

Sports

Huskers' 6-1 road trip gives Sanders 400th win

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's baseball team concluded a seven-game road swing Sunday with a pair of victories over Northern Colorado, giving coach John Sanders his 400th career victory.

The Cornhuskers finished 6-1 on the trip. Included were two victories over Minnesota, one win over against Air Force and three wins in a four-game series against Northern Colorado.

Nebraska swept Sunday's doubleheader, enabling Sanders to reach the milestone. They won the first game 9-2 and rolled to a 17-0 victory in the nightcap.

In the first game, Ron Crowe and Ken Strak hit two-run home runs in the fourth inning to lead the Huskers. Winning pitcher Phil Goguen went the distance, giving up only three hits and striking out seven. Goguen is 2-0.

Crowe and Strak each went three

for four in the second game to help Nebraska to a 17-2 rout of the Bears. John Lepley, a junior from Creighton Prep, pitched three innings, raising his record to 2-0. Former Husker quarterback Jeff Taylor finished, throwing two no-hit innings.

On Saturday Nebraska lost its first game of the season 8-7, in the opener. Senior pitcher Steve Spurgeon gave up two runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Nebraska came back to win the nightcap behind the complete-game pitching of John Knoll. The transfer from Mira Costa junior college, allowed six hits and one earned run in winning his first game.

With the score tied 2-2 in the sixth inning, Nebraska scored six runs when Joe Federico, Mark Kistler, John Franklin and Bruce Wobken all singled. Wobken singled in Strak for the game winner.

Nebraska, 10-1, will play Wayne State at 1:30 p.m. today at Buck Beltzer Field if weather permits.

Ogrodowicz quick at the plate, fast on the paths, Wolforth says

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's Margie Ogrodowicz is one of the fastest female softball players in the country. Just ask Cornhusker coach Ron Wolforth.

Last weekend at the Roadrunner Classic in Los Cruces, N.M., Ogrodowicz, a junior from Houston, hit three inside-the-park home runs and batted .219.

Ogrodowicz signed with Texas Tech after graduating from high school. When the Red Raiders dropped their softball program at the beginning of her sophomore season, former Husker coach Wayne Daigle convinced infielder Ogrodowicz and freshman catcher Katie Wolda to come to Nebraska.

"We were really lucky that we got those two," Wolforth said. "Wayne had recruited Margie out of high school, and when Texas Tech dropped their program, schools like Texas A&M and Louisiana Tech didn't think much of

her, so they didn't recruit her."

Last year for the Huskers, Ogrodowicz batted .327 and had 22 stolen bases and an on-base percentage of .425 with 15 runs batted in. Wolforth couldn't think of any other college player who had accomplished that.

Ogrodowicz said her childhood interest in softball and baseball stemmed from the fact that her father was the president of a baseball league. During the summer of her freshman year of high school, Ogrodowicz began playing for the Houston Aires, a team that travels around the country playing in top-ranked tournaments.

Ogrodowicz said she never played softball at Lamar Houston, her high school, but she was active in volleyball, basketball and track. Upon graduation, Ogrodowicz said, she was interested only in playing softball.

Ogrodowicz was named the most valuable player of the Texas Tech team in her first year. She said the key to her success has been consistent hitting.

"Coach Wolforth always tells us that we have to be aggressive at the plate and not wait for the right pitch," she said. "If the first pitch is there, I'm not afraid to jump on it, because, most likely, that's going to be the pitcher's best pitch."

Wolforth said he knows Ogrodowicz is likely to make something happen every time at the plate.

"Margie is a fun player to watch," he said. "She's so quick that if the infielder bobbles the ball, she's on base. If she gets to base, there's a good chance she's going to score."

Ogrodowicz scored 44 times last year for Nebraska in 64 games. Last weekend, she scored seven times in the Huskers' 10 games.

Ogrodowicz said she thinks the Nebraska team is better prepared to play this year and won't take any team on its schedule lightly. She said Nebraska has the talent to win a lot of games this year, as long as the players work as a team.

