## Thursday, June 23, 1988

## **Daily Nebraskan**

## NU'S Ramos is shocked that he wasn't drafted By Steve Sipple players chosen in the draft. draft can be. Creighton first baseman signed contracts with the Cardinals fielders. But Ramos said his arm

Staff Reporter

Nebraska outfielder Ken Ramos, who led the Cornhusker baseball team in eight offensive categories last spring, was shocked and angry at not being selected in the June 1 major league baseball amateur draft.

"I have no idea why," Ramos said. "I'm pretty upset."

Ramos, who is currently playing semi-professional baseball for the Wichita Broncos, led the Huskers with a .372 batting average, 96 hits, 19 doubles, 34 stolen bases, and 100 runs scored. He also led the team with 258 at-bats, five sacrifices and eight sacrifice flys.

Being overlook has Ramos wondering what he has to do next season to be one of the 1000-plus amateur players chosen in the draft. "That's the question," said Ramos, who bats and throws left-handed.

"Jeez, what else can I do?" He said he will return for his senior

season at Nebraska next spring. The Wichita Broncos are part of

the Jayhawk League. The league is comprised of teams from Red Oak and Calrinda, Iowa, and Hutchinson, Kan., among others. The Broncos, he said, select players from programs such as Texas, Alabama, Nevada-Las Vegas, Southwest Louisiana and Creighton.

Because of the caliber of players selected, "There's some of the best pitching I've ever seen," Ramos said.

Ramos, who was drafted in the sixth round by the Chicago Cubs in January 1986, said his being overlooked shows how unpredictable the

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draft can be. Creighton first baseman Oneri Fleita, the Missouri Valley Conference player of the year, was also not selected in the draft, which surprised Ramos.

Fleita led the Missouri Valley with a .408 batting average.

"I've seen guys that aren't that good that did get drafted, and guys that are good who didn't," Ramos said. "It's probably just luck."

However, four Huskers were drafted. Pitcher Pat Leinen, who was named to the all-Big Eight team last year as a sophomore, was picked in the ninth round by the New York Mets. Seniors Joe Federico (first baseman), Tim Pettengill (catcher) and John Lepley (pitcher) were each selected in the later rounds by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Federico and Lepley have already

signed contracts with the Cardinals and are playing in the St. Louis minor league system. Pettengill and Leinen have not said if they will sign a professional contract or not.

Ramos said if four of his teammates are talented enough to play professional baseball, he is too.

"I'd like to think I can play with the guys on my own team," Ramos said. Ramos said his throwing arm was the only part of his game that may cause teams to shy away from him.

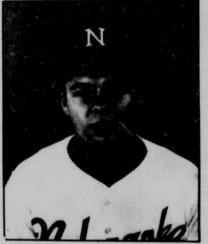
"That's the weakest part of my game," he said. "It's not a bad arm, though. I hurt it last fall, but all through spring it got stronger and stronger."

Ramos played right field most of last season because, Nebraska coach John Sanders said, he had the strongest throwing arm of the Husker out-

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fielders. But Ramos said his arm would be more suited for left field in the major leagues.



Ramos

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