

Jayhawks grab NCAA title from Sooners

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)— Danny Manning scored 31 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as unranked Kansas won its second national championship with an 83-79 victory over No. 4 Oklahoma Monday night to become the youngest champion in NCAA history.

The Jayhawks, 26-11, played fast and slow and withstood a record-setting 3-point performance from Oklahoma's Dave Sieger to avenge two losses to the Sooners, 35-4, during the regular season. Oklahoma had beaten Kansas twice during the season, 73-65 and 95-87.

This was the third championship game played between two teams from the same conference and it was the third this decade in which a heavy underdog managed to win the title.

Kansas was an 8-point underdog but in the first half the Jayhawks ran the with the Sooners, the nation's second-leading scoring team and the regular-season and tournament champions in the Big Eight. The first half was played at Oklahoma's tempo as the teams finished tied at 50-50.

Then they showed patience in the second half, running down the 45-second clock before taking good percentage shots. The Jayhawks shot 64 percent for the game, 35 of 55, and then cooled off after a first half in which they made 17 of 20 at one point.

But for all the strategy of Coach Larry Brown it was Manning, the two-time All-America who carried the Jayhawks to the title in a year in which they overcame injuries and

academic problems.

Milt Newton added 15 points for Kansas, while Kevin Pritchard had 13. Sieger led Oklahoma with 22 points, while Stacey King had 17 and Harvey Grant and Mookie Blaylock added 14 each. But King and Grant, the two leading scorers, had just four each in the second half.

Kansas took the lead for good at 69-68 on a hook shot by Manning with 8:50 left in the game. It was the last of seven straight Kansas points scored by the 6-foot-10 Kansas center and the play started with Manning standing at midcourt with the ball waiting for Oklahoma to come out and apply pressure.

Manning handed the ball off, cut to the basket and hit the hook.

Chris Piper then hit a jumper to give Kansas

a four-point lead. The Sooners tied the score on a free throw by Sieger and a turnaround jumper by Grant with 5:55 left.

Pritchard hit a baseline drive with 5:34 left and the Jayhawks were on the way to the first national championship for a team from west of the Mississippi River since UCLA won in 1975.

Manning sealed the victory with four free throws in the final 14 seconds. He gave Kansas an 81-77 lead with the first two. Scooter Barry had missed the second free throw of a 1-and-1 but Manning tapped the rebound and was fouled by King.

The game was played in Kemper Arena, the site of the Big Eight tournament and just 35 miles from the Kansas campus.

NU will try to eliminate 'bitter taste' against Creighton

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Although the Nebraska softball team has already defeated Creighton once this season, a bitter taste still lingers in the Cornhuskers' mouths.

But today at the Nebraska Softball Complex, the Huskers will have a chance to numb the two-year bitterness when they face Creighton in a doubleheader at 3 p.m.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said the bitter taste comes from an NCAA ruling that declared the Huskers ineligible just before they were to face Creighton in the 1986 Midwest Regional.

The winner of the regional tournament receives an automatic berth to the College World Series.

The NCAA disqualified Nebraska because, the report stated, the Hus-

ers used two ineligible players who "materially contributed" to winning the Big Eight tournament and earning an automatic regional berth. The players were identified as former infielder Amy Love and current shortstop Jane Kremer.

The NCAA ruled that Love rode the team bus during her redshirt season in 1985 and that former Nebraska coach Wayne Daigel paid for a meal for Kremer and her family while he was recruiting her.

"A few years ago was supposed to be our year winning the series before we were disqualified to play in the regional," left fielder Janelle Frese said. "This year is the first time we get them again."

Wolforth, whose team beat Creighton 5-0 in the Bud Light Invitational in San Jose, Calif., earlier this

season, said he is trying to eliminate the negative rivalry between the two schools and make the contest positive.

"I like to downplay any negative feelings toward Creighton," Wolforth said. "We certainly have no ill feelings toward them. I like playing and I like beating Creighton."

Wolforth said he enjoys playing the Bluejays because they are usually one of the top 10 teams in the nation. He said Creighton is a definite top-20 team this year.

Wolforth said the 18-7 Bluejays are "red hot" because they have won nine straight games after losing to Nebraska.

"If we jump out ahead of a team, we will win 99 percent of our games," Wolforth said. "Our pitching and defense is always strong and good.

