

Team development  
not only concern  
of softball coach

By Todd Cooper  
Staff Reporter

In a fall exhibition schedule considered weaker than 1989's, Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth says his team isn't looking just to develop for the spring -- when it counts.

"It's like this weekend, we expect to win and we should win," Wolforth said.

Nebraska opens the exhibition schedule this weekend with the Kearney State Invitational to be played in North Platte. The Cornhuskers will face Kearney State, the 1990 NAIA champion, Regis College of Denver and Colorado State, a top-20 team last spring.

"Colorado State will certainly be a formidable opponent," Wolforth said. "Kearney State also beat us (5-2) last fall. So any given day, people like that can beat you."

That's why Wolforth feels he can't afford to be concerned with just development.

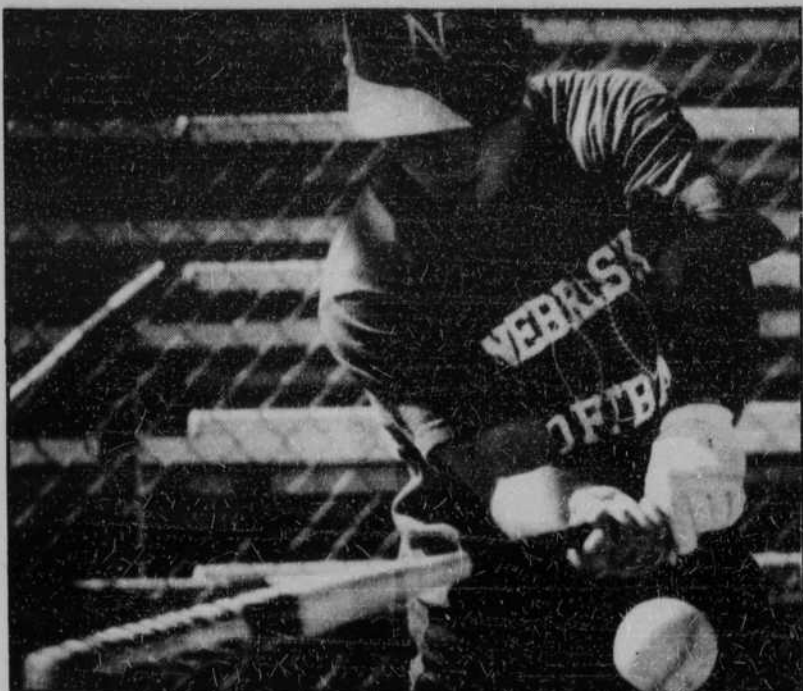
"It's like they say, 'If you're only in it for development, why keep score?'" he said. "Certainly, improving is important for us. Like we say, we want to improve 1 percent daily -- that means improving game by game, inning by inning."

However, Wolforth said this schedule would allow the younger players the opportunity to mature -- even in pressure situations.

"Say it's the seventh inning and we have the chance to win the ball game," he said. "If one of my freshmen hasn't had a chance to hit, I'll make sure she gets the at-bat, whereas five months from now, she wouldn't get a chance."

With third baseman Lori Cook using up her eligibility this spring, Denise McMillan and Amy Erlenbusch could get a lot of playing time as freshmen.

Khara Trenka, a utility infielder, also may play there, but she is currently recovering from knee surgery. Nebraska's defense will be solid up the middle, Wolforth said, with short-



Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

Softball coach Ron Wolforth swings during infield practice Wednesday. Nebraska starts its fall season Saturday.

stop Shae Sloan, second baseman Michelle Cuddeford and center fielder Kristin Davidson all returning.

"Defensively, we're very solid," Wolforth said. "This is one of the better defenses I've had here."

"Offensively, we'll be pretty good. Right now I'd say we're about as far along as we've ever been at this stage."

Wolforth said Nebraska will miss some speed this fall with Amy Killman still out with after knee surgery, sisters Angie and Rhonda Thaller having left the team and Jill Rishel using up her eligibility.

Nebraska's two pitchers -- Stephanie Skegas and Marie Bowie -- are hampered by some nagging injuries, Wolforth said.

"Stephanie Skegas has tendinitis in her throwing elbow," he said. "She won't be throwing with the velocity that she was this spring. Our pitching staff will not be at full speed when we play Kearney."

Wolforth said the major reason for Nebraska's schedule being comprised mostly of the state's smaller colleges is of an effort to prepare for the NCAA's cost-cutting.

Women's  
Intercollegiate  
softball schedule

F A L L 1 9 9 0		
DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
9/15-	Kearney State Invite	North Platte
9/16	Kearney St., Colorado St., Regis, NU	
9/18	University of Nebraska-Omaha	Omaha
9/21	Keamey State	Keamey
9/23	Wayne State	Lincoln
9/26	University of Nebraska-Omaha	Lincoln
10/2	Nebraska Wesleyan	Lincoln
10/5-10/7	Creighton Invite	Omaha

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

No.1 Huskers still have work to do, coach says

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team is at the top of the heap. Now, the challenge is to stay there.

The Cornhuskers, who ascended to the top of the Volleyball Monthly poll released Tuesday, will try to ward off three challengers this weekend in the Baden-Mizuno Invitational.

Texas A&M, Purdue and Wyoming will join Nebraska in the round-robin tournament, which will start tonight at 5 p.m. at the Coliseum.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said the No. 1 ranking is important for his team.

"It's something we've worked hard for a number of years to achieve," Pettit said.

Nebraska achieved the ranking with victories last weekend over top-ranked UCLA and No. 2 Hawaii at the Wahine Invitational in Honolulu.

Although other teams may be shooting for Nebraska because of their top ranking, Pettit said his team can't worry about it.

"We've just got to be concerned about what happens on our side of the court," Pettit said.

A big part of Nebraska's early season success can be attributed to senior setter Val Novak and junior outside hitter Cris Hall. Novak was named the tournament MVP in Hawaii, and Hall led Nebraska with 26 kills in the match against UCLA.

Pettit said both have looked strong early.

"When Val goes through an entire game without making a mental error, we are a very hard team to beat," Pettit said. "Cris (Hall) is certainly a dynamic player."

Pettit said all three teams at this weekend's tournament are top-caliber.

"We played Texas A&M last year in Texas, and it seemed like (the Aggies) were very deep, and they played us very well," Pettit said.

UNL Baseball Schedule		
F A L L 1 9 9 0		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
9/16	Neosho County Community College	1:30 p.m.
9/20	Iowa Western Community College	7:00 p.m.
9/23	Ft. Scott Community College	noon
9/30	Barton County Community College	1:00 p.m.
10/3	York College	7:00 p.m.
10/6	Indian Hills Community College	1:30 p.m.
10/13	Nebraska Alumni Game	5:00 p.m.

\*UNL students free with student ID.

"Purdue comes from a strong conference and they have a strong tradition. They also have beaten some pretty good teams."

The Huskers' greatest challenge may come from Wyoming. The Cowgirls are 5-1 and ranked 20th.

"Wyoming returns most people from last season," Pettit said. "They've also played a lot in Lincoln. They know the court, the fans, the atmosphere real well."

Nearly twice as many season tickets have been sold for Husker volleyball this season, and Pettit said that indicates that interest in the sport is definitely growing.

Pettit said that his team, which will play two ranked teams next week at the Illini Invitational in Champaign, Ill., won't be looking past this weekend's tournament.

Cross country teams open season minus key runners

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's cross country teams will begin their season minus seven of the top 12 runners from last year, said Cross Country Coach Jay Dirksen.

The loss of members has left the casts of the men's and women's teams quite different, Dirksen said. But they should remain competitive, he said.

The women's team is balanced; no real stars. The men's team has a star, but no supporting cast. Both teams open their season at the first Woody Greeno-Nebraska Invitational Saturday at Pioneer's Park. The women's 5,000-meter race will begin at 10:45 a.m., followed by the men's 8,000 at 11:15 a.m.

On the women's side, the Corn-

huskers are left with a young team, led by sophomore captain Katie Fletcher, last year's most-improved award winner. Fletcher's performance is doubtful because of a sinus infection, Dirksen said.

"We're young but we're experienced," said Dirksen, 1989's Big Eight Women's Coach of the Year. "We have a lot of girls with national meet experience."

"What we don't have is a real star, but we have a real good team overall."

Dirksen said that with improvement this squad will definitely have a shot at its third-straight Big Eight crown.

Last year's team also finished as District V champions and placed third at the NCAA Championships for the second-straight year.

The roster includes five returning letter winners: Fletcher, junior Lisa (Darley) Graham, junior Kelly (Loos) O'Donnell, sophomore Fran tenBensel and sophomore Sylvia Veit.

Others vying for top seven spots are redshirt freshmen Julieanne Campbell and Becky Lund, sophomore Angie Lippold and senior transfer Danijela Vicanovic, Dirksen said.

"They should be in the top 20 in the nation, if not the top 10 by the end of the season," he said.

For the men it could be a long, uphill race, Dirksen said.

"We're about an average team at best," he said. "We could develop into a decent team if we run up to our potential. But, so far, things haven't looked good enough."

"Still, it's possible for this team to finish in the top half of the conference."

The Huskers do have a bonfire front man in two-time All-American Joe Kirby, who finished 13th at the NCAA championships to lead Nebraska last year.

"He's one of the best in the nation," Dirksen said of the men's team captain. "And he's head and shoulders above anybody else we have."

