

Sports

UNL softball team to meet injury-troubled Antelopes

By Lisa M. Henkel
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team takes on Kearney State College in its last game before the Big Eight tournament.

The Cornhuskers, 31-9, will meet the Antelopes in a doubleheader today starting at 3 p.m. at the softball complex. Kearney State is 17-14 and ranked No. 19 in the NAIA.

Nebraska coach Wayne Daigle said every game is tough, and he is expecting the Kearney state games to be no

different.

"We're just getting in a couple of more ball games because it's eight or nine days until we play again," Daigle said.

Kearney State is bringing an injury-troubled team to Lincoln to meet the Huskers. The Lopers are without their best pitcher, Phyllis DeBoer, who is out with a broken ankle. Freshman Twana Rush will be pitching the game for Kearney State.

"She's doing real good for a freshman," Kearney State coach Brad Horkey

said.

With 25 games left in Kearney State's season and the conference tournament this weekend, Horkey said that playing Nebraska should help his team's confidence.

"It helps a lot when we play Division I schools and then come back to our own level. It gives the girls confidence. We have a tough conference, and if we play Nebraska tough, it should help confidence-wise," he said.

Horkey said that his Lopers are starting on the comeback trail.

"We're starting to hit the ball better. We proved we can come from behind this weekend," he said.

Kearney State gave Nebraska a tough game this fall. The Huskers won 2-0 when they met earlier.

"It's easy for an NAIA school to get up for a Division I school. I always get pumped when I coach against coach Daigle," Horkey said. "Anytime we play Nebraska I don't have to worry about the kids getting up for the game."

After today's games, the Huskers won't play again until they meet Kansas State in the Big Eight tournament. The tournament is scheduled for May 2 through 4 in St. Joseph, Mo. Nebraska will play the Wildcats at 10 a.m. May 2.

Reckeweg plans to win points for Nebraska

By Jim Ballard
Staff Reporter

Jeff Reckeweg wants to be a winner.

"I went to Valparaiso (a university in Indiana) after high school because I thought I could start and wouldn't have to worry about playing time, but the coach didn't really care a whole lot about winning, and that isn't what I wanted. I wanted to play for a school that would be competitive," he said.

So Reckeweg transferred and spent last season at Southern Idaho Junior College. With his eligibility used up there, he has decided to play on Nebraska's basketball team next year. He joins Coach Danny Nee's first recruiting class.

"I went to Southern Idaho for their reputation," he said. "They have the highest winning percentage of any college, (Division I all the way down), in the nation. Plus I really liked the coach," he said.

The 6-7 forward averaged 10 points and 6 rebounds a game last year, but those statistics didn't really reflect his season.

"I started off slow because I had a stress fracture in my leg and missed the first four games of the season," he said. "I then really didn't play a whole lot till after Christmas."

He finished the year well by averaging in double figures his last few games.

With his leg back to 100 percent, the sophomore from Auburn, Ind., where he was an all-stater his senior year, is ready to put on the Husker uniform.

"Out of all the schools that were recruiting me, Nebraska had the best facilities, and I was real impressed with them," he said. "I heard a lot of good things about coach Nee, and when I talked to him he seemed enthused, and so were the players I talked to. It's a good program to get into the ground floor with."

Women's program could suffer from prolonged coach search

Nebraska will name a new women's basketball coach this afternoon. It's about time.

Former coach Kelly Hill was fired March 4. April 22, six weeks later, her replacement is named.

Former men's coach Moe Iba resigned March 14 after Nebraska's loss to Western Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Thirteen days later, on March 27, Iba was succeeded by Danny Nee, formerly of Ohio University.

So why did it take 13 days to hire a men's coach and six weeks to hire a women's coach? Not a bad question.

One argument that can be made is that Nebraska returns all of the players from this season's women's team, so recruiting wouldn't be affected. If you have no spots to fill, no need to hurry on hiring a coach, they reasoned.

But then again, Nebraska returns all of its players from a 10-17 team that finished seventh in the Big Eight standings.

Not only is future recruiting hurt by not hiring a coach sooner, but next season is hurt as well. For six weeks the players from the women's team have wondered about their future at Nebraska. Will I fit in with the new coach's system? Should I think about transferring? How serious is Nebraska's commitment to the team when it takes it this long to hire a new coach?

Sunday night the women's team held its annual banquet at the Hilton Hotel. Toward the end of the banquet each player went to the microphone to comment. All of the players mentioned that they'd miss Hill. Some said that

her dismissal was a mistake.

But for Hill, the firing might have been a blessing in disguise. While Nebraska was taking its time looking for a coach, Hill was out seeking employment. She found employment last week when she was named coach at Western Illinois University.

Western Illinois finished in last place in the 10-team Gateway Conference. The challenge for Hill is definitely there.

But, other than the fact that Hill is taking over after a bad season, her future looks bright. She said she will get about a \$5,000 raise over her salary at Nebraska. The program has complete

opportunity Western Illinois has given her.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of Western Illinois, I'm not looking back at Nebraska," Hill said.

Hill applied for the Western Illinois job in March. She said she was contacted by Western Illinois Athletic Director Gil Peterson at the women's Final Four in Lexington, Ken.

Hill said she also applied for coaching jobs at Southwest Texas State, Colorado State and George Washington. She said she was hoping to stay at the Division I level and not have to be an assistant coach. Western Illinois satisfied both criteria.

"Apparently they did a lot of calling around," Hill said of the Western Illinois administration. "They didn't ask me anything about my situation at Nebraska. More than anything, they were impressed with my educational background."

Hill said Western Illinois has 10 players returning from last season and has signed two players during the early signing period. Hill said she met with the team and said she thinks they played a major role in the decision to hire her.

Hill said the future of the players at Nebraska is her main concern in leaving.

"I wish the best to the program and to the players," Hill said. "I don't have any bitter feelings toward Nebraska."

I wish the best of the luck to the new coach named today. Finding a replacement for someone of Hill's caliber had to be a difficult task. She will be missed.

Asmussen is a senior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan sports editor.



Bob Asmussen

support from the school's administration and is not overshadowed by a high-powered football or men's basketball team.

"It's a Division I program," Hill said Monday. "I took this job based on the administrative support. It's a different caliber program than here at Nebraska."

Hill wouldn't condemn the Nebraska athletic hierarchy for her dismissal. She said she looks for Nebraska to have a good women's basketball program.

"The program's on the way," Hill said. "I'm sure they're going to be competitive."

She said she is happy with the

Huskers and Bears play doubleheader

The Nebraska baseball team will face Northern Colorado in a doubleheader today beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Cornhuskers, 25-14, will be looking to break a four-game losing streak as they play the Bears. Nebraska dropped three consecutive conference games to Oklahoma last weekend and also dropped a single game to Wichita State.

Northern Colorado, a member of the North Central Conference, is led by outfielder Mike Anderson. Anderson is

hitting .444 with seven home runs and 25 RBI's.

The top pitcher for the 12-16 Bears is Rick DeSalle. DeSalle is 4-3 with a 6.64 era.

Nebraska will not only have a chance to get back on the winning track against Northern Colorado, but the series will also mark a homecoming of sorts for Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders.

Sanders served as an assistant at Northern Colorado under the late Peter Butler in the early stages of his coaching career.

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