

Women's softball team to duel with celebrities, fraternities

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor

It won't be for the books, but the softball games today and Wednesday at Mable Lee Field will be for the bucks.

The Nebraska women's softball team, defending regional champions and 21-3 in the recently completed fall season, will play a group of fraternities today at 3 p.m. in a fund-raiser for a new batting cage at Mable Lee Field. A \$1 admission will be charged for both games of the double-header.

Wednesday, the women's team will play a group of local media celebrities and athletic department personnel. Bob Devaney has tentatively accepted the coaching position for the celebrity team.

Nebraska assistant coach Kalum Haack, who will pitch for the fraternity teams this afternoon, said the women's team will go "all out" to defeat the combined teams from Beta Theta Pi, Delta Upsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Delta Tau Delta.

"A lot of these guys probably don't realize what they're getting themselves into," Haack said. "The girls know guys are expecting some type of slow-pitch, but they're going to be in for the surprise of their lives."

Haack said he and coach Wayne Daigle used the battle-of-the-sexes idea before when both were coaching at Sam Houston State. That started with just a few fraternities, but before long, every fraternity on campus wanted to play.

While the new batting cage is the first concern, Haack said, the games also are designed to increase the team's popularity. Last year's squad played in front of more than 4,000 in Omaha during the College World Series, but home crowds have been tough to draw.

"This could help people see that we have a good team here," Haack said.

Haack said that even if the fraternities take the game seriously, they still could be in some trouble. After all, they will have to bat against Nebraska's triple pitching attack of Lori Sippel, Mori Emmons and Donna Deardorff.

Sippel, the freshman from Canada, has an earned run average below 0.30.

"She's like a surgeon out there," Haack, the team's pitching instructor said. "She's got excellent control and just puts the ball where she wants to. Compared to the top pitchers in the country, she's not one of the hardest throwers you'll find, but she is among the most effective."

Haack said Sippel has thrown several two- and one-hitters and two no-hitters. Most of the hits off the former Canadian national team captain have been bloopers and dribblers.

"I can only remember two balls ever being hit off her that were real shots," Haack said.

Emmons, a senior who was converted to pitcher from the outfield just last season, is strictly a drop-ball or slider pitcher. Deardorff's best pitch is a rise-ball, but the freshman from California still has to overcome the average freshman mistakes, Haack said.

There will be no charge for the celebrity game tomorrow.

"I don't think they'll (Nebraska players) be as aggressive in that one," Haack said. "If we win it fine, if we lose it fine."

Devaney may coach the team, which will include Women's Sports Information Director Terry Beek as pitcher. Lincoln Journal-Star Sports Editor Virgil Parker and staff writers Chuck Sinclair, Randy York, Ken Hambleton, Ryle Jane Hambleton, and Mike Babcock are scheduled to play part of the game, as well as Jeff Schmal

of KOLN-TV, Ann Schatz of KMTC, Chuck Stevens and Scott Young of KFOR, Jim Miller of KLIN and Scott Ahlstrand of the Daily Nebraskan.

"If I'm not starting, I'm departing," Ahlstrand said doing his part for team unity. Women's Athletic Director June Davis, Assistant Director Barb Hibner and Administrative Assistant Joyce Johnson also will play.

Johnson said the field is covered with a tarp, so the game should be played despite the wet weather.

The softball team finished its fall competitive season last weekend with a two-game sweep at the Creighton Invitational in Omaha. The Huskers shut out Northern Illinois 5-0 on a four-hitter by Deardorff and beat Missouri 1-0 in the 11th inning on a combined shutout from Emmons and Sippel.

"We were very pleased with the fall season," Haack said. "We can become a more consistent hitting team though. In the three games we lost, we were shut out in each of them."

Haack said the fall season indicated the Huskers have a stronger bench than last season.

"Last year, if we had an injury, we were just up a creek," Haack said. "This season, the bench has helped us a lot. They've been coming in and getting the pinch hits, doing a lot of pinch-running and helping our enthusiasm."



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Leeanna Miles steals second base in a game against Southwest Missouri State this season. Marcia Bisques is the second baseman.

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Men's Flag Football

Class C
Tapa Kega Day 6 (3.2), Phi Delta Phi 0 (3.2)
Sweets III 34 (4.0), D.K. Docs 0 (3.5)
Guzzlers 38 (4.2), Trojans 0 (4.2)

Soccer

Lambda Chi Alpha 8 (4.0), Legal Beagles 2 (4.0)
Koppour 3 (3.6), Harvey Smithers 2 (3.4)
Abel and Willing 7 (3.6), Abel Nine 5 (4.3)

Volleyball

Wreck Crew def. Chemistry 16-14, 15-5
Smith Eight def. APFive 13-11, 5-15, 15-11
Starr Street Players def. Sandoz Seven 15-9, 15-3
Abel Ten def. Smith Three 12-6, 9-14, 15-2
Schramm Five def. Heppner Two 9-12, 15-11, 16-15
Schramm Seven def. Sluggettes 9-11, 15-2, 15-7
Netbusters def. Smith Six 15-0, 15-2
Ballerettes def. The Wenches 11-15, 17-15, 13-10
Sandoz Two def. RMA 15-1, 15-13
Hot Hitters def. Schramm Three Studettes 15-14, 15-11