

## Minors a 'hit' with NU player

By Kevin McCoy

Some say life in the minors can be tough on a young player aspiring for a crack at the big leagues, but former Nebraska All-American Steve Stanicek has managed to take the situation in stride.

Stanicek, who was selected in the first round of the 1982 draft by the San Francisco Giants, will begin his first season with the Giants AA club in Shreveport, La., when he reports for training camp March 8.

The move up to AA is a promotion from the Giants class A farm club in Fresno, Calif., where Stanicek played last season. There Stanicek hit 17 home runs despite arm trouble which bothered him for the last 65 games of the season. After starting at third and first base, his position at Nebraska, he was relegated to pinch hitting and spot designated hitter work after his arm troubles became apparent.

"My production really fell off during the second half of the season," Stanicek said. "My average was somewhere around .260. But my arm has gone through a lot of rehabilitation since the end of the season and it feels fine now."

Stanicek said he was optimistic towards his chances of making an AAA team and eventually the big leagues.

"I might move up if someone gets hurt or if I perform really well, but I'm going into the season with the attitude I'll be at Shreveport all year," he said.

The differences between college ball and the minors aren't as pronounced as some people would think, he said.

"People talk about the long bus rides and things, but you come to accept them," he said. "I'd also heard there wasn't supposed to be a lot of friendship because of competition between guys, but I've found people get along real well."

Stanicek worked out with the Husker squad this past week in order to prepare for spring training. He said he's been impressed with what he has seen of the team.

"They have a lot more speed than when I used to play, and their pitching has looked good. I think they could have a real good team."

Has Stanicek ever regretted his decision to pass up his senior year at Nebraska?

"Not really," he said. "The money was awfully hard to turn down. I had a good junior season and I didn't know if I could better that my senior year. I felt I'd proved myself in college, and it was time to move on to something new."

"I think it looks real positive now towards my getting to the big leagues, so I plan to participate in baseball as long as I can."

## Baseball champs favored to repeat

Second in a series detailing Big Eight baseball. By Scott Ahlstrand

No matter how you add it up, the Oklahoma State baseball team seems to be loaded with talent.

The Cowboys, returning Big Eight champions, are ranked No. 2 in the nation in pre-season polls.

Oklahoma State opened the 1984 season by sweeping Pac-10 power Arizona in a three-game series at Tucson, Ariz.

While Coach Gary Ward said he was pleased with the high pre-season ranking, he placed little stock in it.

"Somebody has to be put up there and we take it as a compliment," Ward said. "It's really based on past performance and success. I don't know how accurate of a ranking it is, but it does make the conference look good."

The Cowboys return several experienced players, but Ward said there are some question marks.

"We've got our share of unknowns," he said. "Right now we don't know how deep our pitching staff is going to be, and we're also not sure if we'll have enough team speed to be a good running team."

Ward said established pitchers, overall maturity and good team power are strengths for the Cowboys.

Among the top returning Cowboys is pre-season All-American Dennis Livingston. Livingston was 15-3 last year with a 3.00 ERA and a staff-leading 180 strikeouts. Livingston also had three saves.

Oklahoma State's pitching staff is rounded out with Gary Kanwisher, John Farrell and John Duval. Mike Henneman should see extensive duty as a relief pitcher Ward said.

Seven of the starting eight non-pitchers lettered for the Cowboys last year. Center fielder Doug Daszenzo, a transfer from Florida College is the only newcomer.

Ward said the Cowboys' outfield should be a strong point for the team. Right fielder Pete Incaviglia leads the power charge for Oklahoma State. Incaviglia hit .371 last year and belted 23 home runs while driving in 78 runs.

Playing left field for the Cowboys will be Scott Wade, with Daszenzo in center field.

Oklahoma State's opening day lineup had Brad Bell (first base), Randy Whisler (second base), Kevin Fowler (third base) and Gary Green (shortstop) in the infield. Carlos Diaz was the starting catcher, and Mike Day handled the designated hitters duties.

The Cowboys lost All-American catcher Robbie Wine to professional baseball. The loss of Wine, two other players and freshman recruit Eddi Lopez could affect the team's depth, Ward said.

Ward said the mild February weather has helped Oklahoma State.

"We've been able to play almost 100 innings of intrasquad baseball with the cooperation of the weather, so we've been very fortunate."

## Applications available for football tickets

Applications are now available for student season football tickets for the 1984 season.

Current full-time students who plan to be full-time students again next fall may pay for and reserve student football tickets for their spouse and themselves March 6 through 9.

Tickets for students are \$42. Spouse tickets are \$90. Each ticket must be paid for separately by check or cash, and must be accompanied by a current student ID.

Group sections of as many as 100 tickets may be reserved during that time. A representation of the group must have all IDs and checks with him when he requests the block.

Tickets bought during the March lottery can be picked up next fall from Sept. 4 through 7. If a student misses the March lottery, he may still buy a ticket during the summer until Aug. 28.

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