

Sports

NU baseball coach opposes new NCAA rules

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

Nebraska baseball Coach John Sanders got an early swing on his 1985 baseball season by signing two junior college recruits.

Curt Heflin, an infielder from San Diego City Junior College, and Steve Sladek, a utility player from Grossmont Junior college, both have signed Cornhusker letters of intent following their second semester transfers to Nebraska.

"Both Curt and Steve are very versatile players," Sanders said. "Curt can play just about anywhere in the infield, while Steve, being a utility player, can do a little bit of everything."

Heflin and Sladek will join Nebraska's tentative starting lineup of Mike Duncan at first base, fifth-year senior Kurt Eubanks at second base, newcomers Larry Mims and Burt Beattie at shortstop and third base, and Omaha Westside product Paul Meyers, along with veterans Jeff Carter and Rich King, in the outfield.

In addition, Mark Honnor, Jeff Mays, Bill McGuire and Roger Webb would be the starting pitchers for a staff described as "deep" by Husker pitching coach Mike Evans. Wichita State transfer Mark Kister and McGuire will start at catcher or designated hitter.

"We don't have any glaring weaknesses on this team," Sanders said

about his starting lineup. "We've got a lot of individual talent that just has to mold together by the time our season comes around."

The Cornhuskers season opener, slated for March 2, is a doubleheader at Oklahoma City.

In addition to the doubleheader against Oklahoma City, the Cornhuskers schedule features its annual West Coast trip, as well as the traditional Big Eight conference schedule.

"A lot of people like to look at that West Coast trip as sort of the highlight of our season, but I try not to think of it like that," Sanders said. "I always try and emphasize that the Big Eight sea-

son, particularly the Big Eight playoffs, should be the highlight of our season since there's more than a won-loss record on the line. There's a trip to the College World Series for the winner."

Next year, the West Coast trip, the Big Eight season games, the Big Eight playoff games and even some College World Series games could be jeopardized because of new NCAA rules.

Under terms of this new rule, college baseball programs throughout the country will be limited to playing a maximum of 80 games a year, including a maximum of 60 in the spring semester.

"The NCAA wants to shorten our season," Sanders said. "They feel that, by doing that, less money will be spent

on the programs and the athletes will miss less class. It's a ruling I, and I'm sure many other college baseball coaches, are not in favor of."

"We (the NCAA) feel this law will really help in the areas of money and academics," Janice Winger of the NCAA said. "We felt that the total amount of money being spent by some programs and the amount of class some student-athletes were missing in some programs was just phenomenal."

"With the 80-game maximum regulation, the money aspect of the problem should be solved," Winger said. "And, with the 60-game spring semester limit, the academic aspect of the problem also should be solved."



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Device robs hurdler of record

By Bob Asmussen
Staff Reporter

After Saturday's track meet, Nebraska's Rhonda Blanford said she might have run the best 60-yard hurdles of her life. But thanks to modern technology, she'll never know.

Blanford won the race in a hand time of 7.4 seconds. That time would have bettered her best time by .25 seconds and would have given her one of the best times in the United States this year. But for a time to qualify for record consideration it must be timed electronically. That's where modern technology came in.

The timing device used is called an Accutrack. When the starters gun goes off, the Accutrack begins timing the race. The machine ends the timing when a picture is taken at the finish line. The picture has individual times at the bottom.

The Accutrack did not function cor-

rectly in Saturday's hurdle final. For Blanford, it was an all too familiar story.

"It seems like it's done that maybe four times to me," Blanford said. "Why my race? It always happens when I feel like I've run a good time."

Blanford has won all six Big Eight hurdles championships she's run. She finished third in the 60 hurdles at last year's NCAA Indoor Championships. Blanford is a nine-time All-American in three years at Nebraska. The senior from Denver has a suggestion about what should be done so her times will count.

"They should get one (Accutrack) that works when the 60 hurdles are run," Blanford said.

Blanford said she usually never thinks about the Accutrack before a race, but Saturday's hurdle final was an exception.

"I thought, I hope it works because I'm ready to run a good race," Blanford

said. "After the race, Steve Beideck (student assistant in the Sports Information Office) came up to me and said 'look what happened' and he showed me the hand times. I had the 60 dash coming up so I put it out of my mind, but after I was done with the 60 I thought about it and I was kind of mad."

Blanford's 7.65 hurdle time came Jan. 25 at the Millrose Games in New York City. Blanford finished third in that race behind Stephanie Hightower and Candy Young. She finished ahead of Olympic 100-meter hurdle gold medalist Benita Fitzgerald. Blanford said that people will be gunning for her in this year's NCAA Championships.

Blanford said she hopes the Accutrack works in this weekend's Husker Invitational and at the Big Eight Indoor Championships Feb. 22-23. Blanford said the teams need to get more qualifiers if they are to defend their national title.

