

NU, Creighton split victories; Seaton collapses

By Nick Hytrek
Staff Reporter

OMAHA — The Nebraska baseball team could keep Creighton's bats quiet for only so long Wednesday as the Cornhuskers split a doubleheader with the Bluejays.

Nebraska held Creighton, batting .364 as a team, to three runs on eight hits in a 5-3 first-game win. The second game was almost the complete opposite, as Creighton scored 14 runs on 18 hits, including five home runs, in a 14-3 Bluejay victory.

Nebraska jumped to a quick lead in the first game with an unearned run in the second inning. Husker starter John Izumi was in control until the fourth inning when the Bluejays scored

all three of their runs. Trey Rutledge, 5-4, relieved Izumi, got the final out of the inning and went the rest of the way for the win. Rutledge gave up two hits and struck out six batters in 5 1/3 innings.

"I established my curve ball today," Rutledge said. "That's something I've been trying to do lately. I got out ahead in the counts a lot. When I'm out ahead, I'm more effective."

Nebraska tied the game in the fifth inning. Brian McArm walked and Shawn Buchanan hit his seventh home run of the year.

The Huskers took the lead for good in the sixth. Jeff Rhein singled to left, went to second on a sacrifice by Dale Hagy and advanced to third on a wild pitch. After Brian Arntzen walked, Tim Seaton singled in Rhein and moved

Arntzen to third. Arntzen scored on a sacrifice fly by Eddie Anderson.

Husker pitchers could do little to stop Creighton in the second game, however, as the Bluejays hit three home runs in the first inning to take a 5-0 lead on losing pitcher Todd Mosser, 2-1.

Nebraska will play this weekend against Iowa State at Buck Beltzer Field in double-headers Friday and Saturday.

The Huskers could be without the services of second baseman Seaton, who collapsed between games Wednesday. Creighton team doctor Lee Bevilacqua said that Seaton suffered an oxygen loss and was incoherent much of the way to the hospital.

Bevilacqua said Seaton drifted in and out of

coherency while at the hospital. The doctor said Seaton would remain hospitalized overnight for tests.

First game
Nebraska 010 022 000 — 5 8 0
At Creighton 000 300 000 — 3 6 1

WP—Rutledge (5-4). LP—Benes (8-3). N—Izumi, Rutledge (4) and Arntzen. C—Benes, O'Brien (6), Puffer (6) and Martindale. 2B—N Vosik. C Martindale, Langer. 3B—C McCafferty. HR—N Buchanan. C McCafferty. SB—C Jones.

Second game
Nebraska 010 010 1 — 3 5 3
At Creighton 521 204 x — 14 18 0

WP—Maloney (2-4). LP—Mosser (2-1). N—Mosser, Nollette (2), Matranga (6) and Arntzen. C—Maloney, O'Conner (6) and Martindale. 2B—N Buchanan, Vosik. C Judge. 3B—C Martindale. HR—C Hinton, McCafferty, Martindale 2, Langer. SB—C Jones.

Domino effect may topple NU sports

Sports Illustrated is coming out with an off-season story about the struggles of the Nebraska football team, pointing out the cracks in the program.

Two Cornhusker men's basketball players are driving around in wonderful vehicles with questionable financing. Initial investigations almost kept one of them from playing in the NCAA tournament. The investigation is continuing.

This is not a good way to end the year.

And by Nebraska standards, 1990-91 wasn't that great on the courts and playing fields, either.

We may be seeing the decline of the greatest overall athletic department in the nation.

Bob Devaney first coached the football team to prominence, then as athletic director funneled the football surpluses into the minor sports. He hired good coaches, gave them enough money, then left them alone.

The result was success, with top 20 teams in gymnastics, softball, wrestling, volleyball, swimming and diving, track and field, etc. — just about everything but the high-profile sport of men's basketball, and that team finally hit the top 20 this season.

Nebraska had arguably the best overall athletic program in the country, especially if sports like lacrosse, field hockey and skiing are discounted, since only a minor minority of schools field teams or can field teams in these sports.

But Nebraska began to slip in 1990-91. The Husker teams were still hugely successful, but most teams were a notch short of 1989-90.

The football team went 9-3 — great for most teams, but mediocre for the Cornhuskers.

The men's gymnastics team finished seventh in the nation, but that's still the worst finish in a dozen years.

The women's gymnastics did not return to the NCAA champion-



Paul Domeier

ships.

The football junior varsity was discontinued.

The volleyball team made the Final Four but didn't match the previous year by one game.

A wrestling squad with national championship-caliber talent saw injuries tear apart the season.

The track and field teams are having trouble outrunning the weather and qualifying athletes for the NCAA meet.

The baseball team is continuing its downward slide.

The brightest spot and biggest surprise was the men's basketball team, which was one of the top 10 teams in the country according to the NCAA seeding committee.

The team lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament, though, and internal difficulties, recruiting near-misses and talk of Coach Danny Nee's departure have left the Huskers vulnerable.

But the biggest threats to the athletic department are yet to come, and won't come from on-field opposition.

New NCAA regulations trying to reduce the importance of college sports have Nebraska athletic officials scrambling to keep the competitive advantage for this part of the country.

