

NU coaches avoid problems with NCAA

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A series of allegations and actions that have rocked the athletic departments at three Big Eight schools have not caused Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney to change the focus of the Cornhusker athletic department.

Devaney said Monday that he does not plan on making any changes even though the Kansas basketball and the Oklahoma and Oklahoma State football programs are on NCAA probation. The Oklahoma football program has also been hampered by reports of an alleged gang rape, an alleged shooting, and the arrest of quarterback Charles Thompson for allegedly selling cocaine.

The trouble in Norman, Okla., began when the Oklahoma football program was barred from television next season and placed on NCAA probation for two years for recruiting violations.

Oklahoma defensive back Jerry Parks was then suspended from school and from the team for allegedly shooting teammate Zarak Peters following an argument. Three players -- Glen Bell, Nigel Clay and Bernard Hall -- were arrested and subsequently suspended for an alleged rape, and Thompson was arrested for allegedly selling 17 grams of cocaine to an undercover FBI agent.

The Oklahoma State football program was barred from television for two years and placed on probation for three years, while the Kansas basketball team was barred from post-season play this season and had its scholarships reduced because of recruiting violations that occurred under former Coach Larry Brown.

Devaney said the Nebraska athletic department holds regular meetings with all of its coaches in an attempt to avoid problems with the NCAA.

"It's difficult keeping up with all the rules, but we just try to keep track," Devaney said.

Devaney said the meetings are beneficial because they are designed to prevent trouble before it starts. He said Barb Hibner, the assistant athletic director in charge of women's athletics, met with the Nebraska women's coaches last week.

Devaney said the meetings are especially important now because of the NCAA sanctions leveled against Kansas, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. Gary Fouraker, the assistant athletic director for business affairs, estimates the sanctions will cost Nebraska \$500,000 annually in television and other revenues.

That figure could increase if the NCAA imposes sanctions against the Missouri men's basketball program. Missouri came under fire earlier this year after the mother of former Tiger guard P.J. Mays revealed a tape-recorded conversation that allegedly disclosed a recruiting violation. Missouri assistant coach Bob Sundvold has since been suspended from the team with pay.

Devaney said Nebraska also takes steps to try and make sure athletes do not get into trouble once their Husker career begins. He said those steps include a detailed background check of all prospective student-athletes and a strict enforcement of all disciplinary rules.

But, Devaney said, even the best plans can not determine how a person is going to act in a certain situation.

"Nobody can control their behavior to a great extent off the field," he said. "But what we try to do is tell our athletes to stay clear."

Devaney said part of the problem that the Oklahoma football program is encountering may come from its policy of housing all of its athletes in the same dormitory. He said he housed all of his players in an athletic dormitory when he was coaching at Wyoming from 1957-62 and during his first two years at Nebraska.

Devaney said he does not like athletic dormitories.

Former Husker infielder says transfer improved the caliber of his opposition

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Former Nebraska infielder Mate Borgogno likes good competition and warm weather.

Borgogno said he didn't get enough of those things last year at Nebraska. But he said he's getting plenty of both this season at California State-Fullerton.

Borgogno, who transferred to Fullerton this season, said Thursday that he made the right move.

"I love it," said Borgogno, who lives in Chino Hills, Calif., which is 15 minutes from Fullerton's campus. "We play 10 times better competition than we played at Nebraska. I really appreciate the warm weather and top-notch teams."

Borgogno, a second baseman, has compiled a team-high .448 batting average for the 5-3 Titans. Fullerton is ranked No. 6 by Collegiate Baseball magazine.

The Titans have lost to the University of Southern California, Arizona and Stanford. The game against the Cardinals was televised nationwide by ESPN.

Borgogno said he prefers playing that caliber of competition to playing non-Division I schools, which make up a portion of Nebraska's mid-week schedule.

"At Nebraska, I didn't think we played the caliber of teams I

should've been playing," said Borgogno, who stands 5-foot-8 and weighs 155 pounds. "You would go out and beat a school 17-5 and you would go 0-for-4, and you'd be like, 'Damn, how can I go 0-for-4 against this pitching.'"

Borgogno didn't go hitless all the time. He hit .360 with four home runs and 50 runs batted in last season while starting 54 games at second base. He also stole six bases in seven attempts.

Borgogno said baseball in California is more competitive than in Nebraska.

"To be honest, I could take any of the top five junior colleges in California and beat Nebraska," Borgogno said.

Nebraska coach John Sanders refused to comment about last season's schedule. This season's schedule includes four non-Division I schools. Last season, Nebraska's mid-week schedule included traditional powers Wichita State, Oral Roberts and Creighton.

Sanders said he released Borgogno from his scholarship and if he had not granted the release, Borgogno would have had to sit out a year before playing Division I baseball again.

"Mate" is yet to call us and acknowledge us for it," Sanders said.

Sanders then refused further comment.

Borgogno said another reason he transferred was because the Titans had openings in their middle infield. He said he was playing in a California summer baseball league when the

Titans' coach Larry Cochell informed him he needed infielders.

The Titans' middle infield from last year -- second baseman Mike Ross and shortstop Mark Razook -- was drafted by major league baseball teams. Ross was a third-round draft choice of the St. Louis Cardinals; Razook went in the 12th round to the Seattle Mariners.

