

# Sports

## 10 years and 400 wins later, top honor still eludes Sanders

By Tim Hartmann  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders has spent the last 10 years recruiting players from all over the country in the hope that they will help him reach a place that is only 50 miles away — the College World Series, which is each year in Omaha.

Several of Sanders' Cornhusker teams have reached the NCAA regionals, but none have ever reached the world series. Sanders said that reaching the world series is a goal his teams strive for each season, and he is disappointed that none have made it.

"You look at the College World Series and that's a legitimate goal. Two years ago we had a real shot at it, we missed on it, and that was a real disappointment," Sanders said.

Although none of his teams have made it to the World Series, they have won consistently. In the previous nine seasons all of Sanders' teams have posted winning records, and all have won more than 35 games.

This year's team, after going 5-3 on last week's road trip, is now 15-4 on the

season. Included in the victories last week were wins over traditional powers Nevada-Las Vegas and Arizona State.

Earlier this season, against Northern Colorado, Sanders won his 400th game as a coach at Nebraska.

"It's not so much the 400th win," Sanders said, "it's more or less what has gone into the time period, the last 10 years, that makes something like that more significant. You would have to go back to former players and everybody that has helped out — all the administrators, Bob Devaney, all the boosters who have put money in our program and helped us get where we compete on a national level."

One difficulty Sanders has is luring top high-school players to Nebraska despite its cold winters. Nebraska's weather sometimes causes problems for Husker baseball recruiting; last weekend, when three recruits were in Lincoln to see Nebraska play Iowa State, the games scheduled for Saturday and Sunday were cancelled because of a blizzard.

Sanders said the Husker baseball program compensates for the weather problem.

"We overcome it through what we think are outstanding facilities and a sincere effort on the part of our entire staff and players to commit to excellence," Sanders said. "That's our recruiting philosophy."

Another problem is that many of Sanders' players are drafted by professional baseball teams before their four years at Nebraska are over.

"The better the program, the more turnover you have," Sanders said. "If you have good players, they're going to be drafted at the end of their junior year, and there is a possibility that they will leave. Of course, we encourage those that have a good deal to go. It is a factor, and any good program fights that problem."

Last season, 16 of Sanders' former players played in the minor leagues. Four played in the major leagues: Tim Burke and Bob Sebra of the Montreal Expos, Anthony Kelley of the Houston Astros, and Pete O'Brien of the Texas Rangers.

Sanders said it would be difficult to name the best player he has coached at Nebraska. He said it is hard to compare players.

"One of the players who is in the big leagues, Pete O'Brien, came here in the 1978 and 1979 seasons and he left here with not maybe the best statistics of some of those we have had since then," Sanders said, "but he is in the major leagues. So it's a hard thing to call."

Sanders, 41, had coaching and playing experience before he joined the Nebraska staff in 1977 as an assistant to former coach Tony Sharpe.

Sanders didn't play baseball in high school, but was signed to a baseball contract by Whitey Herzog, who later won the World Series as a manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. Sanders spent five years in the minor leagues before reaching the big leagues in 1965 when he was called up by the Kansas City Athletics.

Sanders coached at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Ore., and Arizona Western College before coming to Nebraska.

After a year as assistant coach, Sanders was named coach in 1978. Sanders said he is not surprised by how long he's been at Nebraska, but he hadn't planned on it.

"I really didn't have a plan of action when I came here," Sanders said. "I didn't say I was going to be here five years or 10 or whatever. There have been times over the course of 10, 11 years, when you take a good look and you evaluate, but I've been happy and I've been given the opportunity to win. There is a commitment here on the part of the athletic administration, Bob Devaney in particular, to allow us the opportunity to win."



Courtesy of Nebraska Sports Information  
Sanders

## Football lottery today

The student season football ticket lottery continues today from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at the South Stadium Ticket Office.

A completed application, a current full-time student ID and cash, check or money order must be presented at the time of purchase.

A group representative may present all applications with individual payments and current full-time IDs at the ticket office. The maximum size for a group is 100. Students will

draw a lottery number, and the highest numbers will be filled first.

Student price will be \$49 for seven home games. A spouse ticket may be purchased for \$129.50.

All students may apply for tickets after Friday until 4 p.m. on Aug. 25.

Applications are available at the Athletic Ticket Office (South Stadium 117), Student Accounts (Administration 110) and the East Union information desk.

## Husker gymnastics team goes to championship after big win over SIU

By Rich Cooper  
Staff Reporter

After scoring a season-high 284.8 against Southern Illinois Sunday night, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team will travel to Norman, Okla., this weekend for the Big Eight championships.

Nebraska, ranked No. 2 in the NCAA, has won the Big Eight Conference Championship two years in a row. Last year at Ames, Iowa, the Cornhuskers won with a 283.75. But this year, the coaches favor Oklahoma to win the conference title.

