

## UNL pounces on Panthers despite rain

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska third baseman Kevin French found one fault with the Cornhuskers' 12-5 victory over Northern Iowa on Monday, and it wasn't that the game was stopped after 6 1/2 innings, two batters before he had a chance to hit for the cycle.

"I just kept thinking about that ball I threw away," he said, referring to a fifth-inning throwing error.

French didn't do much else wrong, though. He singled, doubled and tripled and scored three runs. The Huskers had 14 hits and scored in every inning. Nebraska hit three doubles and two triples, though no home runs, the

hit French needed to complete his day.

"Everybody on the bench knew it (the cycle) before I did," he said. "They told me if I hit one high and hard, hit to right field because that was the only way I could hit one out."

A strong, icy wind blew rain and sleet in from left field, ending the game early. Nebraska coach John Sanders said he was glad the Huskers could get in an official game despite the weather.

"The alternative is practice, and I know our players would rather play than practice at this point in the season," he said.

The Huskers stole eight bases, and Sanders admitted part of the running

was meant to keep the players aggressive. French got his sixth stolen base of the season in the fifth inning.

"That's a rarity," French said. "When I get one, it must be to keep us warm."

Nebraska will play Northwest Missouri State today at 2 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field. The Huskers will travel to face Wichita State on Wednesday, and Oklahoma State will visit Lincoln for four games this weekend.

Nebraska starter Paul Fanucchi gave up two singles, a double, an infield hit and a walk to start the game. Fanucchi retired the next three batters, though, and the Panthers scored only two runs.

The Huskers came back with two runs in the bottom half of the first.

Lead-off hitter Eddie Anderson showed the effects of the weather by scoring the first run on Brian McArn's single. Anderson dove headfirst for the plate, and he stuck instead of sliding. The Husker center fielder lay stunned for a few minutes.

"I was dizzy until the last inning," Anderson said.

Sanders said he was glad the Huskers didn't let the muck and rain bother them.

"We were pleased with our offensive execution," he said. "We focused on the game and not on the weather."

Nebraska took the lead for good with two runs in the second and added another run in the third. Todd Mosser,

1-1, pitched the last two and two-thirds innings for the win, giving up one unearned run. French, who is hitting .352 after batting .180 last season, keyed the four-run fourth and three-run fifth with his double and single.

If he only could have avoided that error, French said he came to Nebraska from Ventura (Calif.) Junior College as an outfielder last season, then switched to first base. This year he moved to third, where he has never played before. Yet he has made only about three of his 12 errors in the last 20 games, he said.

"I don't want to be a burden, I want to be a plus," he said. "I want ground balls hit to me."

## Injury postpones pitcher's chance to silence critics

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Nebraska pitcher Mike Zajeski wants another shot at Wichita State, but he probably will have to wait until next year to get it.

Zajeski said he doubts if he will get another chance to face the Shockers this season because a stress fracture in his right elbow -- his pitching arm -- probably has ended his season.



Zajeski

Zajeski pitched Nebraska to a 4-2 victory against then-No. 1-ranked Wichita State by recording nine strikeouts in more than six innings of work. He said that performance, plus the Cornhuskers' regional rivalry with the Shockers, makes him wish he was available for Wednesday's game.

He said he wanted to face Wichita State again to prove that his victory against the Shockers earlier this season was not a fluke.

