

NU swimming coaches leery of proposal

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz and women's coach Ray Huppert are taking a cautious approach toward a proposal created by the NCAA Presidents Commission.

Bentz and Huppert said they are leery of the proposal because any rule changes could have a negative effect on collegiate swimming.

They said restrictions like those proposed by the Presidents Commission and the College Swimming Coaches Association could cause the top amateur swimmers to bypass their collegiate careers in favor of training with club teams.

The College Swimming Coaches Association has proposed that the number of practice days and the number of dual meets each season be reduced. The proposals were made in response to a report by the Presidents Commission, which wants to place a restriction on the number of hours swimmers devote to practice.

The Presidents Commission, which is chaired by University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellor and NU Interim President Martin Massengale, is implementing changes in a number of sports because student-athletes said in a recent survey that they were devoting too much time to their respective sports.

The College Swimming Coaches

Association responded to the survey by asking the Presidents Commission not to tamper with practice hours because of training concerns. The coaches said if cuts need to be made, they should be implemented in the practice days and dual meets.

The coaches' proposals call for all swimmers to have at least one day off a week, and also ask that the maximum number of meets allowed per year for Division I schools be reduced from 24 to 20. Division II programs would be allowed to compete in a maximum of 16 meets each year under the coaches proposal, while Division III squads could compete in 14.

Bentz said he is concerned that the Presidents Commission will not take

the coaches' proposals into account.

"My feeling is the decision is going to be made regardless of what kind of input we have," he said. "This kind of input is going to be after the fact."

Bentz and Huppert said the Presidents Commission needs to listen to the coaches because training restrictions could have a disastrous impact on collegiate swimming. They said a typical training schedule consists of two-a-day workouts that begin in September and continue until mid-February.

Both coaches said their teams then taper -- a process in which swimmers try to improve their times by resting and shaving -- in preparation for the Big Eight and NCAA championships.

Team members then go through a rest-down period in which they swim 1 1/2 hours four-to-five times a week to stay in shape during the off-season.

Bentz said the loss of any of the training time would hurt swimming.

"If you cut the training time dramatically you're really going to be in a position where you have a negative impact on the sport. You're going to hurt the Olympics because the top athletes are going to bypass their collegiate careers," Bentz said. "Swimming is an aerobic-based sport, so you're just going to have to spend so much time training."

"There's no shortcut."

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Loud-mouthed sports broadcasters make clichés an art form

As I lounged around with some friends Monday night, watching UNLV obliterate Duke in the NCAA men's basketball championship, I realized something very important about sports.



Chuck
Green

I realized that the last year or so has been a pretty gloomy one for the sports world.

Pete Rose's gambling scandal, an earthquake at the World Series, drug abuse and jail sentences among athletes, the deaths of former Colorado

quarterback Sal Aunese and Loyola-Marymount basketball star Hank Gathers, major league baseball owners and players bickering like 3-year-olds . . . the list goes on and on.

But along with that realization (which I've had for a few months now), I concluded something much more important: No matter how shocking or sad or downright disgusting something is in the world of sports, there is at least one thing of which you can be sure.

No matter how an incident or accomplishment makes you laugh or cry, or churns your stomach, one thing will always happen: There always will be some wise-ass television sports broadcaster there to tell you just how sad or courageous or nifty something is.

I came to the conclusion Monday

night that I hate TV sports broadcasters.

Now, I don't want to offend any of my friends who are sports broadcasters or reporters at Omaha television stations, or people who do sports for KRNU radio. They're a little different.

I'm talking about the nauseating contingent of loud-mouthed, arrogant, know-it-all TV sports broadcasters who make cliché-usage an art form. People like Brent Musburger and Dick Vitale.

As I watched Musburger's 15 years with CBS Sports come to an abrupt and merciful end Monday night, I couldn't help but smile.

Throughout the tournament, he displayed a prime example of the knack television sports broadcasters

have for turning one word into 100, and an even primer example of the sensationalism many TV sports broadcasters thrive on.

