

Husker women save home winning streak

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

For the Nebraska softball team, there's no place like home for a two-out victory in the bottom of the last inning.

The Cornhuskers, within an out of breaking a two-year home winning streak, got a dramatic seventh-inning grand slam from Ann Halsne to cap a 2-1, 4-1 doubleheader sweep over Creighton on Wednesday at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

Nebraska has an 11-game home winning streak, last losing to Texas A&M on April 30, 1989.

"Maybe I should put a dome over the field so we can play more at home," said Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth, whose team improved to 17-14 with the sweep.

"I really think this park is perfect for our team," Wolforth said. "The infield is perfect, and the fences are reachable."

But in the second game for Nebraska, nobody reached the fences until Halsne's game-winning blast. The Huskers were shut down for most of the game by Creighton's Dedeann Pendleton, who allowed only two hits

through the first six innings.

Nebraska got another good outing from senior pitcher Stephanie Skegas, who raised her record to 10-4.

Wolforth said the excitement of the win may provide a boost for his team, which plays Drake tonight and four games against Kansas and Oklahoma this weekend.

"This has got to send a message to our team," he said. "Hopefully, we're starting to peak at the right time."

Nebraska entered the fourth inning of the first game trailing 1-0. Michelle Cuddeford doubled, Halsne bunted her to third and Shae Sloan singled to tie the game.

No one scored again until the 10th inning. With the tiebreak rules, Nebraska started the bottom of that inning with Amy Killman starting off the inning at second base.

Misti Guenther was intentionally walked. Killman stole third and Kris Vucurevic also got an intentional walk. After Cuddeford popped out, Halsne hit a sacrifice fly to win the game.

Marie Bowie won her third straight game, improving to 7-8 for the Huskers.

See CREIGHTON on 16



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Michelle Cuddeford loses the ball as Creighton's Marcy Hirner dashes back to first during the women's softball game Wednesday.

Six home runs in two games

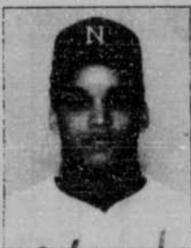
NU pounds Panthers

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team blasted Northern Iowa with six home runs in a doubleheader sweep Wednesday in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The Cornhuskers used three homers to drive in seven runs in an 8-3 victory in the first game and hit three more to win the second 10-2.

Shawn Buchanan started the power surge with a three-run home run, his fifth of the season, in the third inning of the first game. Bill Vosik followed with a double and Eddie Anderson drove in Vosik with a triple.



Rhein

The rest of the Nebraska runs in the game came on homers. Vosik hit a two-run shot in the fifth and Gary Tackett hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

Todd Mosser won for the Huskers, allowing seven hits and striking out four batters, raising his record to 2-0 in the seven-inning contest.

The Huskers got back into the power game early in the nightcap with a two-run home run from Tim Seaton.

Then Nebraska scored three runs without having to put the ball over the fence. In the fifth inning, Anderson was hit by a pitch. Jeff Rhein followed with a single.

Buchanan bunted to move Anderson and Rhein over, but the Panthers misplayed the ball and all runners were safe to load the bases.

Jeff Stych followed with a single to drive in Anderson and Rhein. Sean McKenna singled to score Buchanan.

The power returned in the sixth. Anderson singled and Rhein hit his team-leading seventh home run. Malcolm Jordan ended the scoring with, of course, a solo home run, the only Husker homer of the night with no one on, to close out the scoring.

Josh Bullock got the complete-game victory in the nine-inning second game to raise his record to 4-3. Bullock allowed eight hits and struck out 10, one short of his career high.

Nebraska, 30-15, will play at Kansas State in a crucial four-game series starting Friday.

Men's tennis team craving sweetness in sour season

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team will try to end a sour season on a sweet note at the Big Eight tournament today and tomorrow in Oklahoma City, Okla., Coach Kerry McDermott said.

The Cornhuskers ended their Big Eight regular season on a two-match losing streak, including an 8-1 upset at Colorado on Saturday.

"I've never been more disappointed in my 11 years at Nebraska than I was last weekend," McDermott said. "Hopefully, a good finish at the tournament will take the sting out of this whole year."

McDermott said the tourney is now more individually oriented for the Huskers.

"We're going to try to win as many individual singles and doubles titles as we can," McDermott said. "If we can win enough titles, hopefully we can get a third-place finish."