Four other lettermen return: Junior Tom Banks, sophomore Kevin Clark, junior Pat Day and sophomore Kirk Pettit. However, Banks won't compete this weekend because he returned out of shape and may not run for some time.

Also among the top runners is freshman David Iteffa, Dirksen said.

"He's the star of the future," Dirksen said. "He's very smooth, has a great attitude and will be the first true freshman ever in our top five."

Nailing down who the bottom two runners are is a tough chore, he said. Freshman Todd Elwood and sophomore Frank Lee are contenders, as is sophomore Steve Coulter -- a transfer from Kansas.

"We have a solid team, but unproven," Dirksen said.

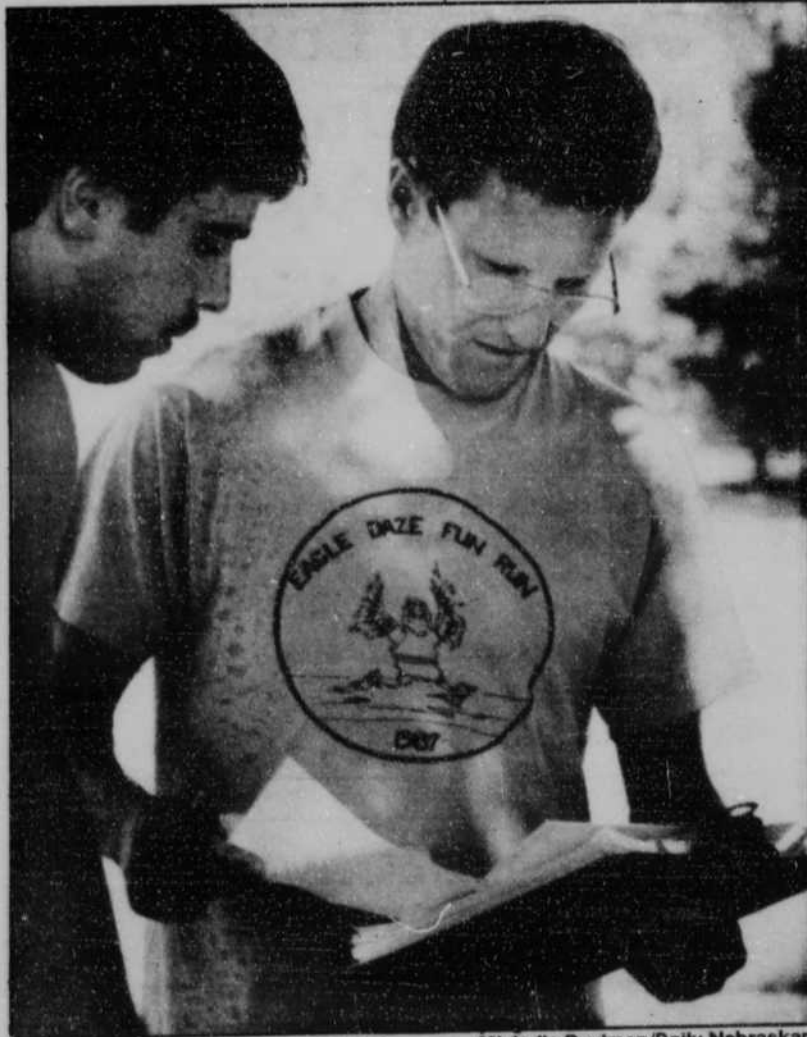
Last year, the Huskers placed a best-ever eighth-place at nationals, and finished second to eventual national champion Iowa State in the conference and district meets.

Dirksen isn't expecting the same fortune this season.

"You can't have that every year," he said. "This is definitely a rebuilding year."

Heat has hurt both teams as they prepare for the opener.

"We've only really had one really quality workout because of it," Dirksen said. "Saturday will be interesting."



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Cross country coach Jay Dirksen, right, talks strategy for Saturday's meet with assistant coach Kurt Craft at Holmes Park. The NU team will compete in the Woody Greeno-Nebraska Invitational at Pioneer's Park.

**Cross Country Schedule**  
1990 NEBRASKA

Sat. 9/15	Lincoln, Neb. (Pioneers Park)
WOODY GREENO-NEBRASKA INVIT.	
Sat. 9/29	Missoula, Mont. (U. Golf C.)
Mountain West Invitational	
Sat. 10/13	Madison, Wis. (Yahara Hills)
Wisconsin Classic	
Sat. 10/13	Mahomet, Ill. (Lake of the Illini Classic)
Woods	
Sat. 10/27	Lincoln, Neb. (Pioneers Park)
BIG EIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Sat. 11/10	Springfield, Mo. (Grandview Mun.)
NCAA District V Championships	
Sat. 11/19	Knoxville, Tenn. (Pine Lakes)
NCAA Championships	

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan