

# Sports

## It's opening day for baseball, softball teams

### Team ready to take on tough season

By Jeff Apel  
Staff Reporter

With a challenging schedule, Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders said, the Cornhuskers are anxious to start their season.

Sanders said the schedule presents a formidable challenge because the Huskers will play 20 of their 60 games against nationally ranked opponents.

Sanders said this schedule includes four-game series against both No. 4-ranked Oklahoma State and No. 12-ranked Oklahoma as well as two-game series against Wichita State and Oral Roberts.

"It's a good schedule," Sanders said. "We're proud of it."

Sanders said he's anxious to get the season started because Nebraska has several players who he said could have an immediate impact on the Husker program.

These players include infielders Ron Crowe and Ken Sirak as well as outfielders Vincent Limon and Joe Federico, he said.

"They are all good, solid players," Sanders said of the top newcomers. "They have a mixture of speed and power."

Sanders said Nebraska has enough new talent to supplement the loss of such players as All-American outfielder Paul Meyers, infielder Larry Mims and pitcher Phil Harrison from last year's team.

Sanders said Nebraska has moved Todd Bunge,

who played right field last season, to center field in an attempt to ease the loss of Meyers.

Limon and Federico will fill the remaining two outfield positions, Sanders said.

Sanders said the Huskers' infield also appears to be solidified, although the Huskers are experimenting with moving Mark Kister from third to first base.

Sanders said Bruce Wobkep will start at shortstop, and Crowe and Sirak will anchor the second- and third-base positions.

The catching duties will be handled by either Tim Pettengill, Steve Crampton, Charlie Colon or Kister, Sanders said.

"We lost some outstanding people from last year's team," Sanders said. "But we feel we have quality people to replace them."

Sanders said Nebraska has not established a starting pitching rotation yet because new pitching coach Tom Pratt is still working with the Nebraska pitchers.

Sanders said the Huskers will establish a pitching rotation during the early part of their season by testing as many pitchers as possible.

"We have several people who are flexible," Sanders said. "They are capable of short relief, middle relief or even starting."

Sanders said it is critical that Nebraska establishes a consistent pitching rotation early in the year because the Big Eight conference competition appears to be solid.

While the Cowboys and the Sooners are being tabbed as the early favorites for the 1987 conference crown, Sanders said it's too early to establish a pre-season favorite.

"There's been a fine line between the top four team for the last couple of years," Sanders said. "This year's Big Eight race also looks very good. It's going to be real competitive."



Kister

### NU a favorite in Road Runner Invite

By Rich Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's women's softball team will open its 1987 season today in Las Cruces, N.M., when it faces No. 19 Arizona and Toledo in a double-header.

The Cornhuskers, ranked No. 3 in the NCAA, are competing in the Road Runner Invitational, which features four top 20 teams.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said he doesn't think the Huskers should be ranked No. 3 in the nation because they have problems with injuries going into the invitational.

"We haven't had a practice yet where everybody on the team has been here," Wolforth said. "And what worries me is we will be the top-ranked team in the tournament this weekend."

Wolforth said the area of the team which is hurting the most right now is the outfield. Starting left fielder Lisa Winchester will not see action this weekend because of severe shoulder tendinitis. Right fielder Janelle Frese is just coming off a head injury and is questionable for this weekend.

Wolforth said the team's pitchers also have some injury problems. Donna Deardorff is bothered by an ankle injury and Marlys Handley is just beginning to recover from mononucleosis.

The teams playing in this weekend's tournament will be No. 5-ranked California, No. 8 Fresno State, Arizona, New Mexico, New Mexico

State (which upset No. 7 Arizona State earlier in the season) and No. 20 Iowa State.

Wolforth said the pitching staff, when it is healthy, has people that could start on any pitching staff in the country.

Nebraska's pitching staff in the fall led the Huskers to a 12-2 record. The Huskers won their last 10 games; nine were shutouts. The pitching staff had an earned run average of .29 in the fall.

The top pitcher returning for Nebraska is Lori Sippel, who pitched two no-hitters in the fall against Western Illinois and Southwest Missouri. She has seven career no-hitters at Nebraska.

Wolforth said he is a little concerned about the team's hitting because it will be playing without Winchester, who hit .314, and because Margie Ogrodowicz, who hit .356 is "a little beat up." The top hitter for Nebraska in the fall was Jane Kremer, who hit .450 with two home runs and 19 runs batted in.

Wolforth said the teams that could give the Huskers some problems are Cal-Berkeley, Fresno State and Iowa State, which defeated the Huskers in the second game of the fall season.

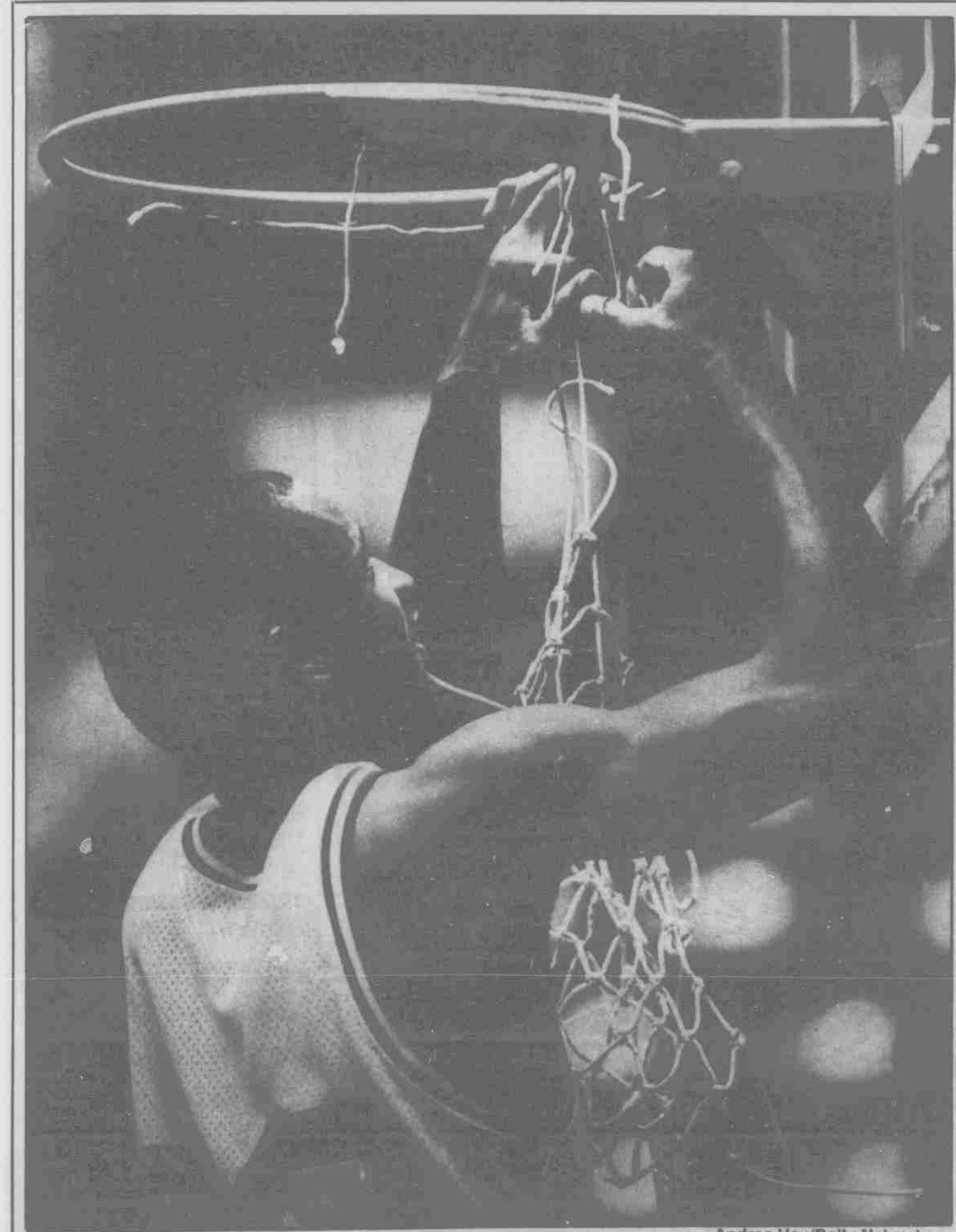
"The California teams always have good pitching," Wolforth said, "and Iowa State is a very scrappy team that has played us tough the last year and a half."

