

Sports

Bunge combines throwing power, hits

By Kyle Schurman
Staff Reporter

Filling the shoes of an All-American is never easy, but it may be easier for Nebraska senior Todd Bunge than for most.

Bunge was moved from right field, where he started last season, to center field for the Cornhusker baseball team to help ease the departure of All-American Paul Meyers.

Filling Meyers' shoes won't be impossible for Bunge, though: He led Nebraska in batting average, home runs and RBIs in 1986. He also struck out only 11 times in 225 last year.

"He (Bunge) is a capable center fielder," Nebraska Coach John Sanders said. "He is an aggressive fielder and he has a good throwing arm. He's doing a great job out there."

Bunge said he lacks speed but makes up for it by "getting a good jump on the ball."

Offensively, Bunge said, he needs to

drive in runs and hit with a little power to help the team, Sanders agreed.

"He is an outstanding hitter," Sanders said. "He has a great combination of power and being able to get base



Bunge

hits. Hitting in the No. 3 hole, he needs to drive in runs for us."

In 59 games last season, Bunge hit .347 with 17 home runs and 69 RBIs.

Bunge said he would like to see Nebraska win the Big Eight title and advance to the NCAA regionals this year.

"I want to have a good year and help

the team," he said.

Bunge attended junior college for two years before coming to Nebraska. He said he chose Nebraska over such schools as Arkansas, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma and Missouri because, "Nebraska was the most honest and they had the best facilities. They really seemed to care."

Bunge, a business administration major, said he wants to play professional baseball after this season. He wasn't drafted last year, but said he is hoping to get drafted after this season.

Bunge, from St. Louis, said he dreams of playing for the St. Louis Cardinals.

However, "I just want to continue playing as long as I can," Bunge said.

Outfielder Federico sets goal to help team make CWS playoffs

Analysis by Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Joe Federico, a junior outfielder on Nebraska's baseball team, made what most people would consider an impressive debut as a Cornhusker. Federico, a transfer from Glendale, Ariz. Junior College, opened this season against Northwest Missouri State with two home runs, including a grand slam.

Although he said he is in a hitting slump, Federico is batting .315 and leads the team in runs batted in with 29. Federico has hit five home runs and has scored 20 runs.

Federico said he was pleased with his start, but he has noticed a problem in his swing.

"The way I started off was pretty good, but I was doing some stuff wrong at the plate during this last trip," he said. "I worked on it this week at practice and got it straightened out."

Federico said he discovered his problem by watching films of his swing.

"I sat and watched the tapes for a couple of hours as soon as we got back from the trip," he said. "I looked over them with coach (John Sanders), and he told me what he thought and I told him what I thought I was doing wrong. My basic problem was I was too far off the plate and I wasn't being selective with the pitches I was swinging at."

Last season at Glendale, Federico

hit .363 and had seven home runs. He set three school records: home runs in a career (14), walks (49) and total bases (158). He was recruited by several schools, including Arizona State, Florida, and Southern California.

Federico settled on Nebraska because of what he saw on his recruiting trip.



Federico

"It (Nebraska) was straightforward and I liked it when I came out on my trip," he said. "I liked coach, I liked all the players I met, and we had a good time when I was out here. I thought that this was where I wanted to be."

Federico came to Nebraska despite

the Huskers' cold winters.

"You can play all year out there (California), and we have to be inside sometimes," he said. "I think I'm lucky so far. The winter we've had wasn't very bad."

One of Federico's goals is to play professional baseball. The Houston Astros drafted him in the fourth round in 1986, but he chose not to sign then.

"I wanted to learn more about baseball, and I could get another year of school in," he said.

Although Federico, a business administration major, played at a junior college last season, he has not found the switch to Division I difficult.

"Last year we played a lot of Division I teams in fall baseball, and also I played up in Cape Cod this summer and they have some good competition, so I was pretty used to it," Federico said. "I still think the toughest part of our schedule is coming up. This week will be a real test for us, and then we start playing our Big Eight schedule."

Federico said he hasn't set any personal goals for this season, but he wants to help Nebraska reach the College World Series in Omaha in June.

"I just want to get our team into the playoffs — get into the World Series," he said.

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Beck honored; named as top coach by peers

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck has been selected as the Converse District V Coach of the Year by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

Beck, a graduate of Millikin University in Decatur, Ill., led the Cornhuskers to a 16-13 season record and a fourth-place Big Eight Conference finish with an 8-6 record. Nebraska finished tied for third in the Big Eight post-season tournament, losing to Kansas in the semifinals.

"This is a high honor to have been selected by my peers," Beck said. "I have to thank my players, my staff and, of course, Athletic Director Bob Devaney for instilling his support. As a new coach you have anxieties about bringing in a new system, but our players showed a winning attitude and accepted my philosophy of the game."

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