

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bluejays pick Barone aide as head coach

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Creighton on Monday selected Rick Johnson, a six-year Bluejay assistant, to fill the coaching vacancy created by last week's departure of Tony Barone.

Barone took the head coaching job at Texas A&M April 9.

Athletic Director Dick Myers said last week that he preferred to select a new coach from the current staff of Johnson and Dick Fick to continue the program Barone built.

Johnson, 31, a Kearney State graduate who headed the basketball program at Gibbon High School for four years, had been Barone's full-time assistant coach for the past two years and has been with

the Creighton program for Barone's six years.

In those six years, Creighton compiled a 102-82 record, including three straight 20-win seasons. This season's 24-8 mark set a school record for most wins in a season.

Johnson said Barone's November recruits should still be coming to Omaha.

"I talked to the parents of two of the recruits and to the coaches of two recruits," Johnson said. "I think if (parents and coaches) could speak for the players, they're still coming. The players who signed with Creighton last fall signed for the right reasons."

Top high school gymnast signs with NU

Nicole Duval of Lincoln Christian High School has signed a letter-of-intent to join the Nebraska women's gymnastics program next year.

Duval picked Nebraska over Alabama, Oklahoma, Arizona State and Penn State. Cornhusker coach Rick Walton called Duval one of

the top gymnasts coming out of high school in the nation this year.

This year the Husker team had six freshmen, two sophomores and two seniors, but will lose top all-arounder Lisa McCrady, who will compete at the NCAA championships this weekend.

Men's soccer team loses in shootout

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's soccer team finished second at this weekend's Big Eight tournament, the best finish ever for the UNL club.

UNL won its first four games, scoring 10 goals and allowing one.

The only defeat came in the final, a 1-0 double-overtime loss to Kansas.

The club will participate in the Lazlo Invitational this weekend in Wichita, Kan.

NU men's rugby club finishes third

The men's rugby club of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln finished third at the Western Collegiate Championships, losing only to eventual-champion Wyoming.

The UNL club defeated Arkansas 22-0 in the first round of the eight-team tournament. UNL fell

behind 9-6 to Wyoming in the first half of the semifinals, and neither team could score in the second half.

UNL came back with a 17-6 win over Texas for third place. Wyoming beat Air Force 9-6 in the title game and will advance to the national championships.

Phelps leaves Fighting Irish

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Six weeks after ending one of his worst seasons at Notre Dame, Digger Phelps ended his men's college basketball coaching career.

Phelps ended months of speculation Monday when he announced his departure from Notre Dame after 20 years of coaching the Fighting Irish to some memorable victories but never to a national championship.

"For the last two decades it's never been a job," Phelps said. "Every day, even with the ups and downs, was like Christmas Day, where you opened up the present you wanted most."

Last season was anything but a present. The Irish, hit by a rash of injuries, fell to 12-20. It was Phelps' worst season since Notre Dame went 6-20 in 1971-72, his first with the Irish.

The search for a successor has not officially begun, associate athletic director Roger Valdeserri said. Seton Hall coach P.J. Carlesimo and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski already have said they are not interested.

The next Notre Dame coach may have been involved Nebraska's first-round NCAA game. Speculation at the end of the season suggested that Nebraska coach Danny Nee and Xavier coach Pete Gillen, both former Phelps assistants, might be candidates. It's expected that Gillen will become a leading candidate.

"If there is any interest in Pete Gillen, I'm sure Notre Dame will use the proper channels and contact me first," Xavier athletic director Jeff Fogelson said. "We are planning for next season with Pete Gillen as our basketball coach."

Phelps, who led Notre Dame to 14 NCAA tournament appearances but reached the Final Four only in 1978, offered no regrets and gave no indication that the pressures of a losing season drove him to step down.

Phelps, who had a 393-197 record at Notre Dame and a 419-200 head coaching record, including one season at Fordham, said his immediate plans are to spend more time on his hobby, painting.

