

NU pitcher not drafted, signs with Seattle

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska junior pitcher Doug Tegmeier joined teammates Bobby Benjamin and Kevin Jordan as a professional baseball player Tuesday, by reporting to the Seattle Mariners' rookie camp in Bellingham, Wash.

Tegmeier signed after meeting with team officials from Seattle at Omaha's Eppley Airfield Tuesday morning. Terms of his contract were not disclosed.

Tegmeier was not one of the players picked in the June 5 baseball draft. Out of high school, he was selected in the eighth round by the New York Yankees, but turned down a \$103,000 package from the team to play for Nebraska.

"It's hard to figure out," said Dick Tegmeier, Doug's father, in a phone interview from the family's home in Beatrice. "To have a guy with that kind of God-given talent . . . He's 6-5 and 220, with an above average arm, and not to be drafted, I just don't

understand it.

"Doug is 17-2 since June 20 of last year. That kind of record can't be a fluke."

Tegmeier was 7-2 for Nebraska last year with a 5.47 ERA, and was 10-0 with a 3.20 ERA while pitching summer league in Anchorage, Alaska.

Before his career even began at Nebraska, Dick said, Doug planned to leave after his junior season.

"He just decided that after his junior year he was going to go try it," he said. "It was hard for him to concentrate on baseball . . . He had hassels here and there with classes, and he decided really that the time had come."

But a shot at the pros looked dim at the completion of this year's draft.

"Doug was at the phone for three

days waiting for a call," Dick said. "But the package he got was a good package. He probably got as much money as an eighth or a ninth rounder."

Nebraska Coach John Sanders was surprised that Tegmeier was not drafted, but said Doug's decision to turn professional was not unexpected.

"The better the program; the more turnover as juniors you'll find," Sanders said. "If you look at our records, our better teams are the ones that lose players to the draft."

Tegmeier will be missed, he said. "Doug gained a lot of experience over the year," he said. "He was a legitimate starter and was very stable. Certainly we'd like to replace Doug with that type of player."

Players like Tegmeier, Jordan and Benjamin will be "tough to replace,"

Sanders said. "We try to reload, but absolutely, they'll be missed."

Tegmeier will spend about six weeks in Bellingham and then will be assigned to either a rookie league or class A ball, his father said.

"He may go to A ball in the Carolina leagues," he said. "They're really high on him right now."

Nebraska will not lose junior Shawn Buchanan, who was drafted late by the Pittsburgh Pirates, Sanders said.

"Shawn decided that he still had goals left to accomplish here," he said. "They were more important than the money he was offered, and I really respect that decision."

Husker senior Dale Kistaitis has signed with the Toronto Blue Jays after being picked in round 29 of the draft.

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Nebraska alters football schedule

This year's Nebraska-Oklahoma football game has been bumped back a week so CBS Sports can televise the game.

This change, added with the one made for the Nebraska-Baylor game to accommodate ESPN, now means the Cornhuskers start their season a week earlier and conclude a week later than what was originally planned. Nebraska's regular season now extends from holiday to holiday.

The game at Norman, Okla., which was originally set for Nov. 17, now will be played Nov. 23, the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Husker Schedule

Sept. 1 Baylor (ESPN)
Sept. 8 Northern Illinois
Sept. 22 Minnesota
Sept. 29 Oregon State
Oct. 6 Kansas State
Oct. 13 Missouri
Oct. 20 Oklahoma State
Oct. 27 Iowa State
Nov. 3 Colorado
Nov. 10 Kansas
Nov. 23 Oklahoma (CBS)

Home Games In Bold

The Nebraska-Baylor game at Memorial Stadium became the season opener when it was bumped ahead two weeks to Sept. 1, during Labor Day weekend.

As a sidelight, moving the Ne-

braska-Oklahoma game prevents a doubleheader between the two, as the Cornhusker and Sooner volleyball teams play in Norman on Nov. 17. That match would have followed the football game.

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Jack Cheloha of the Phi Alpha Delta team loses his cap being forced out at third base by the Far Siders' Anthon Brooks during an intramural softball game Tuesday night. The Far Siders won the game 20-7.

Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan