

NU-OSU baseball series to decide conference title

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

The Oklahoma State baseball team will put its conference leading 14-2 Big Eight record on the line this weekend in a pair of doubleheaders against Nebraska in Stillwater, Okla. The Sunday game will be televised live on ESPN.

For Oklahoma State, the games are critical because it's a chance for the Cowboys to expand on their conference lead. For Nebraska, the series is a must if the Cornhuskers have any aspirations of winning their first Big Eight title.

"We know what we've got to do, and we're going to hopefully get it done," Nebraska Coach John Sanders said. "We feel confident going into this series."

In posting a 43-11 overall record, Oklahoma State has averaged almost 12 runs a game while maintaining a .344 team batting average.

"We rely on our offense to carry us," Oklahoma State Coach Gary Ward said. "Particularly early on in the season, when our offense was carrying the team."

Leftfielder Pete Incaviglia, who is considered to be one of the best players in the nation, carries most of the offensive load for the Cowboys.

UNL track athletes gearing up for weekend's Big Eight meet

By Bob Asmussen
Staff Reporter

For the first time in more than a month, Keith Jones will run in competition without fear of being tackled.

The freshman I-back from Omaha Central will become a freshman sprinter again today and Saturday at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Jones was the Big Eight Indoor champion in the 60-yard dash. He will compete on Nebraska's 400-meter relay team in South Dakota and might run in the Big Eight championships May 10-11 at Manhattan, Kan.

Jones isn't the only football player competing this weekend for Nebraska. Jon Kelley, an I-back from Lincoln, will team up with Jones, Dennis Wallace and Anthony Small in the 400-meter relay. Freshman football player Chris Hale will long jump this weekend and Dirksen said Von Shepard will jump in the Big Eight meet.

Through the first 54 games, the junior from Pebble Beach, Calif. is hitting .449 with a conference leading 34 home runs of 102 RBI.

If the offense is to be successful, Ward admits, it's Incaviglia who has to generate that success.

"Our offense is built around our top five hitters, particularly Pete," Ward said. "But it's not like we run a one-man offense, either. We rely on several other individuals as well."

All-Big Eight centerfielder Doug Dascenzo, second baseman Randy Whisler, catcher Mike Day and rightfielder Billy Smith also are heavily relied upon in the Cowboy attack.

"Teams that choose to pitch around Pete (Incaviglia) generally get burned," Ward said. "Billy (Smith) has come up with the big hits for us throughout the season."

In the event of a season ending tie between the two schools for the conference title, both coaches have agreed to use the final televised game as the tie-breaker.

"It's going to be a big game for us, playing on ESPN," Nebraska pitching coach Mike Evans said. "We know what they can do, now all we have to do is slow them down. We feel confident going into this series because we feel that we know more about them than they know about us."

Nebraska assistant track coach Jay Dirksen said the meet will give the Huskers a good tune-up for the Big Eight meet. He said the meet will give some of the team's younger performers a chance to gain some confidence.

"It's a little bit of a low key meet," Dirksen said. "But it's not the type of meet where you just have to show up to win. We expect to get some good competition."

Two Nebraska athletes won't compete in the Howard Wood meet because they will compete in another meet. Gerard O'Callaghan and Jean Verster both will run the 1,500 meters at the National Invitational meet in Indianapolis.

Several Nebraskans have qualified for the NCAA meet. Kurt Russell has qualified in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Darren Burton in the high jump, Marcia Tate in the 400-meter dash, Laura Wight in the 3,000, Rhonda Blanford in the 100-meter hurdles, Sha-Ri Pendleton in the triple jump and Debbie Clark in the heptathlon.

Men's golf team faces uncertainty at Big Eight meet

Uncertainty is the key word for the men's golf team. The Huskers will compete in the Big Eight golf championships at Oklahoma City May 12 through 14.

"I really don't know who we are taking," said Coach Larry Romjue, "it could be anyone of seven guys."

The team hasn't performed as well as Romjue had hoped. Last fall, the team beat all the Big Eight schools except Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, but the team's opponents have won this spring.

The leaders of the tournament should be Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, both rated in the national top 10. Oklahoma State is led by Scott Verplank, a national amateur champion as well as a returning Big Eight champion. Oklahoma, third in the nation last year, is rated third now.

"The Southern schools like Oklahoma and Oklahoma State have a real advantage with the weather," Romjue said. "Our weather hurts because it is so inconsistent."

Mike Schuchart will lead Nebraska. Romjue said Schuchart has a good chance to finish among the leaders at the tournament.

"Hopefully, with the end of finals coming and with the weather coming around, we'll be able to do a little better," Romjue said.



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