

Nebraska softball coach says rivalry with Creighton builds up game in state

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska and Creighton softball teams will get a chance to renew old acquaintances when they play each other today in a doubleheader in Omaha.

The 28-14 Cornhuskers have faced Creighton three times this season. Nebraska defeated the 28-13 Bluejays 5-0 at the Bud Light Invitational in San Jose, Calif., but lost in Lincoln 4-2 and 2-1.

Husker coach Ron Wolforth said the competition between the two schools is good for Nebraska and gives the players a chance to meet each other.

"Creighton and Nebraska have a

natural rivalry," Wolforth said. "It really enhances softball in Nebraska and is good for the state. It is really a good situation."

Wolforth said the rivalry is aided by both teams' national rankings. The Huskers are ranked No. 19 in the nation and Creighton No. 13.

"The next two games will be very big games for us," Wolforth said. "They're a good team, but not a top-five team. This is a team we need to beat for an opportunity to play in the College World Series."

Nebraska senior outfielder Margie Ogradowicz said she knows how intense the rivalry is between the two schools and how important the next six games are for Nebraska. The Huskers will play two games against both Kansas and Missouri this weekend.

Ogradowicz said if the Huskers beat Creighton, it might give them a chance to host a College World Series

regional game.

"These games are very important," Ogradowicz said. "Right now I am playing each game like it is my last game, because it may well be our last."

Ogradowicz said it will be tough to beat the Bluejays in Omaha.

"We need to go up to the plate and take good cuts and attack the ball," Ogradowicz said.

Wolforth said the Huskers must hit well and play good defense to be successful. He said Nebraska must also stop Creighton's pitcher/first baseman Jody Schwartz. Schwartz is currently hitting .352.

"She is one of the better hitters we have seen, but not the best," Wolforth said. "We need to keep people off bases in front of her. We need to get in a position where we can pitch tough to her."

The doubleheader will begin at 4:30 p.m. today at Dill Field.



Ogradowicz

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