

Sanders describes NU losses as 'tough'

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

"Tough losses." Those were the words Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders used to describe the Cornhuskers 4-1 loss to nationally-rated Arkansas Sunday and 6-3 loss against Southwest Missouri State Monday.

"We could've very easily won both those ball games," Sanders said Tuesday.

In the game against Arkansas, Nebraska led 1-0 after seven innings before the Razorbacks came up with four runs in the eighth inning to pull out the victory.

"We were six outs away from winning the ball game," Sanders said. "It came down to a very fickle eighth inning where they scored four runs, and we lose."

The Huskers scored their only run in the fourth inning on a RBI single by Shawn Buchanan. Nebraska was limited to only five hits by Arkansas pitcher Dennis Fletcher.

Pat Leinen was the losing pitcher for Nebraska, evening his record at 1-1.

Arkansas, rated 18th in the latest ESPN poll, boosted its record to 12-2 with the win.

On Monday, the Huskers were scheduled to play a double header against Southwest Missouri State. But because of snow, only one game was played. That game was moved to Carthage, Mo.

The Southwest Missouri State game was the ninth postponement against a Division I team this season for the Huskers.

'We were six outs away from winning ...'

--Sanders

"It's totally and completely frustrating," Sanders said of all the postponements, "but what are you going to do about it?"

Nebraska has made up four of those games, including two against Northern Iowa, another Division I team.

Against the Bears on Monday, Southwest Missouri State jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning and never trailed despite being out hit by the Huskers 8-7.

Nebraska had many opportunities

to come back in the game, but ended up stranding 15 base runners. The Huskers also struck out 14 times.

"We just had a very, very poor offensive day," Sanders said. "It's definitely something we've addressed and got to do something about. And we will do something about it."

Ken Sirak led Nebraska, going 2 for 3.

Nebraska's starting pitcher Tim Smith took the loss, dropping his record to 1-1. Other pitchers for Nebraska were Doug Tegmeier and Mike Zajeski.

Five of the 6 runs charged against the Husker pitching staff were unearned because of four Nebraska errors.

The loss dropped Nebraska to 4-2. "It's early," Sanders said of the season. "We're in a process of evaluation. And we're going to get things sorted out and have a very effective line-up before it's all over."

Nebraska was scheduled to travel to the University of Nebraska at Omaha today to play one game, but that game is postponed because of wet conditions.

Sanders said he hopes he can reschedule a double header against UNO next Wednesday.



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Ken Sirak rips a single.

Allen: Drop due to new routines, fatigue

By Mike O'Malley
Staff Reporter

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen sacrificed the present for the future during the Cornhuskers dual meet against Southern Illinois Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Allen said Nebraska's performance dropped during its 277.30-218.70 victory against Southern Illinois. He said the drop could be attrib-

uted to new routines, fatigue and a disappointing performance on the pommel horse.

Allen said Nebraska was tired Sunday because it had not recovered from its 283.85-280.05 loss to Houston Baptist Friday night in Houston. He said the Huskers team score dropped because Nebraska tallied 44 points on the pommel horse.

"That's atrocious," Allen said. "We haven't scored that low in seven years."

Allen said Nebraska's drop could

also be attributed to its new routines. "We changed our routines, which in the long run, should leave us better off," Allen said.

Allen said he was not worried about the Huskers loss to Houston Baptist. The 280.05 points that Nebraska tallied was a season high.

"They were real good," he said. "They were psyched, but I don't think the meet hurt us too much. We scored 280 points and still lost."

Nebraska's top performer was junior Patrick Kirksey, who won Sunday's all-around competition and

finished 2nd to Houston Baptist's Alfonso Rodriguez on Friday. Kirksey swept Sunday's pommel horse, still rings and parallel bars competition, and finished in a three-way tie with teammate Mark Warburton and Southern Illinois' Brent Reed for the high bar title.

Kirksey said he won the titles even though he felt fatigued. He said his tiredness came from competing in the America's Cup competition last weekend in Fairfax, Va. Kirksey finished 3rd in the national competition. "I was really tired going into

Houston Baptist after competing last week," Kirksey said. "I was beginning to feel like a robot Friday, but (Sunday) I didn't warm up much and I felt pretty good."

Nebraska's next meet is on Friday, when the Huskers travel to Columbus, Ohio, to face Ohio State. The meet was originally scheduled for March 4, but was cancelled because of inclement weather.

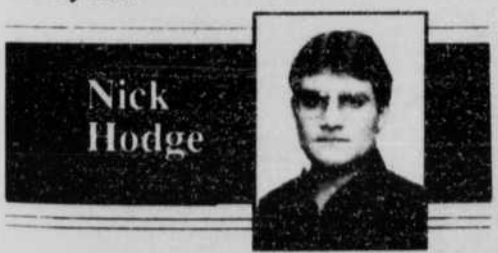
"We're going to need to get ready for Ohio State," Allen said. "After having the meet cancelled they'll be ready for us."