When we get a lead on a team, we take a lot away from them and they have to string together five or six hits, and both our pitchers will not allow them to."

Frese said she knows pitching will be important against Creighton. She said the Huskers also have to be in the game mentally by attacking the ball and being alert when they play defense.

"I know they're out to get us," Frese said. "They are going to have a lot of motivation behind their play, but Nebraska is going to be ready to play. We need to tune up for the Big Eight, and we can't afford to lose. A split to us would be considered an unsuccess."

Frese said she hopes Nebraska is able to put together a complete game and play up to its potential against

Creighton.

Wolforth said the Huskers need to play every inning of both games hard. He said that during Nebraska's 2-1 and 4-2 victories against Eastern Illinois Saturday, the Huskers only played hard during the first three innings of each game.

"If we are going to challenge for the national championship we need to play every inning at a high level of intensity," Wolforth said. "The difference between good and great teams are they have very few lapses in intensity. We lost three ball games in one inning because we lost our intensity. We need to play the full seven or 14 innings."

Wolforth said he expects Kremer, who missed Saturday's games because of an illness in her family, to play today. He said Kremer will bring stability back to the Husker lineup.

3-1 Iowa State series disappoints Nebraska's Sanders

By Steve Sipple
Senior Reporter

Many college baseball teams would be satisfied with winning three of four games on the road against a conference opponent.

But not the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Nebraska led 8-6 and was two strikes away from sweeping a four-game series against Iowa State in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader at Cap Timm Field in Ames, Iowa. But Ed Riley launched a two-out, three-run home run to enable the Cyclones to avoid the sweep with a 9-8 win.

Nebraska won Sunday's first game 11-1. The Huskers beat the Cyclones 14-5 and 6-1 on Saturday.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said his team wanted a sweep.

"We're not really happy," Sanders said, "mainly because we were two strikes away from winning the game. When you put yourself in that position, you want to take advantage of it. Our goal was to go down there and sweep, not win three of four."

The weekend series raised Nebraska's record to 23-7 overall and 3-1 in the Big Eight. Iowa State's record fell to 12-14 and 1-3.

Nebraska dropped from seventh to No. 13 in the Collegiate Baseball/ESPN national Top 30, which was released Monday.

Sanders said Riley grooved Husker relief pitcher McGraw Milhaven's fastball. He said the pitch Milhaven threw was a good one.

"It was a fastball that was down in the strike zone," he said.

Sanders said the focus of the loss

shouldn't be placed on Milhaven's home-run pitch. He said Nebraska's fielding errors caused the loss. The Huskers committed three errors in the final game, including two key ones in the last inning, Sanders said.

Pat Heiderscheid opened the seventh with a single and advanced to second on the first error. After Milhaven got an out on a grounder back to the mound, Reggie Stalzer reached on an error by shortstop Ken Sirak to put runners on second and third base, setting the stage for Heiderscheid's game-winning home run.

Sanders said Nebraska's shabby defense set up the home run.

"The defense wasn't stable," Sanders said. "As a result, they got back into it. If we had played solid defense, the homer would have been a so-what type deal."

Sanders refused to blame the er-

rors on fatigue, despite a Husker schedule that required the team to play its last 16 games on the road.

"There's no reason the errors should happen," he said. "We're not going to cut any slack for our guys. The bottom line is we expect to play good defense. That's something we can control."

Milhaven's record dropped to 1-1 with the loss. Heiderscheid, who moved from first base to the mound in the fifth inning, picked up the win. He's also 1-1.

In Sunday's first game, designated hitter Joe Federico hit two home runs — his fourth and fifth of the series — to lead Nebraska to an 11-1 win.

Federico, a senior from Temple City, Calif., had two hits in three at-bats and had four runs batted in. His .397 batting average is second-best on the team.

Pat Leinen, a sophomore from Ralston, raised his record to 5-1 by throwing seven complete innings and allowing one run. He gave up five hits, three walks and struck out three.

Nebraska continues its extended road swing tonight with a nine-inning game against Creighton at 7 in Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium. The Bluejays, 19-7, were nationally ranked last week, but dropped from this week's poll.

Nebraska travels to Wichita, Kan., Wednesday for a nine-inning game against No. 15-ranked Wichita State.

Sanders said Nebraska's road schedule will help the Huskers prepare for the rest of the season.