I honestly believe that if I had one more time heard Musburger tell the world what a "tragic loss" Gathers' death was, or how "courageous" his Loyola-Marymount teammates were for deciding not to cry and pout and quit basketball to become yak farmers, I would have had a heart attack of my own.

In every game he worked during the tournament, Musburger treated the viewing audience to a tear-jerking testimony of Hank Gathers' courage.

He slobbered all over himself coming up with new ways to glorify Loyola-Marymount's players for

appearing in the tournament "after all they had been through" (as if they would forfeit their hard-earned berth -- Hank really would have wanted that, wouldn't he?).

I've always been a firm believer that if someone has to tell me how sad or great a story was, the story must not really be that sad or great.

And courageous? Gathers died of heart failure. He didn't really have a choice in the matter.

But that didn't seem to bother Musburger. After all, what else would he and his colleagues talk about during lopsided games?

So long, Brent . . . and take Dick Vitale with you.

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Shutout lets NU score win over Northern Iowa

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Paul Fanucchi shrugged off his seven-inning shutout in his first start of the season Tuesday against Northern Iowa as something close to beginner's luck.

"I'm getting the feel of it," he said.

But the Cornhusker right-hander was comfortable enough in his new role to shut down the Panthers on three hits with five strikeouts and three walks in Nebraska's 2-0 victory at Buck Beltzer Field. The Huskers, 21-10, also played Northern Iowa in a late, nine-inning game.

Fanucchi allowed a triple with one out in the third inning and hit the next batter with a pitch, but the Huskers turned a double play to keep the Panthers scoreless.

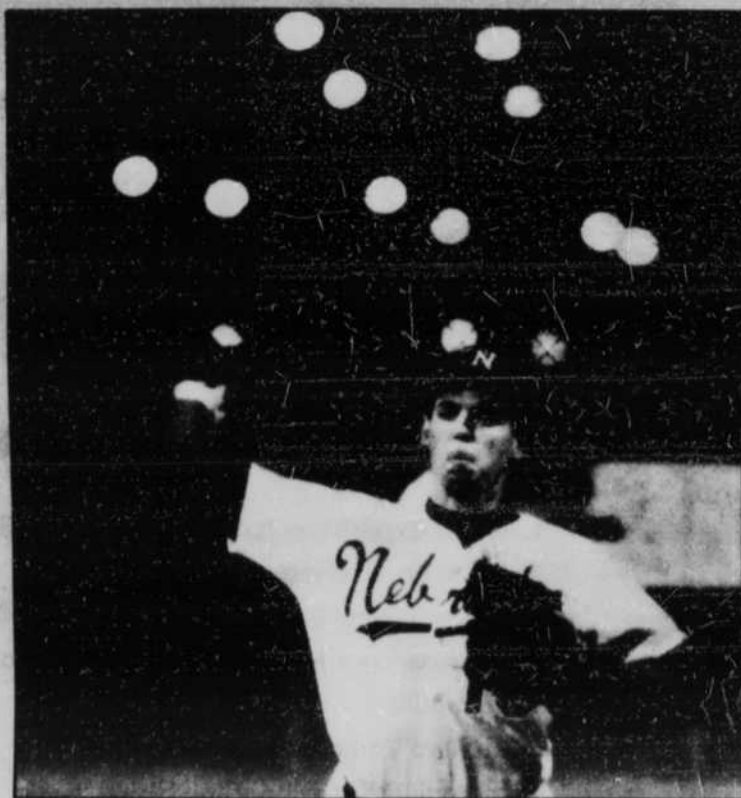
Fanucchi said he used a good mix of pitches, except for the fourth inning when he walked three batters. Nebraska turned another double play after the first walk, though, and Fanucchi struck out Northern Iowa's P.J. Conlon to end the threat.

No Panther reached base then until Conlon's two-out double in the seventh, and Fanucchi retired Brett Elson on a fly ball to left to end the game.

