

NU baseball player tries regaining form

By David Mussman
Staff Reporter

Jeff Taylor is still trying to regain his form after three years away from the diamond.

Taylor, from Omaha Westside High School, announced before he graduated in 1983 that he would be up for recruitment as a football quarterback. Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa State, Wyoming and Houston expressed interest in Taylor before he finally decided to play for the Cornhuskers.

However, when players like Cleve Blakeman and Steve Taylor made their presence known on the team, Taylor didn't feel he was seeing enough playing time. Last year, he decided to move to the baseball team, and he hasn't regretted the decision yet.

Taylor said the technique involved in pitching and fielding came back easily, but it has taken him time to regain his talent as a hitter.

"I still haven't gotten my timing back at the plate," Taylor said. "I've been spending a little extra time in batting practice to get it back."

In 1986, Taylor started 31 of 34 games for the Huskers, 23 at first base and the rest as a left-hander on the pitcher's mound.

At the plate Taylor hit five doubles, two triples and three home runs for an average of .241 with 25 runs batted in. As a fielder, he committed only one error in 47 games for a .996 percentage.

In high school, Taylor competed in

football, baseball and basketball. Taylor hit .464 as a junior and .382 as a senior. He also posted a 1.35 ERA and a 6-1 record during his final season at Westside. In 1983, he was named the Omaha World-Herald's male high-school athlete of the year.



Taylor

This season, Taylor said, he's seeing most of his playing time as a relief pitcher, a designated hitter and a pinch hitter. The starting first-baseman spot has been filled by Mark Kister.

However, Taylor doesn't mind losing his starting role on the team.

"I'm willing to do whatever I have to do to help the team," Taylor said. "As far as I'm concerned, I'm just enjoying playing baseball."

Football ticket drawing soon

The annual lottery for the UNL student football tickets will be March 30 to April 3 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at the South Stadium Ticket Office.

Students must present a completed application, cash, personal check or money order and current full-time student ID to officials in the Athletic Ticket Office.

A group representative may present all applications with individual payments and current full-time student IDs at the ticket office. The maximum size for a group is 100. Students will draw a lottery number with the highest number being filled first.

Student-ticket prices will be \$49 for seven home games. A spouse

ticket may be purchased for \$129.50.

After the lottery, students may apply for student tickets until 4 p.m. Aug 25.

Lottery applications are available to all students at the Athletic Ticket Office, South Stadium 117; at Student Accounts, Administration Building 110; and at the East Union information desk.

Szarkowski goes for title

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Karyn Szarkowski, a junior javelin, discus, and shot put thrower on the Nebraska women's track and field team, said she hopes she can start throwing the javelin in the upcoming outdoor season where she left off last year.

"I pretty much peaked at the end of the season," she said. "I won Big Eights, started throwing really well there, and then went to nationals and threw really well (finishing second). It continued on to the summer at the TAC (Track Athletic Congress) nationals."

The TAC nationals qualifies American competitors for national and international meets. By doing well at the TAC nationals, Szarkowski was able to qualify for the Goodwill Games in Moscow.

"Going into the TAC meet, I was expected to get third or fourth, and I ended up getting second, so the Goodwill Games weren't even on my itinerary," Szarkowski said. "I ended up

qualifying for them and going, so that was a surprise. The whole trip was a surprise.



Szarkowski

"I went and had a fabulous time," she said. "I got to see a lot of the culture, and (the trip was) just an

unbelievable experience. I still look at it now and can't believe I was there almost two weeks."

Szarkowski said she hopes to qualify for more foreign meets this year.

"I'm hopefully looking toward more trips, internationally if possible," she said. "This summer there is the World University Games in Yugoslavia, and once again there is the World Championships in Rome. (There are) lots of meets that I would surely like to qualify for."

The javelin is the event that Szarkowski concentrates on, and she said she anticipates a strong showing in that event.

"My main event is the javelin; that's the one I'm concerned about as far as obtaining goals," Szarkowski said. "I do, more or less, mess around with the discus and shot. This year I placed fifth indoor (at the Big Eight Conference Championships) in the shot so I was pretty pleased about that, mainly because of the strength gains I've made."

"As far as the javelin, I suppose my overall goal, at least for the University of Nebraska, is to try and win the national title," she said. "I was fortunate to get second last year. I just came on and started doing really well. This year I've pretty much been throwing with the intent to be national champ."

Szarkowski was named co-captain of this season's team, and she said she is trying to lead by example.

"I've tried to be the best leader possible, and I guess the main thing I've tried to do there is set an example through hard work and discipline," she said. "Others can look up to me and come to me if they have any kinds of problems."

Nebraska's women have won seven consecutive outdoor titles in the Big Eight, and Szarkowski wants to keep that string alive.

"I think as a team we are once again going to try to win another Big Eight title," Szarkowski said.

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