"It helps us to get away from the comfort zone of playing at home," he said. "And it forces excellence in tough situations. To play well on the road, you really have to concentrate."

Look for Oakland to capture the AL West pennant

It is because of names like Dave Parker, Mark McGwire, Jose Canseco and Don Baylor that many preseason experts are picking the Oakland Athletics to win the American League's West Division.



Jeff
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But if the A's are to capture their first legitimate title since 1974, they need production out of catchers Terry Steinbach and Ron Hassey, shortstop Walt Weiss and pitchers Dave Stewart, Dennis Eckersley, Storm Davis, Rick Honeycutt and Bob Welch.

Steinbach, a rookie sensation last year who is being touted along with Parker, McGwire, Canseco and Baylor as part of Oakland's "Murderer's Row," needs to display the same type of consistency he showed last season while proving himself as one of baseball's top young hitters. His de-

velopment will be aided by the presence of Hassey, who has proved himself as a consistent performer that can provide needed veteran leadership.

Weiss, a highly touted shortstop who is being counted to replace Alfredo Griffing, has to perform as he did in a mop-up role at the end of last season, while Stewart, Eckersley, Davis, Honeycutt and Welch need to shore up an inconsistent pitching staff that is being touted as a strong point this season.

Questions surrounding the pitching staff will keep the Minnesota Twins from repeating as division champions this season.

The Twins, who somehow defeated St. Louis to win the World Series last year, did not make any legitimate attempts to strengthen a pitching staff that ranked among the worst in baseball. The only pitching additions Minnesota made during the off-season were acquiring Tippy Martinez and Charlie Lea, who have combined to win one game in three years.

An offensive arsenal that includes Kent Hrbek, Tom Brunansky, Gary

Gaetti and Kirby Puckett will carry Minnesota to a second-place finish in the West, but don't look for the Twins to pull off any miracles like last year.

A minor miracle that will occur this season is the resurgence of the California Angels.

California, which finished tied for sixth with a 75-87 record last year, has added Johnny Ray and Chili Davis to its already-talented cast that includes Wally Joyner, Devon White, DeWayne Buice and Kirk McCaskill.

The only area that will keep the Angels from winning the division is defense, particularly with Ray and Davis starting in right and left field.

Defense will also keep the Seattle Mariners from doing any better than a fourth-place finish this season.

Seattle, which made key acquisitions when it acquired pitcher Steve Trout and outfielder Henry Cotto from the New York Yankees, still has a glaring defensive weakness at third base, where Jim Presley committed 21 errors last season.

The bright spots for the Mariners this season will be All-Star second baseman Harold Reynolds, pitcher Mike Langston, and veterans Alvin

Davis and Ken Phelps.

The Texas Rangers have quality players in veteran pitcher Charlie Hough, second-year player Ruben Sierra and outfielder Larry Parrish, but lack a catcher and any type of consistent pitching to do any better than fifth.

Another liability for the Rangers is designated hitter and former Oklahoma State slugger Pete Incaviglia, whose two-year totals include 353 strikeouts and a disappointing 57 home runs.

Power hitters won't be a problem for the Kansas City Royals, who possess the likes of Danny Tartabull, Frank White and the inconsistent Bo Jackson.

What will keep the Royals from finishing any better than sixth in the West is a barren bullpen. Kansas City manager John Wathan was faced with a dilemma throughout spring training and solved it by keeping veteran relief pitchers Gene Garber and Dan Quisenberry on the Royals' roster. The only problem is Garber and Quisenberry are way past their primes, and neither is going to be able to provide

Kansas City with needed relief.

A lack of any type of pitching and veteran leadership will keep the Chicago White Sox from finishing anywhere but last in the West.

The White Sox, who finished a surprising fifth last season with a 77-85 record, are in a transition stage that will not begin to pay off until at least two seasons from now.

Pitcher Jack McDowell; outfielders Lance Johnson, Gary Redus and Dan Pasqua; catcher Ron Karkovice; and shortstop Ozzie Guillen all show promising talent, but the White Sox have too many question marks to prove themselves as a team to be taken for real.

The predicted finish:

Team	Record	Games back
Oakland	103-59	-
Minnesota	92-70	11
California	86-76	17
Seattle	81-81	22
Texas	75-87	28
Kansas City	63-99	40
Chicago	55-107	48

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