Sooners' Coach Tubbs wary of NU's Hoppen

By Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

If the expectations of Oklahoma men's basketball Coach Billy Tubbs hold true, Nebraska's Dave Hoppen and the Sooner's Wayman Tisdale will not see much defensive pressure when the two teams meet in Norman, Okla., tonight.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan
Hoppen

Unlike most of the teams the Huskers have faced this season, Tubbs said, the Sooners do not have a special plan to contain Hoppen, who scored 21 and 27 points against them last year.

"Our game plan won't change much," Tubbs said. "We couldn't stop Dave last year. He pretty much did what he wanted against us."

Tisdale, a two-time All-American and Olympic Gold medal winner, registered 33 and 31 against the Huskers last year. The Sooners won both games, 78-67 in Lincoln and 79-70 in Norman.

The officials, Tubbs said, are the only ones who can slow the All-Big Eight tandem.

"Hoppen is a lot like Tisdale," Tubbs said in a comparison of the conference's leading scorers. "The only ones who can stop him are the zebras."

Tubbs said the Huskers will give Oklahoma a frustrating game Wednesday night.

"Nebraska always gives us fits," Tubbs said. "I think they're a better ball club than they were last year. They're quick and play really good defense. You have to earn everything you get against them."

The jumping ability of Husker forward Curtis Moore and Brian Carr's playmaking are two of Tubbs' main concerns when the 18-4 Sooners meet the 13-6 Huskers.

"I caught a little bit of the Kansas game on TV the other night," Tubbs said. "Carr knows how to get the ball into the hands of the scorers and Moore can really get up there. They were lucky the basket was still hanging after he dunked that one."

Tubbs said he is pleased with his team's play so far in the conference, but added that could change.

"I always feel good about the games behind us," Tubbs said. "It's the ones ahead of us that I don't feel good about."

HUSKER

Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

Erin Hurley • Snyder, N.Y.

ERIN HURLEY

"Our team goal is to win the Big Eight championship on Feb. 23," Nebraska swimmer Erin Hurley said. "I just want to score as many points possible as we can win."

College: Hurley, a freshman from Snyder, N.Y., has established herself as a force to be reckoned with on the 15th-ranked women's swimming team. She swims a leg on the 200 and 400-yard medley relay teams and swam the 200 breaststroke faster than any Husker so far this season when she turned in a 2:21.23 clocking at the Husker Invitational. Hurley's other top performances include a 1:05.01 in the 100 breaststroke and a 1:22.55 in the 400 individual medley. Both times are the second fastest on the team.

Hurley said one of the squad's most outstanding characteristics is its closeness, both in the pool and out of it.

"I like the people here at Nebraska," Hurley said. "They care about you as a person, not just how fast you swim."

High School: Hurley came to Nebraska with a long list of swimming accomplishments, including a fifth place finish at U.S. Long-course championships and an 11th place national ranking in the 100 breaststroke. During her senior year at Amherst High School, she set a state record in the 100 breaststroke and was named the outstanding swimmer at the state swimming meet. She also was successful in the 200 breaststroke, where she finished 14th at the U.S. Indoor championships and first in the National Junior Olympics-East meet.

Personal: The second of three children, Hurley has an older brother, Jason, a sophomore at Columbia University and a younger sister, Wazya, a sophomore swimmer at Amherst.

She has not settled on a specific major yet, but Hurley said she is considering pursuing a career in architecture.

A busy schedule, Hurley said, does not allow much time for leisure or hobbies.

"Between swimming and school," Hurley said, "I haven't had much time for anything else."

Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

NU women to face top-rated Sooners

The Nebraska women's basketball team will attempt to improve its 2-4 Big Eight record when it plays Oklahoma tonight in Norman.

The Sooners are 16-3 overall and 5-1 in conference play. They were ranked No. 19 in last week's ratings before losing 85-76 to Oklahoma State Saturday in Stillwater. Despite the loss, the Sooners still are tied atop the league standing slong with OSU.

Four of the five Oklahoma starters are averaging double figures for the season. The leading scorer for the Sooners is forward Jacquetta Hurley. The junior from Fox, Okla., is averaging 18.2 points overall and 21.8 in Big Eight play.

Other Oklahoma starters are 6-foot forward LaTrenda Phillips (averaging 13.1 overall and 12.7 in Big Eight games), 6-3 center Lisa Allison (11.5, 13.0), 5-9 guard Vicki Green (10.3, 12.0), and 5-6 guard Viki Streets (6.0, 6.3).

Nebraska, 7-12 overall, will start Debra Powell and Terri Parriott at forwards, Stacy Imming and Cathy Owen at guards and Angie Miller at center. Nebraska is trying to rebound from back to back losses to Iowa State and Kansas.