

Lady Lopers game worries softball coach

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

After defeating some of the nation's best teams, Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth should be fearless when the opposition is an NAIA squad.

But he isn't. Wolforth, whose unranked Cornhuskers have won eight of their last 10 games against Division I top-20 teams, said he is not looking forward to Nebraska's double-header against Kearney State today.

The twin bill, which features free admission for all University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student IDs, begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

"Kearney State always worries me," Wolforth said. "I hate playing them. I'd rather play UCLA or Okla-

homa State because I know that we're always ready to play those teams."

Nebraska, which is 28-23 overall and leads the Big Eight with a 7-1 mark, owns a 30-3 series edge over the Lady Lopers, including 2-0 and 6-1 wins during the fall season.

Wolforth, who spent a season playing baseball for Kearney State, said his fears are based on that experience and the fact that 20-11 Kearney State will come into the games with the attitude that it has nothing to lose.

"Whenever I played against Nebraska," he said, "I went into the games really fired up to beat them because that would make the whole season."

Wolforth said Nebraska, which hasn't been rated since being tabbed 15th in the preseason rankings, should be ranked in this week's polls.

He said the Huskers should be ranked no lower than 15th provided they do not lose to Kearney State.

Wolforth said he is worried about the Lady Lopers, who are a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"They've always been a really scrappy ball club," he said. "Just a split would be a big thing for them. It would be a real shame to have a lackadaisical approach and have it come back and haunt us."

Nebraska shortstop Jane Kremer said the Huskers will be ready. She said she and Nebraska's four other seniors realize that every game is important at this time of the season.

"I don't think there will be a let-down," Kremer said, "because the seniors know that we have only a few games left in our season and so we have to get after it. Even though it's

not against a ranked opponent, it's still a win or a loss on our record. We have to pull off two more wins."

Nebraska has won 17 of its last 23 games. That streak began after the Huskers' second six-game losing streak of the season dropped their record to 11-17.

Kremer said the first half of season was difficult for the seniors because they have always been used to winning.

"It was kind of shocking at first," Kremer said. "It was like having a rug pulled from underneath your feet."

"It takes a little time for the younger players to adjust to what Division I softball is all about. It took us half of our season to figure out what it takes to win ball games and pull together as a team and I think the coaches have done a good job of sticking with the younger players. I

think for us to win the Big Eight we have to continue to stick together."

Wolforth said the Huskers are playing the way he thought they were capable of all season. He said there is room for improvement, especially in the area of mental concentration.

"We need to be competitive in every inning," he said. "It's getting down to the point where it's real crucial and we're going to run out of second chances. We have come a long way and we still have to keep improving. We're still searching for competitive greatness because we're still not as good a ball club as we can be."

Nebraska flashed its potential this weekend by defeating top-ranked Oklahoma State 6-1. The Huskers then sandwiched 3-1 and 2-1 victories against No. 17-ranked Iowa State around a 5-0 loss to the Cowgirls.



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Kathrin Edelkotter displays her form en route to defeating Kansas State's Marijke Nel 6-3, 6-1.

NU gains momentum from win

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team gained momentum for this week's Big Eight championships by beating Kansas State 6-3 Monday at the Cather-Pound courts.

The victory leaves the Cornhuskers in 4th place, but within striking distance of 2nd-place Oklahoma.

Women's coach Gregg Calvin said the team isn't satisfied.

"We can't feel happy with where we're at," Calvin said. "When we are comfortable, we don't play as good."

Kansas State began the day ahead of Nebraska. Calvin said the win shows that the Huskers can catch 2nd-place Oklahoma and 3rd-place Kansas in the Big Eight standings.

"We have a good balance between singles and doubles," he said. "If we pick up play in singles a little bit, we can compete with Kansas and Oklahoma."

The match was the third in three days for the Huskers, and it soon became a test of endurance. The dual lasted over six hours.

Rachel Collins and Leslie Jones came back to win a three-set match at No. 3 doubles for the final margin of victory. Collins and Jones took the last five games in the second set to even the match, and won 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Collins and Jones finished their Big Eight season 5-2. They will probably be the third seed for the conference tournament that will be staged Saturday and Sunday in Oklahoma City.

In addition to the doubles marathon, Collins lost 6-2, 5-6, 6-2 in a two and one-half hour match at No. 5 singles.

Three other Huskers secured seeds with victories in singles. They included Ildiko Guba at No. 2 singles, Doneta Holmen at No. 3 singles and Nancy Tyggum at No. 4 singles. These three players all closed out their Big Eight seasons with 5-2 marks in Big Eight competition.

Guba's 6-2, 7-5 win was especially important, since she had lost 6-0, 6-0 Saturday against Kansas.

Calvin was impressed by Guba's performance.

"That says a lot, to come back from a poor match and to win today," Calvin said.

Holmen and Tyggum teamed to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.

Freshman Kathrin Edelkotter posted a 6-3, 6-1 victory at No. 1 singles. She said the win was particularly important because she is skipping her final three years at Nebraska in favor of returning to her home in Hamm, West Germany to study special education.

"I won't be able to teach in Germany if I get my degree here," she said.

Holmen, a junior, also is leaving Nebraska prematurely. She is returning to Wisconsin to get married.

"It's tough concentrating on anything, let alone tennis," she said.

She said she will attend the University of Wisconsin next year, where she may continue her tennis career.

Former NU players drafted

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

When former Nebraska safety Tim Jackson was young, he used to get nervous when the Dallas Cowboys were playing in the Super Bowl.

But that anxiety did not compare to the nervousness Jackson said he felt prior to being drafted Monday in the ninth round by Dallas. He said his anxiety stemmed from the questions and worries that went through his mind.

"Many things go on in your mind," Jackson said. "I had so many things going through my head because I wondered what was going on. I wondered when or if I was going to be drafted."

Jackson said his anxieties were relieved when Gil Brandt, the director of player development for the Cowboys, called him into his hotel room in Las Vegas, Nev. He said the news that he was a Cowboy took a tremendous load off his back because his worries were over.

"Right now I'm just relieved and happy," Jackson said. "I don't know if I ever want to go through that much anxiety again."

Four other former Nebraska players were drafted on Monday. Those players included wingback Dana Brinson, who was selected by San Diego in the eighth round, tight end Todd Millikan, who was taken by Chicago in the 10th round, defensive tackle Willie Griffin, who was drafted by Tampa Bay in the 11th round, and quarterback Steve Taylor, who was taken by Indianapolis in the 12th round.

Jackson, Brinson, Millikan, Griffin and Taylor join two other former Nebraska players who were selected in Sunday's portion of the draft. Those players were outside linebacker Broderick Thomas, who was drafted by Tampa Bay in the first round, and middle guard Lawrence Pete, who was selected by Detroit in the fifth round. Pete is projected as a defensive tackle in the National Football League.

Jackson said he joined Brinson and Griffin for a celebration when he learned he had been drafted. Taylor could not join the trio in their celebration in Las Vegas because he signed a contract with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League earlier this year.



Jackson

Jackson said his selection was particularly special because he grew up in Dallas.

"I've always been a Cowboy fan," Jackson said. "I used to get so nervous when they were about ready to play in the Super Bowl that I wouldn't want to talk to anyone. I just wanted to be by myself."

Jackson was named one of the top 50 players in Dallas following his senior season at Skyline High School. He originally signed a letter of intent with Kansas State, but transferred to Nebraska after a two-year stint with the Wildcats and one season at Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College.

The highlight of Jackson's Nebraska career was last season, when he was named a unanimous All-Big Eight selection after leading the Huskers with five pass breakups and four interceptions. He also recorded 38 tackles and caused three fumbles.

Jackson said he could not believe his ears when Brandt informed him that he was a Cowboy.

"It's just wonderful," Jackson said. "I'm very excited."

Jackson said he is confident about his chances with Dallas. He said he is looking forward to answering critics who say that defensive backs from the Big Eight don't know how to defend the pass.

"I love how much the pros pass," Jackson said. "I'm definitely looking forward to the challenge."

Jackson said he is looking forward to working with Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson and quarterback Troy Aikman. Johnson became Dallas' coach after Tom Landry was fired earlier this year, while Aikman was the first selection in the 1989 draft.

Dallas finished with a 3-13 record last season. The Cowboys roster includes Danny Noonan, a former Nebraska All-America selection who is a starting defensive lineman.

"I know I'll get a fair shake," Jackson said. "It never even occurred to me that I wouldn't."

Jackson said he feels sorry for the Nebraska players that were not drafted. Those players include running back Tyrese Knox, linebacker LeRoy Etienne, offensive linemen Bob Sledge and Andy Keeler, outside linebacker Jon Marco and defensive backs Lorenzo Hicks and Charles Fryar.

Oakland A's to take baseball title

The Boston Red Sox isn't the only team in the American League with problems.



Jeff Apel

The Oakland A's roster is so loaded that they had only one opening on their entire 24-man roster throughout spring training. That slot was filled by outfielder Felix Jose, who made the team only after veteran Larry Herndon retired because of a recurring knee injury.

But unlike the Red Sox's problems which threaten to turn baseball into a Robin Givens-Mike Tyson love/hate affair, the A's problems will lead them to the World Series. That's right

-- Oakland is destined to make its second-consecutive appearance in baseball's version of the Super Bowl.

Last year, this column predicted that Oakland would capture the AL West title by winning 103 games, while Minnesota would finish second with 92 wins. That prediction brought a variety of criticism from hecklers who did not have any faith in Oakland's awesome arsenal.

This season, those hecklers will not have anything to complain about when Oakland runs away with the title early. The A's will win it by using a variety of power, pitching and the absence of veteran Don Baylor to finish with a 110-52 record.

The only sore spot on Oakland's roster last season was Baylor, a veteran designated hitter who lived off his past while basking in his team's accomplishments. With Baylor gone, Oakland will increase its number of wins by