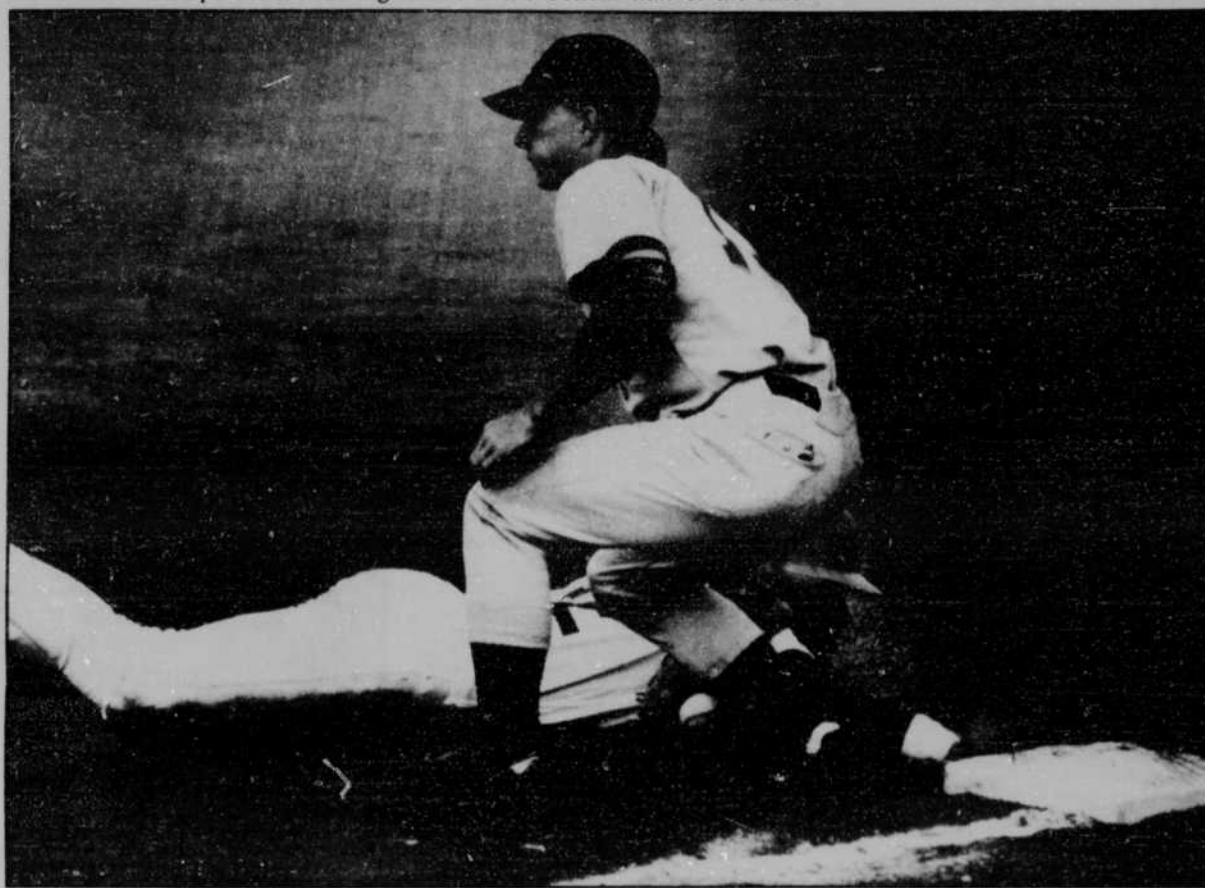
The Huskers will try to continue their mastery of the Shockers when they travel to Wichita, Kan., to face them for the second time this season. The game begins at 7 p.m.

Zajeski admitted that he had been waiting for Wednesday's game ever since he defeated Wichita State on March 8. He said he is sure the Shockers have been waiting for Nebraska, too.

"I know they're going to be gunning for us because we were the first team to beat them," Zajeski said. "I would have loved to pitch (Wednesday), just to show them that my last win wasn't a fluke."

Zajeski said he is not fond of Wichita State.

"I hate those guys," he said. "It's always a hard-nosed battle when we



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska outfielder Brian McArn dives back to first base as Northern Colorado's Steve Brado attempts to make the tag.

play them because we don't get on our knees and bow down.

"That's what they expect you to do -- bow down."

Wichita State coach Gene Stephenson said opponents have not had much to bow to lately, as the Shockers have not been playing up to their potential.

The Shockers, now 30-9 overall and 5-3 in the Missouri Valley Conference entering a late game against Kansas on Monday night, split wins against Bradley.

"I'm not in a very good mood to talk about our situation, except to say that we better start playing better, or we're going to be out of this league race," Stephenson said.

Stephenson said he is sorry the Shockers will not get another chance

at Zajeski.

"We were hoping he would pitch again," Stephenson said. "I don't think anyone can beat us twice in one year."

Stephenson said he still has some bitter memories from his team's game against Nebraska earlier this season, as he was ejected for arguing with the homeplate umpire.

But, Stephenson said, he had a good reason for arguing.

"I don't think the umpiring was very good behind the plate," he said. "(Umpire Fred) Gerardi, he's a nice guy, but I don't think he's a good umpire."

Stephenson said his personal feelings do not add any importance to Wednesday's game.

"I think that Nebraska probably thinks it's a big deal," he said. "But this game means no more to us than Kearney State. It's not a big deal one way or another."

Stephenson, however, said he impressed by the Huskers.

"Nebraska has a fine team and a fine program," he said. "We're not scared about facing them, but we're not overconfident."

