

Sports



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska shortstop Jeff Carter slides safely into second as the ball eludes Maverick second baseman Bill Lynam.

UNL, Mavericks have standoff, split double-header in Lincoln

By Mona Z. Koppelman and Jeff Browne

Like Sisyphus and the proverbial stone, the University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks seemed destined to be bowled over by the 10th-ranked UNL baseball team.

The Mavs lost the first game of Monday's double-header 8-0 and in the process picked up just two hits.

After going down in order in the bottom of the first inning of the second game, UNL shortstop Jeff Carter led off with a center-field triple. Carter then scored on a sacrifice fly by third baseman Scott Hooper.

UNO pitcher Fred Peterson gave up 14 walks in the second game alone.

UNO batters faced six Husker pitchers in the seven-inning second game.

But the Mas shouldered the stone and held on to claim a 3-2 final inning comeback win against UNL at Buck Beltzer Field.

"There's no rhyme, no reason for that kind of situation," Nebraska coach John Sanders said. "They outplayed us. They outhit us.

When we don't execute in those situations, we get beat."

Nebraska led 2-1 entering the seventh inning of the second game. Husker coach John Sanders called on his sixth pitcher of the game, reliever Bill McGuire, to close out the apparent victory.

McGuire gave up a one-out walk to UNO centerfielder Joe Mancuso. UNO's

spirits began to brighten, and the small but very vocal crowd of Maverick fans took heart.

Jim Polanski hit a lazy fly ball into short right field. UNL second baseman Kurt Eubanks and right fielder Rich King converged on the ball.

King made the call, but not the catch, apparently losing it in the late afternoon sun. The ball bounced off King's chest as he slid on the turf. Eubanks fetched the ball, but by that time Mancuso was on third and Polanski on second.

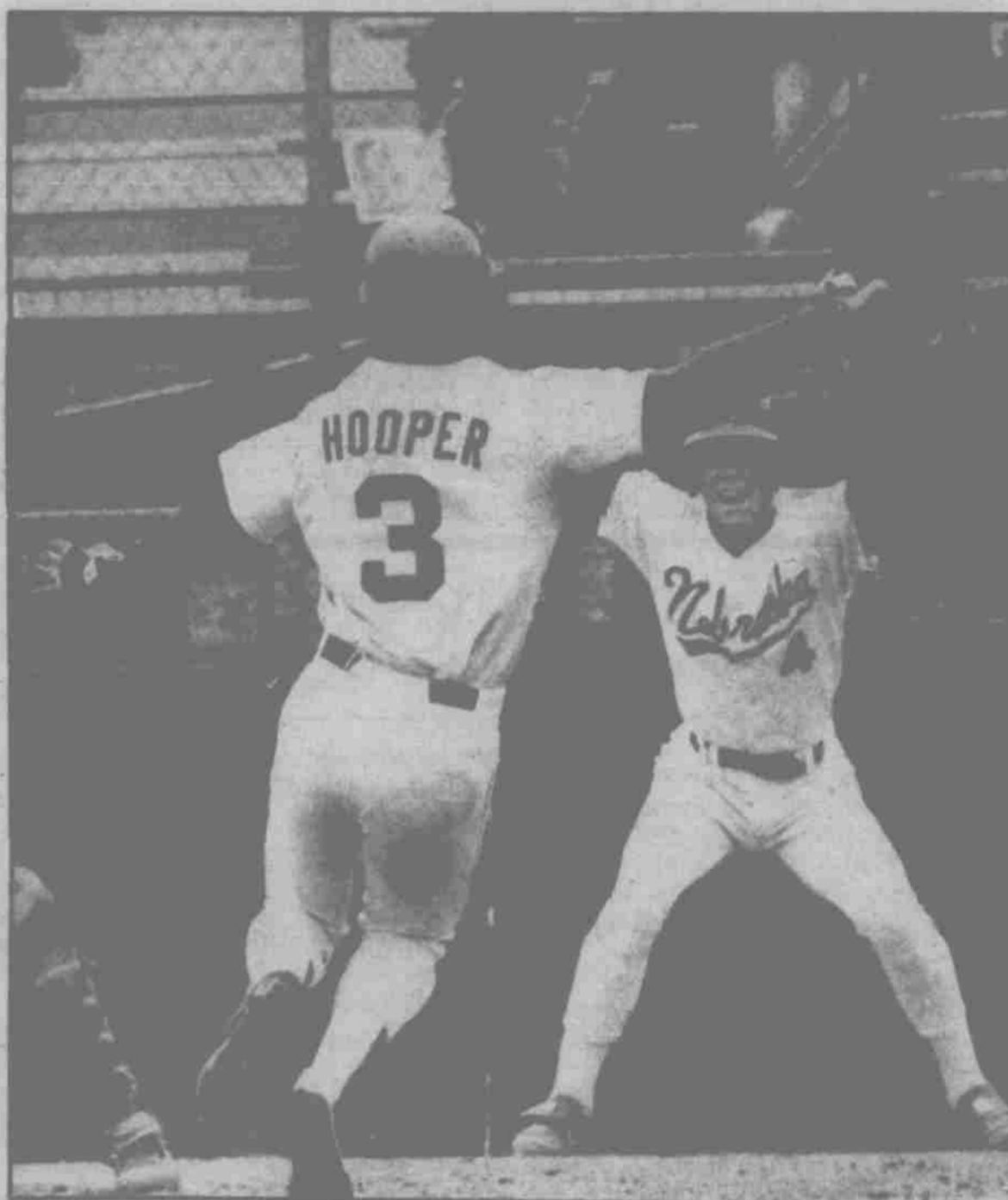
UNO's next batter, Pat Gibbons, sliced a line drive down the left-field line that landed just inside the chalk. Mancuso and Polanski scored and UNO had a 3-2 lead. McGuire set down the rest of the side.

