

Sports

Husker's college career gleams of bronze gold

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

It is said that gold is better than bronze. But Nebraska pitcher Lori Sippel has the best of both worlds.

Sippel, a senior from Stratford, Ontario, has spiced her college career by receiving both gold and bronze medals in international softball competition. She earned a bronze medal while competing for Canada in the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis and earned a gold medal while she was a member of the 1983 Canadian team that participated in the Pan American Games in Caracas, Venezuela.

Sippel said the conditions in Caracas were different than those in Indianapolis. She said the athletes' village in Caracas wasn't completed; it lacked shower curtains and running water.

The rooms were also overcrowded and mediocre, Sippel said.

She said security in Caracas was tight because political wars were developing. She said it wasn't uncommon to see a 12-year-old child carrying a gun.

"There were police and people all over," Sippel said. "You just didn't feel safe."

Sippel said her safety wasn't threatened in Indianapolis.

"The environment was nice," she said.

The Canadian team was unable to retain the Pan American title it earned in 1983 because it was a young team, Sippel said. Five members of the 1983 team competed for the 1987 squad that finished 7-3, including a 1-3 mark in games which Sippel pitched.

"The (1983) team didn't want to win as much and that harmed us," Sippel said. "I was disappointed because we didn't play as well as we could have."

"But I'm pleased to have a bronze," Sippel said she was pleased with her performance in the 1987 Pan American Games. She pitched a one-hitter to defeat El Salvador 7-0, and lost 1-0 and 5-4 decisions to the United States and Puerto Rico.

Sippel said that stepping up to the medal stage at the Pan American Games was the fondest memory softball has provided her.

"It's a wonderful feeling," Sippel said. "I have never been so high at any one moment in my life."

Sippel said she would like to win her second gold medal during her final season at Nebraska by winning the College World Series.

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said he would like Sippel to have a year that she deserves.

"Lori, along with (fellow pitcher) Donna Deardorff, brought the University of Nebraska to national prominence," Wolforth said.



Lori Sippel

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