

# Husker baseball team to face Shockers



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska catcher Jeff Lesniewicz attempts a play at the plate last Wednesday against Nebraska-Kearney. The runner was safe, but the Cornhuskers won the game 19-5.

## Team's first road competition to be a challenge, coach says

By Peter Theoharis  
Staff Reporter

Coach John Sanders is taking his 7-0 baseball team on its first road test today and the Cornhuskers are looking to escape without getting shocked.

Nebraska plays the Wichita State Shockers in a nine-inning game at 3 p.m. today.

Last Saturday and Sunday, the Huskers played Western Illinois, which was their first Division I opponent. The Huskers took a four-game sweep, but now they face their first ranked opponent.

Last year, the Shockers advanced to the finals of the College World Series, but lost to national champion Louisiana State University.

Wichita State, which is ranked first and second in two separate baseball polls, should be tough again as the Shockers return quality players from last year's team, Sanders said.

"(Wichita State) has got a lot of people back," he said. "They are certainly a team with a great deal of experience and they are a team that will be ready to play."

One of the Shocker's best returning players from last year is Kennie Steenstra. The junior right-hander posted a 17-0 record with a 2.17 ERA last season.

Sanders said he hoped Wichita State coach Gene Stephenson would decide to start Steenstra.

"We want to see their best," he said.

"We look at this as a challenge and not as a threat. We are looking to play awfully hard and go in with that attitude, and we'll look to get after it," he said.

Stephenson said the Huskers would give the Shockers a good test.

"We always have good games with Nebraska early in the season," Stephenson said. "Nebraska has always been a quick starter."

"We are looking to build and get better every time out," he said.

The team realizes it will lose some games, Stephenson said.

"Any team can beat us on any given day," he said. "But it's not one

given game that we are after, it's what we do in the entire season."

Stephenson said he was pleased with his team's returning talent, including sophomore right-handed pitchers Jamie Bluma (3-2, 1.60 ERA, 7 saves) and Darren Dreifort (9-2, 2.41).

Dreifort also is the designated hitter with a .324 average last season.

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Nebraska baseball coach

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Returning-position players include catcher Doug Mirabelli (.351, 13 home runs, 85 RBI), shortstop Chris Wimmer (.401, 4 HR, 68 RBI, 54 stolen bases), outfielder Todd Dreifort (.337, 8 HR, 56 RBI) and first baseman Jason White (.337, 13 HR, 65 RBI).

Sanders said he hoped to offset the Wichita State lineup with a mixture of pitching and an offense that would take advantage of the chances it was given.

"We haven't settled on who is starting," Sanders said. "We will probably split that up. More than likely we'll see Mike Zajeski and Josh Bullock. We're playing opportunity offense right now."

Sanders said the major area concerning him was defense.

"We are not playing like we want to defensively," Sanders said. "We need to work on that and we will."

The Huskers must play a good defensive game to dispel the Shockers, who had five players — Mirabelli, Steenstra, Wimmer, Bluma and Darren Dreifort — invited to the Olympic trials in November.

This total was more than any other school.

"We have a lot of those players who know what it takes to achieve success," Stephenson said.

## Jumper soars within new culture

By Thomas Clouse  
Senior Editor

Petar Malesev loves to fly. Malesev, a Nebraska men's track team high-jumper from Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, said "flying" is one of the main reasons he loves his event.

"I love the joy you feel when you clear the bar — the joy of flying," Malesev said.

His personal-best jump of 7-2 1/2 last Saturday at the Big Eight Indoor Championships in Lawrence, Kan., was good enough for the silver medal and a provisional mark for the NCAA championships, but it wasn't good enough for Malesev.

"I was kind of satisfied with the height," he said. "But I know I can jump better than that."

The freshman high jumper has been hampered by an injury he suffered two-months earlier in the season.

"I tore ligaments in my right ankle and I still suffer from that," he said.

The 19-year-old still does not have full range of movement and the ankle swells after every competition. Malesev has been told by team trainers that his ankle won't completely heal unless he doesn't practice for a month.

He said he hoped his ankle improves so he can have a chance to be on the 1992 Yugoslavian Olympic

team.

"If I would have stayed in Yugoslavia, I would have been the best in the country," Malesev said. "I would have been the cream of the crop and I would have got a chance to travel and compete all over Europe."

He came to Nebraska to increase his options, he said.

"I didn't want to travel with the national team because I would not be able to attend university," Malesev said.

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Nebraska high jumper

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In Yugoslavia, the academic standards are much more difficult, which allows only a select few to attend the universities, he said.

"There are also no classes in the universities," Malesev said. "The students buy the books and they are expected to complete the assignments by a certain time."

"I'm not that self-disciplined," he said.

In Yugoslavia, all sports are in clubs and are not a part of the school systems, he said.

"It's very hard to go practice and go to school at the same time," Malesev said.

But all European countries have the same system, he said.

"With this system, athletes reach better results at a younger age because there is more competition," he said.

Although the Big Eight Championship meet was the climax of the indoor season, Malesev said he wasn't too impressed.

"I heard it would be a great meet, but compared to big meets in Europe, it's not as big," he said.

Malesev said he considered himself as an ordinary Nebraska recruit.

"When I was recruited, it wasn't a big deal," he said. "But right after I left, the civil war started."

"I would like to stay here because of the economic situation over there," Malesev said.

Also, Yugoslavia doesn't have any indoor tracks, he said.

"Our tracks were made of clay and we had poor weight lifting facilities," he said.

But even with Nebraska's athletic program, he said he had trouble ad-

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## Sprinter not satisfied after run of success

By John Gardner  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska sprinter Shanelle Porter doesn't seem to be satisfied with being a Big Eight Champion.

Porter, a sophomore at Nebraska, won her second-straight 400-meter run title this past weekend at the Anschutz Sports Pavilion in Lawrence, Kan.

Apparently, though, it's not enough.

"I guess I'm kind of proud of the fact that I'm Big Eight champion," Porter said. "But if I just stay at that level, there won't be much to shoot for."

The Anschutz track is larger than most indoor tracks, at 252 meters, so times are converted on a seven-tenths-of-a-second scale.

What this means is times are supposedly seven-tenths better than what they should be.

Porter said this put a damper, somewhat, on her victory.

"I'm not proud of what I did at this meet because of the track we ran on," she said.

The NCAA Championships are coming up in two weeks, and Por-

ter said she looked more towards this meet during the season. Right now, her time of 54.02 seconds stands as a provisional qualifying mark, so she'll have to wait and see if she makes the NCAA meet.

Porter also anchored the winning 1,600 relay team, which won in 3 minutes, 43.86 seconds.

As a freshman last season, Porter captured the indoor 400 title, winning in a time of 54.15. Much like this season, she wasn't satisfied.

"Last year, Ximena Restrepo (Nebraska sprinter) didn't run the race, so it was kind of a fluke that I won," Porter said.

Restrepo came back for the outdoor season and eventually won the 400 at the NCAA meet in a school record time of 52.12. In the Big Eight outdoor meet, Porter came in a close second to Restrepo, coming across the line in 53.26.

Porter gained All-America status by running a leg on Nebraska's 1,600 relay team that won the 1991 NCAA outdoor title in a school-record time of 3:29.87.

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