Nebraska, which finished 3-3 in the Big Eight and 10-6 overall, will try to be the spoiler against the top conference teams.

"Right now, we're looking through a window watching the better Big Eight teams play," McDermott said. "We could make the difference whether or not a team wins the tourney."

McDermott said he is looking for No. 3 singles player Scott Randolph and No. 6 player Anthony Kotatac to excel. Both players should receive top four seeds.

Another player anticipated to do well at the tourney is Matthias Mueller, who plays No. 1 singles for the Huskers.

If Mueller reaches the tourney finals, he is expected to be one of four singles players from the Midwest Region to advance to the NCAA championships in Athens, Ga.

Nebraska enters the conference championships in fifth-place with 27 points, 15 behind Big Eight leader Oklahoma State, but only one behind fourth-place Colorado.

McDermott said he is hoping this season will be looked at as a success with a strong Nebraska finish at the tournament.

"We've had our share of ups and downs, with more downs than I expected," McDermott said. "I'm hoping our year can be salvaged with a few individual titles."

Student athletes lead double, disciplined lives

Apparently some stereotypes are still acceptable.

Students who pride themselves at being offended by Andrew Dice Clay think it is amusing to make cracks about college athletes being muscle-bound morons.

Even at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which leads the nation in the total number of academic All-Americans, athletes are considered to be riding the coattails of their physical abilities through an "education."

That is because the Nebraska athletic department ends when the time runs out on the clock for most people. The fans go home, watch the highlights, read the paper and wait for the next game.

Their overall commitment to sports may last six hours a week.

Student-athletes, however, have to split time between sports and school all week long.

They wake up in the morning with half of their day dedicated to classes, team meetings and practice.

"It would be ideal if we could be 100 percent both (student and athlete)," Nebraska volleyball player and GTE Academic All-American of the Year Janet Kruse said. "During the season it's tough just keeping up with the athletic part."

It is not impossible for athletes to succeed as



Chris Hopfensperger

students, but it requires budgeting time and self-discipline.

"There are enough hours in the day," Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said. "But you can't waste a lot of time."

"Wasting time" for athletes is what most other college students think of as "having a life." Going to a movie, a party or on a date has to be considered a luxury that cuts into study time.

"Athletes are people," Osborne said. "They're just like everybody else."

"But some of the standards athletes are held to are higher than the standards others are held to."

Student-athletes, like every other group of students on this campus, come from all backgrounds.

Some of them are rich, some of them are poor. Some of them are smart, some aren't.

Athletes shouldn't be held to standards any

higher than other students are held to, because this entire university, not only the football team, would be a lot smaller if having a high IQ was an entrance requirement.

But people don't want to hear about the academic side of college athletics unless it is bad news.

Low graduation rates from football and basketball programs is front-page news, but last weekend's Honors Reception for GTE Academic All-Americans would barely earn a short story in most papers.

Last year, everyone heard about it when quarterback Mickey Joseph got a speeding ticket, but linebacker Pat Tyrance's accomplishments off the field this season have gone virtually unnoticed.

In fact, the only reason most people know Tyrance was admitted to Harvard Medical School is the NFL draft. Being accepted to one of the most prestigious universities in the nation merited a paragraph in the stories about Nebraska's potential pros.

Tyrance was also honored with a Toyota Leadership Award, was named a National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete, received an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and was named to the NCAA Today's Top Six.

But being selected by the Denver Broncos in

the eighth round of the NFL draft garnered all the publicity, while being selected the Woody Hayes National Scholar-Athlete of the Year was completely ignored.

Last Sunday was the day in the limelight for the academic side of the Nebraska athletic department. Thirteen Cornhusker athletes were honored for putting up impressive numbers on the field as well as in the classroom.

Standing in the background was the staff of the academic support staff. In fact, Nebraska's Athletic Academic Counseling Unit received College Athletic Management Magazine's first award for academic excellence for academic support.

The program, which NBC broadcaster Dick Enberg called a model "for the rest of the country to look at," helps student-athletes with academic, tutorial and "life after sports" services.

It is not, however, a bunch of guys behind the scenes pulling academic strings and doing the football team's homework.

"It's very difficult to do the homework, not only academically, but athletically," athletic and career counselor Keith Zimmer said. "The average person doesn't realize all the things these students have to deal with."

Hopfensperger is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports senior reporter.