

Sports

Jayhawks lose series

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The problems following the Kansas baseball team continued to worsen after the Jayhawks' weekend series with Nebraska.

Kansas, which learned earlier this year that Coach Marty Pattin's contract would not be renewed at the end of the season extended its losing streak to 12 games Sunday as the Cornhuskers posted 11-8 and 6-4 victories at Quigley Field.

Nebraska defeated Kansas 15-11 and 7-4 on Saturday.

"That was a good team effort," Nebraska baseball coach John Saunders said. "It was also a very positive way to start the Big Eight season."

Kansas right-fielder Hugh Stanfield said the losses were typical of the Jayhawks' season because of the errors and the mental breakdown.

Stanfield said the Jayhawks were particularly upset with Kansas third baseman Darrel Matthews for allowing a routine ground ball to roll into left field giving the Huskers the four-game sweep.

"If he moves over that's a double play ball," Stanfield said. "There's only so much we can do, so those people who aren't contributing have to take it on themselves to want the ball."

Stanfield said the Jayhawks' losses were more frustrating than disappointing because most the time Kansas blows late leads.

"God, we don't want that to happen," he said.

Saunders said he attributed Nebraska's ability to come back twice against the 8-16-1 Jayhawks to the Husker's policy of treating each inning separately.

Saunders said that when Nebraska does find itself trailing late in a game, the Huskers attempt to make up the

deficit by assaulting the opposing team's pitcher.

"We just reload," Saunders said.

Nebraska wasn't forced to rally in the first game on Sunday, as the Huskers jumped on Kansas pitcher Steve Renko III for seven runs in two innings.

Ron Crowe started things for Nebraska when he was hit by a Renko pitch. Todd Bunge singled, and consecutive singles by Mark Kister, Jeff Taylor and Ken Sirak gave the Huskers a 3-0 lead after one inning.

Nebraska increased its lead to 7-0 in the second inning when Kister hit a three-run homerun. Lead-off hitter Vince Limon had started the inning by reaching on a walk and scoring on an error by Matthews.

Nebraska then relied on the pitching of John Kohli and Steve Spurgeon to preserve the 11-8 victory. Kohli allowed only six hits in 7 1/3 innings while Spurgeon stopped the Jayhawks over the games final 1 2/3 innings.

"We have a strong pitching staff this year," Sanders said. "The pitchers are working within their limitations."

In Sunday's second game, Nebraska rallied to tie the score at 4-4 in the top of the sixth inning and then won the game in its last at bats on Sirak's single.

Nebraska took a 2-0 lead when Sirak hit a two-run home run in the top of the second inning, but the Jayhawks rallied to tie the score when John Byrn hit a home run over the centerfield fence and Scott Seratte scored on a fielder's choice. Seratte had begun the inning by hitting a double and moving to third base on a wild pitch by Nebraska pitcher Phil Goguen.

The Jayhawks took a 4-2 lead in the contest, but Nebraska tied the score in the top of the sixth inning when Sirak singled, moved to second on a wild pitch by Jayhawk pitcher Scott Taylor and scored on a single by Crowe.

Oklahoma captures gymnastics title

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's men's gymnastics team continued to have its problems in Norman, Okla., as the Cornhuskers finished second behind the Sooners 285.2-282.95 at the Big Eight Conference Championships Friday and Saturday.

After the first rotation Nebraska led the Sooners by five-tenths of a point, but on the next event, three Huskers fell off the pommel horse as Nebraska scored only 46.85.

Nebraska's Tom Schlesinger finished second in the all-around with a 111.4 behind Oklahoma's Mike Rice, who held off Schlesinger in the last rotation with a 111.6. On Friday night after compulsory competition, Rice had a .35 lead

over Schlesinger.

But on Saturday night, in the team and optional competition, Schlesinger won individual championships in the still rings with a 9.8 and parallel bars with a 9.85. He also scored a career high in optional all-around competition with a 58.05; Rice scored a 58.0. Nebraska's Kevin Davis finished third in the all-around with a 109.15.

Freshmen Bob Stelter won the individual championship in the vault with a 9.45.