Fanucchi, 1-0 with a team-leading 1.61 ERA, could see more first-inning time on the mound, according to Nebraska coach John Sanders.

"Our rotation has been such, with Mike Zajeski out now, we've got to look for another starter," he said.

Sanders said Zajeski, who leads the team in innings pitched and strikeouts and is second in



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Pitcher Aaron Bilyeu wings one home during the second game of a doubleheader against Northern Iowa at Buck Beltzer Stadium.

wins, has a tender arm and will miss his start this weekend. He said Fanucchi may take Zajeski's turn against the Oklahoma Sooners, Nebraska's opponent in a four-game series Friday through Sunday.

The Huskers gave Fanucchi an unearned run to work with in the first inning. Brian McArn singled with one out. Kevin Jordan walked, and the runners went when Kevin French struck out. Catcher Brian Dixon's throw glanced off third baseman Tom Bach's glove, and McArn ran home with the run.

The other Husker run came in the third when Eddie Anderson singled, went to second on

an errant pick-off attempt, and scored on French's single.

That error was one of Panther pitcher Steve Dreyer's few bad throws. He struck out 10 while giving up six hits and four walks. Dreyer is 1-5 for the 9-22 Panthers, but he leads Northern Iowa in ERA.

"That was a bonus to get a quality pitcher against us," Sanders said.

Not so good was Nebraska's offensive execution, he said.

"Our discipline at the plate has to improve," Sanders said. "Basically that means we were taking good pitches, swinging

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Women's tennis team ends non-conference schedule, readies for Big Eight play

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's tennis coach Gregg Calvin said his team needs a little more consistency than it showed on its Spring Break trip to California.

"We need all six players to be playing at the top of their game again," he said.

The Cornhuskers finished their non-conference schedule with three duals in San Diego. Nebraska defeated Washington, 6-3, lost to San Diego State, 2-7, and defeated Cal-San Diego, 8-1.

A fourth match against U.S. International was rained out.

Calvin said the Huskers were steady throughout the matches, which were played against three differently styled teams. Ildiko Guba won against each of those teams, and Calvin said she is one player already playing at the top of her game. Guba, who plays No. 1 singles, went unbeaten in March.

On the other hand, Nebraska's No. 1 doubles team, 21st-ranked Nancy Tyggum and Rachel Collins, lost both matches they played in California. But Calvin said the duo, set back when Tyggum missed time earlier this year with a cracked rib, will be all right.

"They're not playing quite as well as early in the year, but I think they'll get back going here soon," Calvin said.

Last year, Tyggum and Doneta Holmen played No. 1 together. This year the sophomore Collins has taken over.

"Rachel's done a super job stepping in for Doneta," Calvin said, "probably even better than I thought she could."

When the Huskers get into the Big Eight, he said, key spots will be No. 1

doubles, No. 2 doubles and No. 6 singles. Calvin said the Huskers in those spots are similar caliber of players as the foes they will face in the Big Eight.

Already this year, he said, some spots have come up with key victories.

"At different times in the year, different players have come out and picked us up," he said, using Collins and Ann Flannery against Weber State and the No. 3 doubles team against Northwestern as examples.

For the spring trip, Calvin said Washington was close to Nebraska in ability. San Diego State is a top-15 team, he said, but the Huskers took two matches and found out some things about themselves.

"We learned we can't get real impatient," he said. "We tried to do a little too much."

The Aztecs were not hitting many winners, he said, but the Huskers let points slip away.

"We need to make them finish points," he said. "I think we'll be better at that in the Big Eight."

Cal-San Diego is a Division III power, and Calvin said the Tritons were more competitive than the result suggests.

The Huskers now head into the conference season, starting with Kansas State on Saturday. Oklahoma State, a team on the same level as San Diego State, is the favorite, but Calvin said the rest of the race is open.

"For two through seven, it will be the team that overachieves and improves in the last month," he said.

Calvin said his team, which is a little better than he anticipated in September, has that potential.

"We've got some individuals who could really improve," he said.