When conference realignment resurfaces in a few years, and it will, the Big Eight will be divided every-man-for-himself.

Nebraska has no control over these difficulties. A few looming problems will be internal, though, and the middle of this decade could be a time to point fingers.

One possibility came to light again with those car deals for Tony



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

The Nebraska men's basketball team, with members Carl Hayes (21), Rich King (25) and Eric Piatkowski (52) here, provided the high point for Cornhusker sports this year. But the season ended sourly with the loss to Xavier.

Farmer and Jose Ramos. Nebraska has been remarkably fortunate avoiding NCAA sanctions for a successful athletic department.

Despite great teams and the accompanying high odds of improprieties, Husker haters have little but rumors. How long will that last? Not forever.

And whether or not you think Sports Illustrated is picking on Nebraska with the latest football story, that program is shaky.

The record-setting string of nine-win seasons could end soon, and that could be disastrous for Ne-

braska sports. Looking back at the old equation, the non-revenue sports are dependent on a full Memorial Stadium, happy boosters and numerous televised games.

If the football program drops a notch, everything but men's basketball drops with it.

This is not a good way to end the 1990-91 year. Even worse, it is not a good way to start 1991-92 that will demonstrate more effects of aging in the Cornhusker machine.

Domeier is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

Guard off team Ramos planning action

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Jose Ramos, who will not return to the Nebraska men's basketball team next season, is planning legal action against the University of Nebraska and Coach Danny Nee.

"I've been talking to my attorney, and later I will report on further action against the university and against Coach Nee himself," Ramos said Wednesday.

Ramos would not comment further, saying he will schedule a press conference for May 8. Ramos also said he is trying to reschedule a meeting he was to have with Nee and Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney.

Nee confirmed Wednesday that Ramos, who has a year of eligibility remaining, will not be back in a Cornhusker uniform.

"Jose Ramos is not and will not be on our basketball team," Nee said.

Last season, Ramos averaged 4.2 points in 17 games for Nebraska in his first year as a Husker. Before the Big Eight tournament in March, however, he was involved in an argument with Nee and left the team.

Nee said Ramos "let his teammates down," and added that he does not expect Ramos to ever play again for the Huskers. Nee said Ramos will remain on scholarship.

Ramos' removal from the team occurred prior to last week's revelation of a car loan to Ramos from Raymond J. Peery, the former executive director of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Condition. Peery was charged with embezzlement last week.

"(Ramos') removal had nothing to do with Peery," Nee said.

The departure of seniors Clifford Scales and Keith Moody and the loss of Ramos leaves Jamar Johnson, who sat out the 1990-91 season as a Prop 48 casualty, as the leading point guard candidate on the Nebraska roster.

Other point guard possibilities for next year are redshirt freshman Mario McIntosh, walk-on J.F. Hoffman and Chris Cresswell and Michael Hughes, natural shooting guards who can play the point.

Nee also said that the announced departure of center Kelly Lively for Denver University Tuesday was "good for Kelly."

"It's something we've planned all along," Nee said. "It's definitely a win situation for Kelly Lively and Denver University."

Lively, a 7-foot center, was listed as a senior last season but has one year of eligibility remaining.

Nebraska still has one scholarship left to give, but Nee said he is not scrambling to fill it before the season begins.

"We've still got our lines in the water," he said.

Top return man relishes move to split end

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Tyrone Hughes gets his kicks out of returning them.

Hughes, who moved to split end this spring after two years at wingback, has stayed the Cornhuskers' top return man.

Hughes said the role gives him a chance to display some of his talents that aren't used in the Huskers' run-oriented offense.

"We don't get a lot of passes," he said. "So I have to depend on that as far as getting statistics."

In Saturday's Red-White game, Hughes returned two punts for 20

yards and six kickoffs for 156 yards. The longest went 43 yards to the Red team's 46-yard line. But he wasn't happy with those numbers.

"There was always like two or three guys there at the end," Hughes said. "Today I averaged like the 30-, 35-yard line. During the season I want to average the 40- or 45-yard line."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said the special teams during the spring game were a combination of players from the four units.

Reduced practice time in the spring because of new NCAA regulations cut into the amount of work the Huskers could do on the kicking game, but Osborne said some teams don't even

punt or kick off in the spring.

Hughes said the Huskers would begin to concentrate on the kicking game in the fall because of its importance to the team.

"I think a lot of people overlook that," he said. "At any point in time a return can turn a game around."

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound junior from New Orleans racked up impressive numbers last fall.

In the second game of the season, Hughes had three kickoffs for 136 yards to help the Huskers rout Northern Illinois 60-14.

Hughes was voted the Big Eight offensive player of the week after tying an NCAA record against Kan-

sas State. His 247 yards on punt and kickoff returns tied the record set by Brigham Young's Golden Richards against North Texas State in 1971.

He returned three kickoffs for 153 yards, including a 99-yard return for a touchdown.

This fall Hughes may be able to put some more numbers in the book. The combination of his move to split end and the Husker's increased passing attack may give Hughes a new path to the stat books.

That is not the only benefit of the move, he said.

"I don't have to block the line-backer anymore," he said. "And split end gets more passes than wingback."