1991 Standings Major League Baseball through Sunday

AMERICAN LEAGUE						
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	The Week	
Toronto	5	2	.714	--	5-2	
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1.5	3-3	
Milwaukee	3	3	.500	1.5	3-3	
Baltimore	2	3	.400	2	2-3	
Detroit	2	3	.400	2	2-3	
Boston	2	4	.333	2.5	2-4	
New York	2	4	.333	2.5	2-4	
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	The Week	
Chicago	4	0	1.000	--	4-0	
California	5	1	.833	--	5-1	
Oakland	5	1	.833	--	5-1	
Kansas City	4	2	.667	1	4-2	
Minnesota	2	4	.333	3	2-4	
Texas	1	4	.200	3.5	1-4	
Seattle	0	6	.000	5	0-6	

NATIONAL LEAGUE						
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	The Week	
New York	5	2	.714	--	5-2	
Chicago	3	3	.500	1.5	3-3	
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1.5	3-3	
Pittsburgh	3	3	.500	1.5	3-3	
St. Louis	3	3	.500	1.5	3-3	
Montreal	2	5	.286	3	2-5	
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	The Week	
San Diego	5	1	.833	--	5-1	
Houston	3	3	.500	2	3-3	
Atlanta	2	2	.500	2	2-2	
Cincinnati	2	3	.400	2.5	2-3	
Los Angeles	2	3	.400	2.5	2-3	
San Francisco	2	4	.333	3	2-4	

Amie DeFrain/Daily Nebraskan

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Tennis

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"We practiced all fall in doubles, because I knew there would be a match like this that would come down to doubles," Hampton said. "I feel relieved that it paid off."

The seniors playing their final home match played a big part in the victory.

Two of them, Nancy Tyggum and Meghan Quinn, provided the victories in singles. Tyggum won 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 at No. 3 and Quinn was victorious 6-4, 6-1 at No. 6.

"It feels good finishing up my last home matches as wins," Tyggum said.

Quinn said she has mixed feelings about leaving.

Bowling

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teams can win the title.

"I think that our team is one of those five or six."

Wichita State is ranked first in the women's rankings and sixth in the men's poll.

At the sectional tournament, the UNL men were led by senior Paul Fleming with a 223-pin average and sophomore Larry Stepp Jr. with a

"This marks the end of one milestone and the start of my life away from tennis," Quinn said. "Overall, it's been a great experience at Nebraska."

The other senior, Ildiko Guba, teamed with Ann Flannery at No. 2 doubles for a 7-5, 6-4 win.

Other doubles victories came from No. 1 pair Tyggum and Rachel Collins with a 6-1, 6-3 score and from Tina Coutretsis and Heidi Junius at No. 3, 6-3, 6-2.

The Huskers will play at Colorado Saturday to end the regular season. With a victory against the Buffaloes, Nebraska would finish with a 4-3 conference record and head into the Big Eight championships in the top four of the conference.

222 average in 12 games.

Jennifer Wilson led the women with a 12-game 214 average and Kim Berke averaged 204.

Straub said he isn't worried about the emotion of the championships getting to UNL.

"The first couple times we went, everybody was really excited," he said. "They're all excited about going this time, but now that our success level has been fairly consistent, they're pretty calm and pretty confident."

Softball

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and split two games the year before at Wichita State.

"We've always had a history of playing them pretty well down there," he said. "But we can't let that affect our play tonight."

After tonight's doubleheader, Nebraska will continue its road trip with two more games Thursday at Missouri-Kansas City. On Friday and Saturday, the Huskers will play Missouri and Iowa State twice in Big Eight conference games.

The road trip will be a "confidence check" for the Huskers, Wolforth said.

"The quality of a great team is being able to come back, being resilient," he said. "With eight games on the road, especially two Big Eight games, that's going to be a test for us."

Nebraska is 0-2 in the Big Eight, having lost a pair to nationally ranked Oklahoma State.

The 10-day layoff caused by the weekend rain-out is the Huskers' longest between games this year. Still, Wolforth said, he doesn't expect his team to be rusty.

"I don't look at my team and see them as being burned out yet," Wolforth said. "Now is the time of season when you want to peak and hopefully that's what we'll do."

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth went border-hopping and landed two prize recruits from Iowa.

Pitcher Stephanie Wright and infielder Sandra Brown, both all-state selections, have signed letters-of-intent and will become Cornhuskers next fall.

Wright, from Des Moines, led her team to the state championship last year. She was 20-5 with a 0.55 earned run average and was named first-team all-state and Most Valuable Player of the State Tournament.

"She is a quality player," Wolforth said. "After some work with (Husker pitching coach) Lori Sippel, she has the opportunity to be a great player."

Brown, from Council Bluffs, led Underwood High School to the state tournament last year. Wolforth said he likes her versatility.

"We see (Brown) as being able to play a number of different positions," he said. "Right now, we have her projected at second base, but that's very tentative."