UNO pitcher Peterson surrendered two walks with two out in the bottom of the inning. Maverick coach Bob Gates finally relieved Peterson and brought in Mark Grandgenett.

"I wanted Mark to pitch to Carter," Gates said. "I hadn't given up on Fred at all."

Carter hit a Grandgenett fastball on the ground to third baseman Ed Dineen, who made a low throw to first baseman Mark King. King caught the ball on a short hop, stepped on the bag and the Huskers absorbed their 15th loss of the season.

The Mavericks and UNL will play another double-header this afternoon at College World Series Park in Omaha.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Scott Hooper heads for home after UNO catcher Jim Waters' throw sailed into left field. Paul Meyers cheers his teammate on.

Pro basketball season stretched to infinity

It's the first day of May. That means the baseball season is finished with roughly the first month of play (How 'bout them Tigers?) It also means that the Kentucky Derby is this Saturday (How 'bout Devil's

Yep. That's right. Eight teams. E-I-G-H-T teams.

NBA roughly two months.

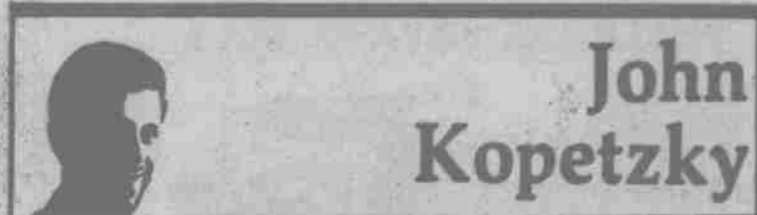
Yawn, yawn, yawn.

Four teams made the NBA playoffs with sub-.500 records. One of them, Washington, finished 35-47 (.427) and actually came within 27 games of division leader Boston. Any team that wins darn near 43 percent of its games belongs in the playoffs, don't they? And I thought the NIT field was getting weak!

Why 82 games?

Might I pose a question to the NBA powers-that-be? Why on earth bother playing 82 regular-season games? Is it so you can quickly identify the seven really pathetic teams and powerhouses like the afore-mentioned Bullets, Hawks (40-42), Denver and Kansas City (38-44), and Phoenix (41-41) can get set to hunt for the league crown?

That must be it! Why, that seems perfectly logical to me!



John Kopetzky

Bag?) It also means that we're less than a month away from the Indianapolis 500 (How 'bout them 200-mph cars?) It also means that the NFL draft is today (How 'bout all them Huskers?)

Incredibly, it also means that eight teams are still playing professional (yawn) basketball. As of last Friday, 16 teams were still in the chase.

Let me get this straight, you say. That's eight teams still left?

Long play

The pros began play last October and probably won't finish things up until early to mid-June. Methinks that ain't exactly what the good Dr. Naismith had in mind when he nailed peach baskets up on the wall of the YMCA in Springfield, Mass., 93 years ago. He envisioned basketball as something to do between football and baseball seasons. That's BETWEEN, not DURING.

The NBA playoffs have really gotten out of hand. Sixteen teams of the 23 that began play last fall qualified for the playoffs when the 82-game regular season ended April 15. Compare that with the NFL, where 10 of 28 make the playoffs, or major-league baseball, where four of 26 advance. It takes the NFL five weeks from the end of the regular-season to wrap it all up. It takes major-league baseball two or three weeks to decide the champ. It will take the

Continued on Page 11