

Sports

Softball team tops Kearney in double-hitter

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Lori Richins hit two home runs and Donna Deardorff pitched a one-hitter Tuesday, helping Nebraska's softball team extend its winning streak to 11 games. The team defeated Kearney State College 10-2 and 13-0 in a double-hitter at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

Richins, a senior from Chico, Calif., said she was happy with her performance Tuesday because she had been struggling at the plate before.

"Coming into today's game, I had not been hitting the ball that well, and I even had asked coach to move me down in the order because other people on the team were hitting the ball so well," Richins said. "But it felt good getting those home runs."

In the first game against the Kearney State Antelopes, Nebraska jumped out to a quick lead in the first inning when Richins hit a three-run home run over the left-centerfield fence to give Nebraska a 6-0 lead. The Cornhuskers scored one run later in the inning, increasing their lead over the Antelopes 7-0.

Kearney State scored two runs in the second inning, but Nebraska countered when Lori Sipple and Richins hit consecutive singles.

In the second game against Kearney State, Deardorff held the Antelopes to one hit, and the Huskers scored 10 runs in the bottom of the third inning to jump to a 11-0 lead.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said he was a little surprised with the scores because he had heard so many

good things about Kearney State's pitching.

"I thought this was going to be a tough double-hitter for us because I had been following Kearney all season and had heard nothing but good things about their pitching," Wolforth said. "Offensively I think we are where we want to be at this point of the season."

Nebraska will go into the Big Eight Conference Tournament this weekend seeded No. 1. The Huskers, will play the winner of the Oklahoma State-Kansas game Friday night in St. Joseph, Mo.

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— Wolforth

Wolforth said he is a little worried about the team going into the Big Eight Championships because it will be without senior first baseman Amy Love, who is out the rest of the season because of mononucleosis.

Wolforth said it seemed like both Sipple and Deardorff were a little tired because they had pitched three out of the last four days.

"I was a little surprised on how well they hit Sip today but I guess it was because she was tired from this weekend," Wolforth said. "Kearney State is a good hitting club and I was just surprised with how well we did against them today."



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Lori Sipple pitches for the Huskers during the first game of their double-hitter against Kearney State at the Nebraska Softball Complex Tuesday.

Star aims for '88 Olympics

By Mark Derowitsch
Staff Reporter

Angela Thacker's track career was quick out of the blocks.

It all started her freshman year in high school when the senior from St. Louis, Mo., began competing in track. At her first state tournament Thacker placed second in the 100-yard dash and the 200-yard dash.

From that point on, Thacker's career took off. During her junior year she captured three state titles. Two more state titles in her senior year made Thacker one of the most sought-after sprinters in the Midwest.

Thacker chose Nebraska over Arizona State, Texas, Tennessee State and several other schools because of the Cornhuskers' past success.

"The year before I came here, they had won the National Indoor Track Championship," Thacker said. "I also knew a girl up here who played basketball, and I talked to her about the school. I talked to Coach Gary Pepin and everything seemed to be in order and it sounded pretty good, so I decided to come here."

Since her arrival at Nebraska, Thacker's success has continued. Thacker has earned All-America titles in her four seasons as a Husker, and in 1984 she won the NCAA indoor long-jump title.

But perhaps her greatest accomplishment during her track career, Thacker said, was qualifying for the 1984 United States Olympic team for the Los Angeles games, where she placed fourth in the long jump.

"At the time that I was actually at the Olympics, I was happy with the fourth-place finish, but it means more to me now than it did," Thacker said.

"I think the Olympics would have to be my best accomplishment," she said. "The Olympics, for track, is like the Super Bowl for football. You can't get any better."

Thacker said she plans to try out for the 1988 Olympic team and try to better her fourth-place finish.

"I'm pleased with the overall success I've had through the years," Thacker said.



Paul Vonderiga/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Angela Thacker runs her cool-down laps after practice last week at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Thacker has earned 14 All-American titles during her four years as a Cornhusker.

Women's swim team signs prized recruits; 2 in Olympic Festival

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert reached a recruiting milestone Tuesday when he announced that the Cornhuskers signed three athletes to letters of intent and added two walk-ons.

Huppert said that this year's recruiting class is "excellent" because Nebraska signed two athletes who qualified for the Olympic Festival this summer: Minday Matheny, a freestyler and backstroker from Sherwood, Ark.; and Deanna Welbourn, a backstroker from Barstow, Calif.

Nebraska's remaining recruits include Kristen Neuenfeldt, a free-styler and backstroker from Plymouth, Minn.; Jennell Garcia, a butterfly specialist from Boulder, Colo.; and Lynne Braddock from Rapid City, S.D. Garcia and Braddock are walk-ons.

Huppert said the signing of Matheny and Welbourn is significant because it marks the first time during his 12-year coaching career that the Huskers signed athletes who qualified for the Olympic Festival during their high-school careers. The Olympic Festival will be in Chapel Hill, N.C., on July 14 through 16.

"In terms of quality and versatility, this is the best recruiting year we've had," Huppert said. "The versatility is tremendous."

Huppert said Matheny chose Nebraska over South Carolina, Welbourn chose the Huskers over Southern Cal., Arizona, UNLV and Tennessee.

He said he looks forward to working with both athletes because of their tremendous talent. Huppert will get an early preview of Matheny and Welbourn when he is an assistant coach for the Olympic Festival's North Squad this summer.

"They're just excellent finds for us," Huppert said.

Huppert said Nebraska's three remaining recruits — Neuenfeldt, Garcia and Braddock — are all capable of contributing immediately to the Nebraska program.

Neuenfeldt was a state champion in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle during her high-school senior season. Garcia finished 14th in the Junior National's 100-yard butterfly competition, and Braddock swam for former Nebraska swimmer Melonie Jacob-Lahodny.

Huppert said Neuenfeldt chose Nebraska over Minnesota, Arizona State and Arizona. He said Garcia and Braddock turned down scholarship offers to walk on at Nebraska.



Huppert

Huppert said Nebraska's recruiting class likely will become even stronger because the Huskers plan to sign two more scholarship athletes and add two walk-ons.

Huppert said that it appears that all the Nebraska recruits will be academically eligible.

"We've done our homework," he said. "The only unknown factor about them is their adjustment to a new environment. But we're going to help them make that adjustment."

Huppert said the Huskers' recruiting year has been good because Nebraska finished ninth in the 1986 NCAA Championships. He said it took two years for recruits to realize that Nebraska could compete on a national level.