Wolforth said the team's success will depend on how well the Huskers hit in the tournament. He said the team will be a little bit behind everybody else in the tournament because of Nebraska's weather.

"If we don't do well, then not practicing outside will be no excuse," Wolforth said. "We can do just as much inside as outside. The team has a tendency with their success to take other teams lightly. I hope they don't do that this weekend or it's going to be a long one."



Sippel



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

### A happy Day

Nebraska senior basketball player Bernard Day cuts the net after the Huskers 83-81 upset victory over No. 20-ranked Kansas Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Day played in his last home game.

## Senior sprinter Brown anticipates championships

By David Mussman  
Staff Reporter

Senior Jeff Brown, a sprinter on the Nebraska swimming team, wants to "go out with a flash" as he competes in his last Big Eight championship meet for the Cornhuskers.



Brown

Brown, a business-management major from St. Cloud, Minn., smiled as he reflected on four years at Nebraska and the three Big Eight championship teams he's been part of.

"I'm looking forward to this being the last Big Eights and NCAA championships," Brown said. "I really want to make this the best. I want to show everyone that it's been a good four years."

Brown has never won an individual title at the Big Eight championships. He had his best finish last year when he placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle events.

But Nebraska swimming coach Cal Bentz said that Brown's swimming isn't his primary contribution to the team's success.

"His contribution is one of a team leader," Bentz said, "and because he is such a fierce competitor, that is a real model to the rest of the swimmers. He offers us more than his physical presence. His emotional presence is extremely important."

Brown said, however, that was jeopardized earlier in the season when he caught pneumonia while training over Christmas break.

"I didn't swim all the month of January," Brown said, "and I'm just starting to get back in it."

Brown said the lapse hampered his training for a while, but he is nearing the point when his training was interrupted.

"It was more of a frustrating experience than anything," Brown said. "I feel I'm in the best shape I've been in so coming back wasn't as hard as it would have been in the past. I'm keeping an open mind about it. I'm trying to do the best I can under the circumstances."

Brown said he wants to improve the marks he has set this season and make

See BROWN on 10

## KU's Manning wins Big Eight honor

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Danny Manning, poised to become the top scorer in the history of Kansas basketball, has been named for the second consecutive season the Associated Press Big Eight player of the year.

The 6-foot-11 junior was the choice of all but two voters among a panel of media observers who regularly cover the conference. By an even bigger margin, voters selected Oklahoma's Harvey Grant as Big Eight newcomer of the year.

Drawing one vote each for player of the year were Jeff Grayer of Iowa State and Derrick Chievous of regular-season

champion Missouri.

"They're great players, and that's why I'm so thrilled for Danny," said Kansas Coach Larry Brown. "Grayer had a tremendous year. Derrick Chievous has had a phenomenal year. But those kids should not feel slighted because there just aren't many players in the country who would be player of the year if Danny was in their conference."

While adapting to the loss of three seniors off last year's Final Four squad, Manning averaged 23.1 points and 9.5 rebounds in leading the Jayhawks to a runnerup tie with Oklahoma.