

# Sports

## NU drops 2; softball team wants comeback Home opener Saturday Huskers not prepared against WSU

By Rich Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's softball team will try to break a two-game losing streak Saturday when it plays Utah in its 1987 season opener at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

Nebraska, 23-9 this season and ranked No. 4 in the NCAA coaches' poll, lost two consecutive Big Eight Conference games for the first time ever last weekend to Oklahoma State and Oklahoma.

The Cornhuskers started off last weekend by defeating Oklahoma State 1-0 Saturday in 10 innings behind Lori Sippel's four-hit, eight-strikeout performance. In the other game the Huskers defeated Oklahoma 3-0.

But on Sunday things get cold for Nebraska, as the Huskers lost the first game to Oklahoma State 2-0 and then dropped a 3-1 game to the Sooners.

The loss dropped Nebraska into a tie for second place with Oklahoma at 2-2. Iowa State now holds possession of first place at 3-1. Nebraska will play Iowa State on April 18 at the Softball Complex.

Because of her performance at the San Jose Invitational last week, Sippel was named the Big Eight Pitcher of the Week. She posted a 3-0 record with two saves while striking out 25 batters and allowing only 10 hits at the tournament.

The Huskers had maintained a six-game winning streak until Sunday. Nebraska has never lost a home opener.

Sippel's shutout against Oklahoma State Saturday was her eighth this season. She has a career total of 36 shutouts and 669 strikeouts in 528 innings pitched. Sippel is 9-2 this season with an earned run average of .29. Donna Deardorff on Saturday held Oklahoma to two hits to improve her record to 9-3 but in her loss to Oklahoma State Sunday, she allowed two runs (one unearned) and six hits. Her ERA this season is .32.

Deardorff leads the team in batting with a .320 average. Margie Ogradowicz has been to the plate more than any other Husker with 109 at-bats. Her slugging percentage is .422, and she has 12 runs batted in and three home runs.

By Jeff Apel  
Staff Reporter

A new experience awaited the Nebraska baseball team during the Cornhuskers' double-header against Wichita State Wednesday at Buck Beltzer Field.

Nebraska infielder Mark Kister said that for the first time this season, the Huskers weren't prepared mentally for an opponent. Kister said that cost Nebraska, as errors and missed opportunities led to 10-9 and 11-5 losses to the Shockers.

**'We just weren't ready to play. Baseball is so mental that if you're not ready to play, you're not going to play well.'**

—Kister

"We just weren't ready to play," Kister said. "Baseball is so mental that if you're not ready to play, you're not going to play well."

Kister said the Huskers have to use their performance against the Shockers as a learning experience if they hope to avoid a repeat effort.

"There's no way you can prepare for it, it just has to be done," he said. "We have to be ready to play."

Wichita State coach Gene Stephenson said he was pleased with the outcome of the games because the Shockers hadn't been playing good baseball.

Stephenson said he can attribute that fact largely to a string of road games which took the Shockers from Hawaii to Tulsa, Okla.

"We're playing all the time. We're just a little tired," Stephenson said. "We're showing fatigue."



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Ken Sirak makes a long throw to first base during third inning action against Wichita State at Buck Beltzer Field, Wednesday.

Wichita State took a 4-0 lead in the first game when the Shocker pitcher Rich McIntyre stopped the Huskers on three hits through six innings.

But in the seventh, Nebraska scored five runs off Wichita State relief pitcher David Haas to take a 5-4 lead. But the Shockers won the game in the 10th inning when Jeff Bonacquist, who was hit by a pitch by Husker pitcher Dale Kistaltis, scored on a passed ball by

Nebraska catcher Tim Pettengill.

In the second game, Wichita State used a six-run seventh inning to break open a 5-3 contest and post the victory. The Huskers were plagued by six errors in the game, two which were committed by first baseman Jeff Taylor on the same play.

Nebraska's next home game is today against the Division II UNO Mavericks. Game time is 2 p.m.

## NU offense looks good in mid-week scrimmage

By The Associated Press

The Nebraska Cornhuskers had their regular mid-week scrimmage as part of Wednesday's spring football practice, and Coach Tom Osborne said the offense once again had a good performance.

"The offense moved the ball pretty well again," Osborne said, "but when you don't have officials out there and they only have to go 40 yards to score"

it makes a difference.

"It looks like we still have a little ways to go on defense," he continued, "but they hit well and they played hard."

Osborne said he didn't know of any major injuries from the scrimmage. He said the Huskers get Thursday off, have a light practice Friday and have their second major scrimmage of the spring on Saturday.

**!! ATTENTION !!**  
**! 1987 COLLEGE GRADUATES!**  
Special Interest, Special Terms,  
Low Downpayment on all new 1987 vehicles.  
Good Selection in our present stock.

**McDonald Motors**