

Sports

Senior returnees bolster Nebraska softball team

Playing a season opening game on the road in a tournament described as "the toughest in the Midwest" is no coach's dream.

But that's what Nebraska softball coach Wayne Daigle must do when his Cornhuskers open their season in the powerful Sooner Invitational in less than a month.

"Basically, the Sooner Invitational is the strongest tournament in the Midwest," Daigle said. "Almost all of the Big Eight schools, plus the Arizona schools, and Texas A&M (which finished last season as the runner-up to the national champion UCLA Bruins) will be there, so it should give us some excellent competition."

To prepare themselves for both the Sooner Invitational and the rest of their 50 game spring schedule, the Huskers played a 24-game fall schedule, which included matchups against national power Oklahoma State (which finished last season ranked No. 3) and Texas A&M, as well as a three-game series with their biggest in-state rival, the Creighton Bluejays.

Despite the somewhat demanding schedule, the Huskers came away with a 21-9 record, including a three-game sweep of Creighton (7-0, 5-0 and 9-2), a 1-0 upset victory over Texas A&M and a two game split with Oklahoma State (2-1 loss followed by a 1-0 win).

Last year the Huskers claimed both the Big Eight tournament and the Midwest regional tournament championships, as well as third-place finish in the College World Series.

Men's gymnastics coach sees championship ahead

The national rankings for men's gymnastics came out on Monday. Coach Francis Allen said they couldn't have come at a better time.

The Huskers are ranked third behind Ohio State and Penn State, the only two teams this season to defeat the Huskers.

This week, the Huskers travel to the West Coast for two important invitationals. On Wednesday they compete at Cal State Fullerton, and Friday in the UCLA Invitational.

"This road trip will be very important because every team we see this week is ranked in the top 20," Allen said. "But I think if we compete well at these meets, it will be an extra boost of confidence to our team."

The Fullerton meet includes, New Mexico, ranked fifth, Arizona State, ranked fourth and Stanford, ranked 16th.

The UCLA meet includes the sixth-ranked Bruins, Minnesota, New Mexico and Arizona State.

"Once we get a good look at UCLA and New Mexico, we will get a good idea of what to expect at the NCAA's," Allen said.

Allen said his team must score better than last weekend to win both meets.

Last weekend at Norman, the Huskers were behind both Iowa State and Oklahoma until the parallel bars when Mike Epperson and Wes Suter tied for first place with 9.8 scores. The Huskers best Oklahoma 279.3 to 278.05.

"With the exception of our three losses, I was pretty happy with the way we performed last fall," Daigle said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to carry that success into our spring season."

And with a veteran starting lineup consisting of five seniors, a junior and two sophomores, plus a pitching staff he describes as "good as any in the country," Daigle's hope for success could become reality.

"We've definitely got a lot of returning experience," he said. "In fact, you could even call us a senior ball club because of all the returning starting seniors we have this year."

The team includes catcher Lisa Busby, pitcher Mori Emmons, shortstop Denise Eckert, third baseman Ann Schroeder and outfielders Wendy Turner and Stacy Sunny.

In addition, senior pitcher-outfielder Peg Richardson, although not a starter, will see considerable playing time.

"All of those girls are just tremendous athletes," Daigle said of his seven seniors. "They're a pleasure to coach and I'm sure when they leave it will have a tremendous impact on my program."

The starting non-seniors include freshman pitchers Donna Diardorf and Lori Sipple, sophomore infielders Amy Love and Lori Richins and junior outfielder Heidi Schlabach.

"With the amount of talent and experience we have this year," Daigle said, "we should definitely be strong contenders for not only the Big Eight title, but the national title as well."

Allen said the only event that needs some adjustments is pommel horse.

"We are at that time of year where we will make some small adjustments in all the routines," Allen said. "We will take out the really tough things in the pommel horse that are giving the guys problems, but we do that every year."

Allen said if his team can come through this road trip successfully, they will have a good shot at winning the national championship.



UNL Sports Information Photo
Cathy Noth, former Husker, makes United States national team.

Nebraska athlete joins Olympic volleyball team

Nebraska's Cathy Noth made a goal two years ago to try out for the national volleyball team. Last week in Colorado Springs, Colo., the 5-9 outside hitter-setter not only got the chance, she made the team.

Noth, a native of Bettendorf, Iowa, was one of nine players chosen for the national team which will begin practice for the 1988 Olympics in June.

Noth, who started for Nebraska four consecutive years, will join Palmyra's Julie Vollertsen to give Nebraska two representatives on the squad. Vollertsen is one of three 1984 Olympians who will return.

"This is the ultimate," Noth said. "I've reached all my goals. I've been an All-American twice, and now I'm

going to play in the Olympics."

Over 65 players tried out for the 12-member team from Tuesday through Saturday last week. Noth was one of the first four players selected by new national Coach Terry Lyskevych.

Ironically, Lyskevych coached Pacific to a victory over Nebraska in the quarterfinals of last year's NCAA tournament. In 11 years of collegiate coaching, Lyskevych had a 315-92 record.

The national team will play an exhibition against the Korean nationals March 25, and play in a spring break tournament in Canada. Noth plans to join the team full-time June 1.

Pep band should learn new songs

There seems to be a growing grumbling among Nebraska basketball fans over the team's recent performances.

As usual, people find it easy to attack the coach and anything else in sight to make excuses for the losses. At Saturday's game in Manhattan, I too finally buckled under and admitted an obvious shortcoming our basketball program has, and putting in personals against Moe Iba or anyone else won't change this one.

The problem is the band.

Don't get me wrong. There's a lot of things concerning Nebraska basketball I consider more important than how the band sounds. The current losing streak, the hot dogs and why Maurice Ivy stopped wearing those kneepads on her ankles are among those things I consider more important. I also consider a lot of things more important than Nebraska basketball, such as the job interviews that may keep me from seeing the last two home games.

At first, I was a little disappointed over missing those games. But, on second thought, at least I won't have to hear "Great Balls of Fire," "Wabash Cannonball" and "Hawaii Five-O" again. The Kansas State band, which is at a disadvantage anyway since they don't have our numbers and have to wear that god-awful purple, not only played two of those (I don't think anyone else still plays Hawaii Five-O), but also played, among others, "When Doves Cry," "Rosanna," "Thriller" and "99 Red Balloons."

None of these songs are classics, but at least it was something different. Somebody at Kansas State is taking the time to learn these new songs instead of bleating out the same old stuff over and over and over again.

Most of the Kansas State songs were played during pre-game warm-ups, but the nicest thing they did all evening was the national anthem. It was, in the words of our normally spiteful photographer Mark Davis, "downright inspi-

ration." I don't have the musical training to describe exactly what they did different from our band, but I do have some observational training that allowed me to notice the Kansas State crowd actually paid attention to it, and afforded the small group much more than polite applause.

As a student journalist, I know there's only so much time to do much of value. Yes, even here at the Daily Nebraskan, even we are prone to do easy predictable stories more often than actually getting out and finding a story that is really original and worthwhile. Time simply doesn't allow it.

At that point, I can understand the situation facing the UNL pep band and its leaders. Like us, they probably do want to be as good as Kansas State or anybody else, but don't have the time to think up new songs and work up fresh material that you may or may not like.

Continued on Page 9

Cagers make All-Academic team

The Nebraska women's basketball team will meet Iowa State tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports center. Tickets for the game are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

The women's team is 3-6 in the Big Eight, while Iowa State is 1-8. The Cyclones beat Nebraska in Ames last month.

Three Huskers were named to the Big Eight's All-Academic team Tuesday. Senior Terri Parriott was named to the first team with a 4.0 in pre-med last semester. Parriott, a forward from Ventura, Calif., has a cumulative grade point average of

3.75.

Senior Cathy Owen of Ventura made the second team with a 3.51, as did sophomore Stacy Inming of Kearney. Owen majors in business administration, while Inming majors in education.

Both Owen and Parriott made the district VII All-Academic team last week, and both are candidates for the All-American Academic team.

Our hearty congratulations to these splendid Husker athletes.

TERRI PARRIOTT

"My role on this year's team is to provide leadership," Nebraska women's basketball team member Terri Parriott said. "I get put in the game not so much for my scoring, but just to kind of keep things under control."

College: Parriott, a senior from Ventura, Calif., currently ranks ninth on the all-time Nebraska scoring chart with 733 points and 18th on the all-time rebounding chart with 297.

Parriott, along with Nebraska and high school teammate Cathy Owen, played for Athletes in Action last summer. Parriott sank 71 percent of her free throws, a team high, while touring with the United States squad. She finished second on the team in scoring with a 9.8 average.

Parriott has averaged 9.2 points and 4.2 rebounds in 22 games so far this season.

High School: Parriott and Owen led Buena High School in Ventura to a 65-2 three-

year record. Parriott averaged 19 points and 8 rebounds per game.

Terri was a two-time All-California Interscholastic Federation pick as well as a Basketball Congress International summer prep All-American during her high school career.

Personal: Heavily recruited out of Buena High by Stanford, New Mexico State, Wyoming, Brigham Young, Oregon State and Nebraska, Terri chose Nebraska because of its geographical location.

"I had never been in this part of the country before," Parriott said. "I thought it might be kind of nice to get away (from California)."

Parriott, a life science major who plans on continuing her collegiate studies after this year, is a member of the Big Eight academic honor roll and a two-time member of the District VII All-Academic team. She has a 3.67 grade point average.

Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter



David Creemer/Daily Nebraskan
Terri Parriott • Ventura, Calif.