Fellow freshman Patrick Kirksey finished third on the parallel bars with a 9.6, finished fourth on pommel horse with a 9.45, and tied for third with Oklahoma's Carlo Sambino on vault with a 9.35.

The women's team was upset by New Mexico 186.05-185.95 Friday

night in a dual meet in Albuquerque, N.M. Three Nebraska all-arounders scored more than in the all-around.

Jeanene Smith finished third with a 37.35, Crystal Savage was fourth with a 37.30, and freshman Michelle Bryant scored a career high of 37.25.

Nebraska coach Rick Walton said he was pleased with the team's performance. He said they lost the meet because the judges seemed to give New Mexico, "a little more room for errors."

"Watching the routines I thought New Mexico was scored a little bit high," Walton said. "It was a festive night for them, but I think the judges were scoring them high because they knew the Region V meet is coming up."

Nebraska then scored the game's winning run when Sirak's slow-rolling ground ball got past Matthews. Kister started the inning by reaching on an error by Kansas shortstop Seratte and took second base on a sacrifice by John Franklin.

Sirak's single allowed Kister to score, and consecutive singles by Tim Pettengill and Bruce Wobken made the score 6-4.

On Saturday, Nebraska scored seven runs in the top of the ninth inning to defeat the Jayhawks in the first game. In the second game, the Huskers took a 4-0 lead and then held off a determined Kansas rally to preserve the victory.

"Overall, it was a good weekend," Sanders said. "We thought we had a chance to sweep, and we got it done."

Nebraska's next game is Wednesday, when the Huskers face nationally ranked Wichita State in a doubleheader at Buck Beltzer Field. Game time is 1 p.m.

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Topps gives chewy facts

Analysis By Stew Magnuson
Staff Reporter

One of the consistent pleasures of my life, from age 12 until this day, is cracking open a pack of Topps Baseball cards and slowly flipping through each card, hoping for a favorite player. It's nice to know



that something I enjoyed when I was 12 is still with me 11 years later.

Yes, opening day for Major League Baseball is here, the Topps Chewing Gum, Inc. released its new line of cards months ago.

There's still nothing quite so thrilling for me as finding a favorite Major Leaguer in a pack of cards. Now, some serious collectors just go out and pay \$30 for a complete set. Hey, that's fine for them, but in my opinion, they're missing all the fun. Sure, they're guaranteed a new Bo Jackson card (this year's hot card), but they're missing the rush of actually lucking into one.

This year's cards have a wood background. It gives the cards sort

of a classic, country feel to them. Kind of like those wood bleachers you sit on during small-town, little-league games. But the best part of this year's cards are the fun facts about the players on the back of each card, just below the statistics. They just make me want to get to know these players better as individuals. For instance: "One of Jeff (Hamilton's) favorite pastimes is bowling." "Greg (Minton) finds pleasure in going horseback rid-



ing." "Mike (Davis) has aspirations of a real estate career."

Wow, some of these players "enjoy television." Their hobbies include "taping things on their VCRs." Mike Boddicker has worked as a grain-elevator operator. That will give Vin Scully and Joe Garagiola innings worth of fascinating commentary when Mike pitches.

Now, I don't like to brag or name-drop, but I do just happen to have two Zane Smith baseball cards already. Zane is my 16th cousin by

marriage, five times removed from North Platte. No kidding, my grandma says it's so, and she knows these things.

I don't like to brag, but Zane is a starting pitcher for "America's Team," the Atlanta Braves. Again, I don't like to brag, but I used to hit 360-foot homers off of Zane at family reunions. That was, until I showed him how to do my split-finger fast-ball; then his career just took off. By the way, "Zane enjoys listening to hard rock music," according to his fun fact.

My one big beef about this year's



baseball cards concerns the managers. Of course, getting a manager's card is about as exciting as getting one of the those stupid "checklists." But why do we have to know manager's height, weight and which arm he used to throw with. Let's face it, they all claim to be 198 or 193 pounds. Who cares? Besides, we know these guys are well over 220. Who are they trying to fool?

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