New maturity helps pitcher to zero ERA

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska softball pitcher Donna Deardorff said she has been playing softball since third grade because it is fun.

Deardorff said she began playing softball in third grade, but like almost every kid, she never took it very seriously.

"When I was a kid I played pick-up games in the street just because I thought it was a lot of fun," Deardorff said. "I never thought about pitching softball. I played a lot of different positions because all I wanted to do was play."

The junior from Villa Park, Calif., has been a vital part of Nebraska's pitching staff this season, Cornhusker coach Ron Wolforth said. So far this year, Deardorff has an ERA of zero. During the fall season she was 3-1 and all three of her victories were shutouts.

Wolforth said Deardorff is having so much success this season because she has matured emotionally.

"Donna has matured a lot emotionally and has become more aware of what she must do on the field," Wolforth said.

Wolforth said another reason for her success is that Deardorff is calling her own pitches. Last year, Wolforth said, former Husker coach Wayne Daigle called all the pitches.

"Calling your own pitches takes a lot of responsibility, but she has handled that well," Wolforth said. "Donna is a free spirit,

kind of like Brian Bosworth, and with those type of people you have to let them go because that is when they are at their best."

Deardorff said she began pitching when she was in seventh grade. When she got to high school at Villa Park, Deardorff was the only pitcher on the team. She said she enjoyed pitching because she liked playing in every game. Her best season at Villa Park, Deardorff said, was her junior year when her team made the semifinals of the California High School Championships.

Deardorff said that once she got out of high school she decided to go to the Ron LeFevre School of Pitching, which helped her get notice from major college coaches.

Deardorff said when she was choosing a college, the choice was between Indiana and Nebraska. She said she chose Nebraska because of what NU had to offer and because the facilities were "very good."

Wolforth said that on Nebraska's pitching staff any pitcher on the team could go to any school in the country and step in as a starter. He said the three pitchers complement each other and work well together. Last fall, Nebraska's pitching staff had a combined ERA of .29 and it only allowed a total of four earned runs in 14 games.

Deardorff said the pitching staff appears so good because they have a great defense behind them.

"We wouldn't be great pitchers if we didn't have a great defense behind us," Deardorff said. "If this team plays as a team, then we

could do very well, but that is only if we play together."

"As for our pitching staff we are better this year because we know more about each other, and if somebody has a bad inning, then we help get them back up. We complement each other, which is good."

Deardorff said this spring will be another tough season because everybody will be playing to beat Nebraska. Since the Huskers have won the Big Eight Conference title three years in a row, every Big Eight team will be coming after them, she said.

"We have just as much of a chance as anybody else does of going all the way," Deardorff said. "Every team in the Big Eight wants us, and they will look to get us, every single game we play is going to be tough."

Deardorff said that if the Huskers are to win the Big Eight title for the fourth time, they cannot overlook any teams in the Big Eight. In some ways, she said, if Nebraska can come out on top in the conference, it will have a chance to win the national title.

Deardorff said the good part about this season is the coaching of Wolforth and his positive attitude.

Deardorff said she plays only because she enjoys the game.

"I love to play softball," Deardorff said. "As long as it's fun I will continue to play, but the moment it stops being fun, that's when it might be time to hang it up."

"But right now I come to practice because I want to, and that is because I like playing for Nebraska and because we have great coaches."

High altitude action alters climbers attitudes

MOUNTAINEERS from Page 7

One of Johnson's recent climbs, he cross-country skied 20 miles with a 75-pound pack to get to the base of Wyoming's Gannett peak.

"The whole time we were there, we didn't see anybody, just tracks and snow," he says. "It's almost like being on another planet. This group of people with a common goal. Life becomes really simple — you don't use money. You don't know what's going on in the world."

The climbers were snowed in their tents for two days, but made it to the top when the day of the final ascent dawned clear.

"It's just one of those kinds of experiences you remember the rest of your life."

Many climbers are deeply affected by climbing experiences. For some, the affection becomes an addiction.

"A lot of them want to get right back in," Johnson says. "It's a highly physical stimulation in an almost drug kind of sense. As with any other addiction, you have to try more and more to become as stimulated as you are initially. That's why some people take unnecessary chances, climbing solo or on peaks that are beyond their ability."

Gabelhouse succumbed to the addiction for a while after graduating from high school in 1968. He moved to the mountains and became a climbing bum, drifting around doing odd jobs and taking unnecessary chances with his life.

Then he, like many active climbers, came to the junction where he had to choose to be a "real

person" or a "real climber."

Some chose to be outcasts.

"As far as the normal social constraints, they don't really fit in at all. They don't feel comfortable with other people. . . the only way that they can feel normal is to be in some kind of a mountaineering expedition."

Gabelhouse chose another path. He has a wife, a daughter, a career. Things that don't matter much to most hardcore climbers.

But his personality has been altered by climbing.

"It ruins you for a lot of common-day life," he says. "What we have here is pretty boring. When I'm in a home or business environment, I need as much stimuli and as much action. I'm always pushing as hard as I can."

He still takes chances.

Although climbers continuously stress the sport's safety, potential danger is part of its attraction, Johnson says. The unexpected or unforeseen always happens on a mountain.

Weather can be an ally or a powerful enemy. Sylvia Wiegand, a UNL math professor who with her husband has climbed all over the world, remembers being snowed in a tent for two days at 20,000 feet. She ripped up her journal to make a deck of cards for bridge. It was more important to try to forget the danger than it was to record and remember it.

"You're in real wilderness, where things can happen to you that are very bad, most of them fatal."

Gabelhouse has carried climbers' corpses down mountains. He's also worried that someday he might be the one dead.

There have been close calls, most of them on the mountain he's tried to climb five times and can't stop wanting to conquer — Mt. Kenya.

On one expedition, he and his partner were bombarded with rocks as they lay sleeping in their tents.

Another time, the fluid in Gabelhouse's brain became unbalanced in the high altitude, a condition he's read about called cerebral pulmonary edema. He passed out on a cliff and when he woke up the next day in a brightly-lit African hospital, he thought, for a minute, that he was in heaven.

When the flatlanders can't climb, mountains are in their thoughts and conversations. Climbers say each mountain has its own magic.

"There's a real high associated with achieving a goal," Johnson said.

Cooper will never forget the feelings he experienced on his first Colorado climb. About 400 feet up a steep cliff, he was awestruck and a little afraid to see birds soaring below him. Nearby, a large pine, uprooted by gravity, slid down the mountain and crashed into a ravine, trailed by a stream of rocks.

Afterward, there were painful bruises, aching muscles, bloody fingertips, and cold beers. But there was something else, too — an exhilaration. An adrenalin rush.

"You remember how neat it was getting that high and you kind of forget about the fear," he

says:

Osterman, too, remembers spectacular views — traversing across a glacier at moon rise by the light of headlamps; watching the sun come up over a panoramic view accented by colors playing off the ice; seeing gentle smoke of Mt. St. Helen's rising in the distance.

Such scenes deserve celebration. Osterman has dragged along ice cream and honeydew melons for the moment of victory at the top.

"One friend of mine liked to haul up bottles of sparkling grape wine and pop the top off at various altitudes to see how high it would go."

Ebel, who has worked with many serious climbers, believes that Plains people have a greater appreciation for the mountains than do their Colorado counterparts.

"People living in the area are concerned over their own survival," he says. "(But) a person who's lived out on the Plains, seeing grass or grain products grow. . . They see mountains up there and desire to climb them. They're mystified by mountains. It's appreciating something you don't have."

And the tradition seems to perpetuate itself. Gabelhouse and Wiegand are raising new generations of Plains climbers. Wiegand says her son already does more climbing than she does.

Gabelhouse has a photo of his daughter Melindi, nearly dwarfed by the climbing rope she she carries.

"As I get older, somebody's going to have to lead the climb. She'll go ahead and pull me up," he says.