more formal about press passes, but still it's no great formality.

Kearney State's press box at Foster Field is also more elaborate than those at Peru's Oak Bowl and at Wesleyan's Magee Stadium. They are all relatively medieval compared to the press box at Memorial Stadium.

The buffets that mark a true major college football press box consist of a couple of colas and maybe a free program, and Sports Illustrated writers are replaced by a guy from the Falls City Journal. But the hospitality of Nebraska's state college and private university athletic departments seem to make up for the lack of earth-shattering importance.

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