Vebraskan Tuesday, April 4, 1989

Tourney spoils softball team's fun

By Darran Fowler Staff Reporter

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A spring break trip to California proved to be anything but fun for the Nebraska softball team

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said the week-long trip was challenging because the Cornhuskers played nine of the country's top-10 ranked teams and also squared off against 20th-ranked U.S. International. Nebraska, 13-17, finished its trip with a 3-6 mark

Nebraska opened its trip by competing in the Pony Invitational in Fullerton, Calif. The tournament included every top 10 squad except UCLA

Nebraska opened the tournament by defeat-ing Bowling Green 1-0, but then suffered consecutive one-run defeats to the nation's top three ranked teams.

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Nebraska lost to 2nd-ranked Oregon 2-1, top-ranked Fresno State 4-3 and 3rd-ranked Oklahoma State 1-0. The loss to the Cowgirls, who won the tournament by defeating Fresno State 4-0, was followed by a 7-5 setback to Utah

The Huskers also suffered 2-1 and 3-2 setbacks against California State-Northridge, which is ranked 3rd in Division II, prior to defeating U.S. International by consecutive 2-0 scores

Wolforth said Nebraska was bolstered by strong pitching from Marie Bowie and Stephanie Skegas throughout the trip. But he said inconsistent clutch hitting from the middle part of the lineup hurt the Huskers.

Wolforth said Nebraska, which has nine freshmen on its roster, needs to have more mental composure when the score is close. "Our pitching, with the exception of a

couple innings, was very good for us," he said. This is still a good softball team. With so many freshmen we just need to keep plugging away, but the mental part of it's tough to get all cylinders firing at one time.

Wolforth said softball has reached parity at the national level. He said that parity causes him to not be concerned about the Huskers

losing record. "With the exception of the top four teams, everyone else will have 15 to 20 losses this season which is really unusual," he said.

In talking with opposing coaches at the tournament, Wolforth said a majority of those teams are experiencing disputes among the players. He said playing a tough schedule early in the season will benefit Nebraska.

"In the long run this will help us out, because as a team we're sticking together, unlike other teams," he said.

Wolforth said Nebraska, behind a threehitter by Bowie, was the only team to hold Oklahoma State to one run in the tournament. But, he said, Nebraska cannot be satisfied with that or the fact that it suffered narrow defeats to good teams.

"Whether it's one run or ten runs it's still a loss," he said. "The W's (wins) have got to come"

Wolforth credited senior outfielder Janelle Frese and junior Lori Cook with solid performances at the plate.

"Frese had a pretty solid offensive 10 days," he said. "She is still hitting the ball real well. Lori Cook came off the bench and delivered several key hits for us.'

NU tennis player beats mononucleosis and Iowa State

By Paul Domeier Staff Reporter

Ken Feuer's glands kept the Nebraska men's tennis team from beating two ranked teams during spring break.

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott said Monday that Feuer was diagnosed as having mononucleosis before the Cornhuskers left for the California-Irvine Marriott Classic in Irvine, Calif. Feuer plays No. 4 singles and No. 3 doubles for Nebraska.

With a makeshift lineup, Nebraska finished the tournament with a 1-3 record. The Huskers' losses included a 6-3 setback to fourth-ranked Cal-Irvine and a 5-4 defeat against his illness.

15th-ranked Arkansas.

"I kept thinking if Ken would have been with us we could have beaten two of the top 15," McDer-mott said. "I was disappointed that we lost some close matches.

Nebraska beat Washington 7-2 to qualify for the 16-team tournament. The Huskers defeated Harvard in the first round, then lost three straight matches, including the setback to Arkansas

Nebraska then stayed in California to face San Diego State, and won McDermott said. that match, 5-4.

McDermott said with the bad news of Feuer's diagnosis came the good news that he was near the end of

"He had been complaining in practice about how tired he was," McDermott said. "He gets more tired than anyone else anyway, and we always told him maybe he would feel better the next day. Then he got real sick and his glands started to swell up, so we took him in."

Feuer was healthy in time for the Big Eight opener against Iowa State Sunday in Ames, Iowa. The Huskers crushed the Cyclones, 8-1.

'We took it to them in singles,"

Five Huskers, including Feuer, won their singles matches in straight sets. McDermott said Feuer played well even though he was not overly aggressive against Iowa State.

"Ken was a little conservative on his volleys," he said. "Instead of putting them away he just pushed them back on the court.'

Feuer tired in the third set of the doubles, but McDermott said he knew the junior from Massapequa, N.Y., would come through.

'Ken competes so well he'll make it even though he had been sitting out," McDermott said. "He told me there was no way he was going to quit in the doubles."

McDermott said he is still worried about the No. 2 doubles team of Robert Sjoholm and Matthias Mueller. Against Cal-Irvine they beat Mark Kaplan and Richard Lubener, 4-6, 7-6, 7-6. Last fall, Kaplan and

Lubener reached the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open.

But Sjoholm and Mueller lost two other matches in California, which McDermott said comes partly from a lack of communication.

"Robert likes someone to pump him up, and Matthias doesn't need that," he said. "It's just a case of one who wants to talk, (and) the other doesn't."

Mueller has won 14 consecutive matches. McDermott said he hopes Sjoholm and Mueller will make the next rankings.

McDermott said Nebraska played reat singles throughout the week. Steven Jung, who is ranked 22nd, went 4-1 in California and beat Glenn Wilson of Iowa State, 6-3, 6-2.

Osborne hopes Huskers can reload during spring

By Nick Hodge Senior Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne's major concern as spring practice opened Monday was replacing eight All-Big Eight performers lost to graduation.

Osborne welcomed more than 160 Cornhuskers for the first day of practice at Memorial Stadium.

Osborne said the Cornhuskers "lost a lot of really talented players" from last year's team that finished 11 - 2

"I think this is one of our heavier rebuilding years," he said. "I guess I don't like the term rebuilding because many times that carries the

Osborne said the quarterback position heads the list of areas that need immediate attention for the duration of spring practice. He said Nebraska needs to find a consistent replacement for three-year starter Steve Taylor.

Osborne said the Husker coaching staff will also be closely watching the improvement made in the defensive secondary and offensive line.

Despite the obvious concern of filling the gaps left by graduation, Osborne said he's confident that the younger Huskers will mature.

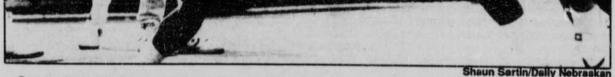
"I don't think we have everything put together right now," Osborne said. "We're a long way from where have to be. I think we have a we chance to be good. It's better than the alternative of walking out here thinking that you're not going to be any good because you don't have the talent. We have some guys with some potential."

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that you're not going to be very good.

"We always feel that we have to be good and hope we'll be good every year. But we certainly have a lot of spots to fill. We still think we'll have



Quarterback Mickey Joseph outruns outside linebacker Jeff Mills in the first spring practice.

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