Zajeski said Nebraska is approaching the game with confidence. He said a large portion of that confidence comes from the Husker pitching staff, which has made up for Zajeski's loss by relying on a variety of arms.

"I'm very impressed by the pitching staff right now," Zajeski said. "They've done a phenomenal job."

## Will takes analytical look at baseball

Not too many people can criticize the President of the United States by making a comparison between him and baseball.

But that is exactly what George F.



McGraw  
Milhaven

Will did while promoting his new book, "Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball."

While Will was on the talk show circuit promoting his book, he criticized President Bush by comparing his administration to his playing days at Yale University.

"Bush is a left-handed person,

batting from the right side of the plate," Will said of Bush.

A smart left-handed player should bat left-handed to take advantage of the left-handed batter's box, which is closer to first base than its right-handed counterpart. Will was implying that Bush was not and still is not smart enough to take advantage of obvious opportunities.

Back in the late 1970s, Will won a coveted Pulitzer Prize for his political writing. If you saw him on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," you might never know he has a love affair with baseball.

"Men At Work," which is No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list this week, focuses on Oakland manager Tony LaRussa, San Diego's Tony Gwynn, Los Angeles's Orel Hershiser and Cal Ripken Jr. of Baltimore.

Will wrote the book, not to write about the game of baseball, but to learn about the game. He took an analytical look at baseball and made an in-depth study of his subjects, but he was never far from a joke or a antidote.

A sample of Will's humor and other noteworthy topics:

- Babe Ruth was so fat that the designers of the Yankee's uniform thought the pinstripes would make him look thinner.

- Ring Lardner, a sports writer in Chicago, stopped writing about baseball after helping uncover the 1919 Black Sox's scandal. The Black Sox scandal focused on eight members of the Chicago White Sox who were accepting payoffs to throw games.

- My favorite story appears in the section on pitching. Will recalls an Orioles' game in which Davey Johnson was playing second base, and Dave

McNally was pitching. McNally, who was not having much control on the mound, needed help. Johnson, a math major from Texas A&M, walked up to McNally and told him about "unfavorable chance deviation." Johnson told McNally to stop trying to aim for the corners of the strike zone and pitch the ball down the middle of the plate. That way the ball would end up on the corner's, according to Johnson's crazy theory.

The book does more than just tell interesting and humorous stories. It showcases Will's ideas on the game itself. Will makes strong and convincing arguments against aluminum bats and indoor stadiums, but his argument in favor of the American League's designated hitter is not a convincing one.

A designated hitter is a batter who

## NU's Bair faces last-ever meet with enthusiasm

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

For Tami Bair, this weekend is it for gymnastics.

Bair, a senior member of the Nebraska women's gymnastics team, said the NCAA championships Friday and Saturday in Corvallis, Ore., will be the last meet of her career.

No coaching aspirations, and no plans to compete for a spot on the 1992 U.S. Summer Olympic team are in her future.

"I'll be done with gymnastics after this," she said.

But she's hoping her collegiate career will end on a positive note.

"It just hasn't hit me yet, but I'm sure it will once I get out there," Bair said of her upcoming final meet. "Right now, the whole team is excited. Everyone's ready to go."

Last season's No. 4 finish at the NCAA championships was the highest ever for the Nebraska women's program. Bair said the Cornhuskers are confident of finishing even higher this season.

The biggest obstacle is top-ranked Utah, which defeated Nebraska in the Midwest Regional two weeks ago. But, Bair said, the Utes "are beatable."

"They're not perfect," she said. "They aren't as good off their floor, away from home (where the regional meet took place)."

In this year's regional, Bair tied with teammates Angie Burdette and Lisa McCrady for fifth place in the all-around with a 38.35 -- her best all-around score of the season.

Bair also scored a 38.35 in the all-around against Oklahoma on Feb. 11.

The NCAA championships are nothing new to Bair. Last season, she finished tied for seventh place on the balance beam and tied for eighth on the vault with scores of 9.65.

Those finishes earned her All-America status in those two events -- the first time a Nebraska woman had earned two All-America honors in a season.

This season, Bair has fought back from a mid-season ankle injury to record strong showings in the last three meets. At the Big Eight championships March 24, she earned all-conference honors in vault, uneven bars and the all-around.

Against Illinois, Bair earned a career-best 9.85 on the balance beam. Earlier in the season, she recorded career-high marks on the vault (9.75) and

See WILL on 9

See BAIR on 10