When Borgogno learned that Sanders would release him from his scholarship, he said his decision to transfer was made.

"After that, I was history," Borgogno said.

Borgogno said that as a high school senior he chose Nebraska over Fullerton because he felt he could contribute immediately to the Cornhuskers' lineup. But he said when he learned of the Titans' openings at shortstop and second base, he couldn't resist.

He also said playing in California will enhance his chances of playing professional baseball. He said that 15-20 scouts watch the Titans' games. A lot of scouts attend their practices, he said.

"I think that if I would've stayed at Nebraska for four years, I wouldn't have had much of a chance to play pro ball," Borgogno said. "I know I'll get a chance out here."

The Titans' assistant coach Dennis Rogers said he's glad Borgogno transferred.

"We've been very pleased with him," Rogers said. "He's batting seventh, he's got an on-base percentage of .560 and he plays sound defense."



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Beau Reid shoots over Missouri's Doug Smith and Mike Sandbothe.

Nee: Week is life or death, sink or swim for Huskers

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee doesn't sound like a coach with a 7th-place team that has a 2-8 Big Eight record with four regular-season games left.

"It's a critical week -- with two c's," Nee said Monday at his weekly press conference. "This is a week of the season that's critical. Life or death. Sink or swim."

Nebraska, which is 14-12 overall, is tied in the league standings with Colorado. The Cornhuskers will face Colorado Wednesday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Buffaloes are 2-8 in the Big Eight and 7-16 overall.

The Huskers will play Iowa State, 13-9 overall and 4-6 in the Big Eight, Saturday at the Sports Center. Wednesday's game begins at 7:35 p.m., Saturday's at 1:07 p.m.

A pair of wins would help Nebraska's bid to gain its 15th winning season in 16 years. With road games against Kansas and top-ranked Oklahoma facing the Huskers next week, this week's games

appear even more important. But for now, Nee said he's just preparing his team for its final home stint, barring post-season play.

"They're home games," Nee said, "games that we're trying to be competitive in. Now's our chance to control our own destiny at the end of the year."

Nee was asked how many wins it would take for Nebraska to gain a post-season tournament bid.

"I honestly don't know," Nee said. "What do you think?"

Nee flinched at the mention of the term "post-season."

"You couldn't get me to say that word for a million dollars," Nee said.

The Huskers failed to gain a post-season bid last season -- the first time since 1983.

Nee had no problem stressing the importance of this week's games. He said it may be more difficult to keep the attention of his players. It's not inconceivable that a seventh-place team could lose intensity at this time of year, he

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Softball team places 3rd at tournament

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Despite a rough start, the Nebraska softball team finished 3rd at the Arizona Invitational.

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said he was pleased with his team's performance in the 16-team tournament because the Cornhuskers overcame key setbacks at the four-day competition in Tucson, Ariz. Nebraska's problems began when it compiled a 1-3 mark during the first two days of the tournament, caused in part by the absence of shortstop Jane Kremer and pitcher Stephanie Skegas.

Kremer missed the tournament because her father died, while Skegas was sidelined with a swollen ankle.

Wolforth said those problems mounted early for the 8th-ranked Huskers, as they capped off their rough start by dropping a 9-0 decision to 8th-ranked California State-Fullerton. The game was called in the fifth inning because of the eight-run rule.

"We were the talk of the tourna-

ment because everyone saw how awful we were," Wolforth said.

But Nebraska regrouped on Saturday and Sunday to finish with a 5-4 record, including a 1-0 victory over 3rd-ranked California State-Berkeley.

"We went right back and saw that we were pretty awful," Wolforth said. "We realized there was only one way to turn it around and that was to go the other way."

Wolforth said Kremer's absence hurt Nebraska. Three Husker players who filled in at shortstop committed a combined 16 errors, he said.

"They all gave a good effort," Wolforth said. "But it's hard to replace someone of Kremer's caliber."

Wolforth said he wasn't going to risk playing Skegas until the swelling in her ankle subsided.

"We didn't want to lose our most experienced pitcher in early February," Wolforth said.

Skegas pitched on Saturday and finished the tournament with a 5-1 record. Her only loss was a 2-1 setback to Oregon, which went on to claim the tournament title.

Wolforth said Skegas' absence meant freshman Marie Bowie was forced to handle all the pitching duties in Nebraska's first four games.

"She was under so much pressure and she handled it really well," Wolforth said.

Nebraska opened the tournament by using a grand slam by outfielder Janelle Frese to post a 7-4 victory against Hawaii. The Huskers then suffered a 7-0 loss to Arizona, a 4-3 loss to Toledo and their setback to Cal-State Fullerton.

Nebraska came back to defeat U.S. International 3-2 and Northwestern 6-3. The Huskers then defeated U.S. International again by a 5-2 score prior to upsetting Cal-State Berkeley and losing to Oregon.

Wolforth said he was pleased with the way his players responded to the early adversity.

"We came together as a unit after all the diversity," he said. "The freshmen really came on and the seniors were a good stabilizing force. They all showed a lot of character."

"To win at this level takes a lot of guts and heart, and they showed that."