

# Softball coach: Rejection could motivate team

By Darran Fowler  
Staff Reporter

After having his team snubbed at the All-Big Eight ballot box, Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth knows he has a motivational tool for this weekend's conference tournament.

Nebraska finished 8-2 in the conference this season, which earned the Cornhuskers a No. 2 seed in the Big Eight tournament behind Kansas, which finished 9-1. The double-elimination tournament in Oklahoma City starts today and continues through Sunday.

Tuesday's release of this year's All-Big Eight first-team, which is assembled by coaches, does not include any Huskers. Five are named honorable mention.

The selections were made before Nebraska played four games against Iowa State and Oklahoma State during the weekend, although Nebraska and Oklahoma State had met twice before.

Wolforth was not happy with the Huskerless team.

"I thought that was really weak," he said Tuesday. But Wolforth hopes his team will use the announcement as incentive to push harder at the tournament.

"I'll use any type of motivator I can. I hope it works.

"In a way, I'm kind of glad because that just may motivate them a little bit."

Nebraska has been motivated for some time, winning nine consecutive

games including a recent sweep of preseason conference favorite Oklahoma State, the No. 3 seed.

The Huskers, who get a first-round bye, and the Cowgirls, who are on a six-game losing skid, are in the same half of the bracket and likely will meet in the second round.

"My prediction between Oklahoma State and Nebraska: That winner will be in the championship game," Wolforth said. If the Cowgirls beat Iowa State in the first round, he said, "they'll be right back on track for us. I don't see them faltering."

Wolforth still considers Oklahoma State the favorite with Nebraska and Kansas in a tight race for second. He said Nebraska has a "slight" edge over the Jayhawks because two good pitchers are better than one.

He said Nebraska's tandem of Stephanie Skegas, 21-6 overall and 5-0 in the Big Eight, and Marie Bowie, 10-11 and 3-2, offer the advantage over Kansas' two-time all-conference pitcher Roanna Brazier.

"Our theory is that we have to finish in the top two (to make the NCAA tournament)," Wolforth said. "If we don't finish in the top two, we don't have any chance. Period. That's the way it is."

But there's more. Because Wolforth thinks three Big Eight teams going to the NAAs is unlikely, Oklahoma State needs to fair better than Kansas in the tournament.

"This is one weekend that we'll be rooting for Oklahoma State when we're not playing them," he said.

"We usually root for Kansas."

With the tournament champion getting the automatic nod into NCAA postseason play, 31-17 Nebraska stands a better chance at getting an at-large contender if it loses to Oklahoma State in the finals.

Oklahoma State's 34-9 record almost assures them of an at-large bid if it doesn't win the tournament. Finishing second to the Cowgirls, Wolforth said, a Husker at-large bid would be a "lock." A runner-up finish to Kansas, he said, means Oklahoma State is the at-large team.

Confused? Wolforth offered a solution.

"I say, once you get to the championship game, why not win it?" he said. "Then there's no discussion. You're in."

# Nebraska gets revenge in Creighton shut-out

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Doug Tegtmeier pitched the Nebraska baseball team to a unanimous decision in round four of their 1990 battle with Creighton, 12-0, Wednesday at Buck Beltzer Field.

Tegtmeier and reliever Dave Matranga shut out the Bluejays on four hits. Tegtmeier, 5-2, pitched 7 2/3 innings, striking out a career-high six batters.

Nebraska didn't score until the third, either. Right fielder Shawn Buchanan, whose two-out, three-run home run in the seventh blew the game open, said Tegtmeier provided something the Cornhuskers needed.

"We've been having pretty bad first innings," he said. "Doug showed a lot of character out there. We need a little stability, and that's what he showed us."

Tegtmeier started the game with a ground out, strikeout, walk and strikeout. No Bluejay reached base until the fourth inning.

Nebraska's Kevin Jordan hit a two-run homer, his 11th, over the scoreboard in the third to give Nebraska the lead. Buchanan said the Huskers had the momentum after Tuesday's 16-12 loss to Creighton, which included a Nebraska comeback from a 15-2 deficit.

Tuesday's game also featured a ninth-inning brawl. Nebraska's Sean McKenna and Creighton's Eric Kennedy were suspended for Wednesday's game.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said player reaction to the fight probably varied, but Buchanan, one of the Huskers' offensive co-captains, gave credit to the battle.

"That helped us by getting us riled a little," Buchanan said. "That may have changed the whole season for us."

"We're going good, and it all started yesterday."

The Huskers scored three more runs in the sixth inning. Brian McArn and Jordan led off with singles, and with two outs, Bill Vosik doubled over the center fielder's head, driving in two runs. John Ofstun followed with a single, scoring Vosik.

In the seventh, Eddie Anderson walked with one out. McArn bunted for a single, and the catcher's wild throw went into the right field corner and Anderson scored. Bobby Benjamin walked one out later, and Buchanan followed with his three-run blast.

The Huskers scored three more times in the eighth with two outs. Anderson singled, McArn walked, Jordan singled and went to second on an error and Benjamin singled. Jordan went three-for-five with three runs and three RBI, and McArn scored four runs for the Huskers, 36-21.

Creighton's best scoring threat came in the eighth. With two outs, Dax Jones tripled over Anderson's head in center field, the only time a Bluejay reached third base. Sanders immediately summoned Matranga, who struck out Dave Hoover to end the inning. Matranga retired Creighton in the ninth on two fly balls and a pick-off at first base.

Buchanan said Nebraska was swinging at good pitches throughout the night. In the team's last three games, the Huskers have scored 14, 12 and 12 runs.

Nebraska finished its season series against Creighton 1-3. The Huskers will play Kansas State in doubleheaders Friday and Saturday in the fight to make the Big Eight tournament. Sanders said Tegtmeier probably will come back and start the first game Saturday on two day's rest.

Jordan said three straight double-figure scoring games will help the team.

"We're pretty confident as a team," he said. "Now we have to carry it over into the weekend."

# Change-up helps pitcher's game improve

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

Doug Tegtmeier's change-up helped him change from the worst to the best in less than two weeks while beating Creighton on Wednesday night.

"I pitched the best game I ever played," he said. "Every once in a while, you hope a night like tonight comes along."

Tegtmeier, a junior from Beatrice, pitched 7 2/3 innings of scoreless ball. He held the Bluejays to only three hits in the game, while striking

out six. Dave Matranga pitched the final 1 1/3 to preserve the shutout.

Tegtmeier, now 5-2 with a 5.99 ERA, said changing speeds on his pitches allowed him to keep Creighton baffled.

"That's something I haven't done well for a long time. It was really working for me tonight," he said.

Nebraska coach John Sanders also was impressed by Tegtmeier's performance.

"Obviously, he pitched well," Sanders said. "He was able to use all

of his pitches at any time."

Tegtmeier's victory came less than two weeks after what he called "the worst game of my life."

That game came against Oklahoma State, when Tegtmeier gave up eight runs in the first inning and retired only one batter.

"I just hope that the Oklahoma State game was a once in a lifetime experience," Tegtmeier said. "I've just tried to put that behind me and work for the future."

Tegtmeier said Sanders forced him

to vary his speeds and pitches more.

"At first, I didn't want to do that, but I finally listened to him," Tegtmeier said.

The shutout came on the heels of a 16-12 loss to Creighton on Tuesday, a game which saw Creighton shell Nebraska pitching by scoring 12 runs in the first four innings.

Sanders said Tegtmeier's game is one the young Nebraska pitching staff can draw on.

"Right now, Doug has provided a stable performance," Sanders said.

# NU coach signs guard/forward to letter of intent

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck took a chance, and came up a big winner on Wednesday.

Beck said she signed LaTonya Thomas, a 5-foot-11 guard/small forward from Allen County Community College in Iola, Kan., to a national letter of intent. She said Thomas is an impact player, as the Detroit native was listed as the top-ranked big guard prospect by the widely acclaimed B.C. Scouting Service.

Beck said Thomas is "not as strong" academically as some of Nebraska's players, as she was forced to attend junior college because she did not graduate from M.L. King High School in Detroit. She said Thomas earned her general equivalence degree at Allen County C.C., and is set to earn her junior college degree this summer.

Beck said she is confident that Thomas will succeed academically at Nebraska.

Beck said she expects Thomas to step into Nebraska's lineup next season and provide immediate help for the Cornhuskers. Thomas provided a lot of help at Allen County C.C., as she averaged 27 points, 17 rebounds and 7 assists per game.

Beck said Thomas is a great player.

"She's got range, she's a three-point shooter and she can jump out of the gym," Beck said. "She's one of the top-three junior college players in America."

Beck said Thomas chose Nebraska over Auburn, Texas and Texas A&M because the sophomore recruit wanted to remain in the Midwest. She said the Husker coaching staff was confident that it could sign Thomas.

Beck said she plans on signing one more player, who likely will be a point guard, later this month.

## Big 8 All-Star Roster

Point guards			
Liz Brown	5-5	Junior	Oklahoma St.
Angie Alexander	5-11	Sophomore	Oklahoma
Guards			
Nadira Hazim	5-8	Junior	Kansas St.
Diana Miller	5-10	Junior	Kansas St.
Forwards			
Lisa Sandbothe	6-1	Junior	Missouri
Kelly Hubert	6-1	Junior	Nebraska
Lynne Lorenzen	6-2	Junior	Iowa St.
Centers			
Danielle Shareef	5-9	Sophomore	Kansas
Debbie Johnson	6-5	Junior	Colorado
Karen Jennings	6-2	Freshman	Nebraska
<b>Head coach: Angela Beck</b>			
<b>Assistants: Theresa Becker, Debra McClurg</b>			

# Beck picks NU players for Big Eight All-Stars

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Two Nebraska athletes are among 10 players Cornhusker women's basketball coach Angela Beck has chosen to comprise this year's Big Eight Select Team.

Beck said Wednesday that she chose Nebraska forward Kelly Hubert and center Karen Jennings for the team, which will travel to Grand Prix Prague, Czechoslovakia, to play five games. The Big Eight players will leave June 14, and will spend the next 10 days facing national teams from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, as well as two other opponents who have not been determined.

In addition to Hubert and Jennings, the other players who will make up the squad include guards Liz Brown of Oklahoma State, Angie Alexander of Oklahoma and Nadira Hazim and Diana Miller of Kansas State. Forwards Lisa Sand-

bothe of Missouri and Lynne Lorenzen of Iowa State also will make the trip, as will centers Danielle Shareef of Kansas and Debbie Johnson of Colorado.

Beck said her main concern with the group is trying to develop team chemistry. She said team chemistry takes years to develop, not days.

The Big Eight All-Stars will have three days to develop any type of chemistry, as they will workout in Lincoln beginning June 10. Beck said three days of practice means the team will have to employ a basic game plan against the more experienced national teams.

"We're going to stay very, very basic," Beck said. "We want to be a good passing team, and we want to keep the tempo high and post up a little bit."

Beck said the players know all about each other even though they usually aren't teammates.

"Most of them are upperclassmen," she said, "so they're familiar with each other."