Nebraska coach Francis Allen said he doesn't think Oklahoma should be favored because he feels Nebraska is a better team.

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—Allen

"We beat them by three points the last time we competed against them," Allen said. "I think that proves that we are the better team, but I guess we will have to prove that on the floor."

Last weekend against SIU, the Huskers set several team season-highs, and several individuals had season-high performances. Nebraska scored a team high 47.75 on the floor exercise and on still rings they set a high score of 47.40.

Junior Tom Schlesinger won the all-around title for the sixth meet in a row, scoring a career-high 57.95. He also set a season high of 9.8 on pommel horse,

and career-highs on the rings (9.65) and on parallel bars (9.8).

Nebraska and Oklahoma have defeated each other once in Big Eight competition. The last time the Huskers competed in Norman, they lost to the Sooners 278.45-273.95, which was their lowest score of the season. The two teams tied at a triangular meet in Lincoln on Feb. 7, and the Husker defeated the Sooners 280.95-278.25 March 7.

Allen said that to win the Big Eight Championship, the team will have to perform well. The Huskers have not defeated Oklahoma in Norman since the 1981-82 season.

Allen said that because the conference championship meet is the last meet before the NCAA Championships, it's important that the Huskers have a good meet. The three upperclassmen — Schlesinger, Kevin Davis and Neil Palmer — must score above 57 in the all-around and the freshmen also must have a solid meet, he said.

"If we can win the conference championship, it will be a good boost into the NCAA meet," Allen said.

Allen said he thinks this team can win the meet at Oklahoma because they are now beginning to peak, which happens every year at this time, he said.

Allen said he isn't surprised by Schlesinger's success. When the season started, Allen said, he told him and the other two upperclassmen that they would need a good year to contend for the NCAA Championship.

"I can't help but think that the scene is set for us," Allen said. "We have to perform like the team we were last Sunday. If we do, then we will win."

For the first time in two years, compulsory competition will be a part of the Big Eight Championships. Competition will begin Friday night with compulsories and will continue Saturday night with team and individual competition.

## Softball team starts Big 8 season

By Rich Cooper  
Staff Reporter

After a successful spring road trip to Texas and California, Nebraska's softball team will open its 1987 Big Eight Conference season this weekend in Stillwater, Okla., facing Oklahoma and Oklahoma State in round-robin play.

The Cowgirls, 21-7, ranked No. 3 in the nation, captured the team title in the Bud Light National Invitational at San Jose, Calif., last weekend by defeating No. 7-ranked Arizona State 3-0. The Huskers reached the finals by defeating No. 3-ranked UCLA.

The tournament's Most Valuable Player, Lori Sippel, pitched a one-hitter to defeat the Bruins for the fifth time ever.

Sippel was named MVP because she was the first pitcher to win two games with shutouts in the tournament and returned for and threw out 40 batters.

She was named MVP because she hit .400 in seven games and knocked seven hits, including a pair of game-

winning home runs. The Huskers were 6-1 in the tournament; their only loss was to No. 15-ranked Central Michigan. For the first time in seven years, the Huskers got no hits.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolfarth said winning



Wolfarth

the Bud Light Invitational was the turning point of the season.

He said he hopes Nebraska can continue to have momentum this weekend because Oklahoma State and Oklahoma are good hitting teams and that they will be "psyched up" to play Nebraska.

"Between us and Oklahoma State there is a natural rivalry," Wolfarth said. "They want to beat us bad and if they do it, it will make their year."

Wolfarth said that both teams are good, solid hitting teams and if they get good pitching they could give the Huskers some problems.

Aggressive hitting is going to be the key, Wolfarth said. Nebraska has won 11 games in which it scored in the first inning. The Huskers have outscored their opponents 67-33 this season, and the pitching staff has a combined earned run average of .56 in 300 innings.

Wolfarth said Sippel and Doreen Deardorff are pitching very well right now and Stacy

Handley will come around soon also, he said.

"Sippel has been unstoppable in the last 27 innings she has pitched," Wolfarth said. "I feel right now that both her and Deardorff are among the top 10 pitchers in the nation."

Oklahoma State is ranked No. 20 in the nation. Last weekend at the Bud Light Invitational, the Cowgirls made it to the semifinals before losing to Arizona State 3-0. Wolfarth said it will be tough to beat them at home because of their fan support.

"Stillwater is a nasty place to play because their fans are so rowdy down there," Wolfarth said. "The fans yell and scream a lot, beat on the dugout top, and really try and intimidate opposing teams. With us being ranked No. 3 in the nation, they are going to be even louder."

Oklahoma is 10-10 on the season and is led by Viki Roberts and Orla Corralle who have averages of .373 and .377. Wolfarth said the Sooners have many problems with pitching because they just lost their top two pitchers to personal problems. But, he said, there's a good hitting ball club. Nebraska leads the series 14-10.