Johnson's arrogance, antics are not suitable for NFL coach

Former Miami Hurricane football coach Jimmy Johnson never ceases to amaze me.

Johnson coached at Oklahoma State for five years prior to going to Miami. But before leaving for the rich pastures of south Florida, Johnson managed to lay the ground work for a four-year probationary period for Oklahoma State.

Meanwhile, Johnson thrived off the recruiting classes of former Hurricane coach Howard Schnellenberger. Johnson's arrogance and classless act fits with his pudgy posture and chubby face.



Nick Hodge

Johnson never defeated Nebraska during his five seasons at Oklahoma State. However, in this year's Orange Bowl, Johnson defeated the Cornhuskers on his home field.

It must really be tough for Johnson to recruit 25 Blue Chip football players a year from an area as sparse as the Miami Metropolitan area. Any average coach -- like Johnson -- could handle convincing players to stay home and play in the warmth of sunny Miami, instead of traveling to the Midwest to play in snow and freezing weather.

Johnson continued his "excellence" in coaching ethics Feb. 25. When Johnson's college buddy Jerral Jones bought the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys, he and Johnson teamed up to kick the legendary coach Tom Landry out.

The 64-year-old Landry had coached the Cowboys for their entire 29-year history while compiling a 270-178-6 record. He posted 18-consecutive winning seasons, won 13 division championships, made five Super Bowl appearances and earned two Super Bowl rings.

Oh, of course, Johnson's unforgettable collegiate coaching career speaks for itself. He compiled a 10-year record of 82-34-2, including a national championship on his home field with someone else's recruits.

Jones not only replaced Landry with the mediocre Johnson, but also didn't have the courage and decency to tell Landry that he wasn't in the Cowboy's future plans. Landry didn't find out that he wasn't going to coach the Cowboys until the deal had been signed and sealed.

Needless to say, Landry was speechless and hurt.

Only someone as classless and underhanded as Johnson would collaborate with another sneak to turn America's team into the laughing stock of the nation.

The once proud Dallas Cowboy organization has never been lower than it was when Jones and Johnson told one of the sporting world's greatest men to take a hike.

After all his respectful dealings with Landry, Jones had the nerve to offer Landry a job in the Cowboy front office. Landry was flattered. First, Jones and Johnson steal his team and life away from him and, then they have the gall to offer him a 'higher position.'

Johnson was a less-than admirable figure in college. I can hardly wait to see how exemplary he is in the NFL.

One thing his hiring should do is to give all those college coaches that want to coach in the NFL a lot of hope. Let's face it. If Johnson is so-called qualified, then so are the rest of the collegiate coaches.

Johnson's ranting, raving, arm-throwing, pouting sideline antics are only suitable for his backyard cookouts.

Sure, the Cowboys have had bad years of late and change is usually thought to be positive, but taking a cheap shot at Landry isn't the way to handle it.

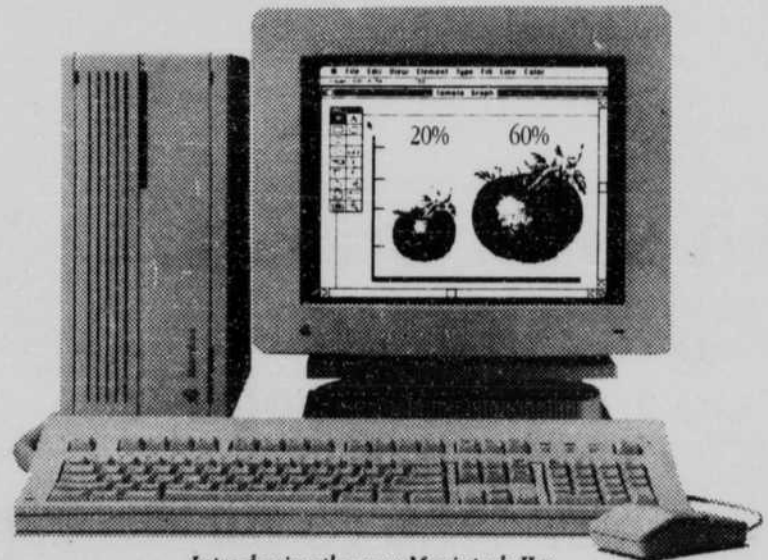
Five years from now, Landry will be in the Hall of Fame. Meanwhile, Johnson will be at the end of his professional football coaching career having learned that it takes more than just money and friends to win.

Landry built a team from the ground up and made them a creditable, respected team that played with pride. Any 'professional' with any kind of integrity would show a man such as Landry a little respect.

But if you think about it, what more would you expect from a man as classy as Johnson.

Hodge is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior sports reporter.

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