



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska's Josh Bullock delivers a pitch to the plate in action earlier this season. The 21-11 Cornhuskers play Washburn today at 4 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

Baseball

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He had a plate inserted in the wrist this week and will miss the rest of the season.

James Garcia filled in for Sagmoen Monday and Sanders said he hoped Jed Dalton would be able to return to the lineup and possibly add depth to that position.

Dalton had missed the past six games because of injury. Sanders said he was unsure who would start on the mound for Ne-

braska. He said he would probably use a split staff so several pitchers could see action.

Note:

The Sower's Club of Lincoln has made a commitment to donate \$10,000 in matching funds toward a new public-address system at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Husker baseball program started a fund-raising campaign last year, and as soon as the \$10,000 in matching funds is raised, the new sound system will be installed.

All previously raised funds also will be matched by the "Sower's Club Baseball Match." The system is estimated to cost \$20,000-25,000.

Partners

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The two said the main reason behind their confidence on the court is to show the pride they have in playing tennis for the Huskers.

Bray, who is a finance major from St. Joseph, Mo., said he used that pride to prove the doubters in his hometown wrong about his abilities.

"Everybody back home said I'd never be good enough to play up here," Bray said. "The satisfaction comes in being able to wear my letter jacket around and say, 'You people were wrong.'"

Segrist, who hails from Alliance and is a pre-medicine major, said his biggest thrill on the court was being able to play with Bray, his best friend.

He said it wasn't always that way, though.

"Troy and I hated each other after playing each other in juniors," said Segrist, who played against Bray in a junior tournament in Omaha the summer before the two started classes at Nebraska.

Segrist said now he wouldn't want it any other way than to compete with Bray against their Big Eight rivals.

"Playing with Troy makes it easier and a lot more relaxed out there," Segrist said.

Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said he had been impressed with his No. 3 doubles squad's improvement since joining the starting lineup.

"They've both made great strides in tennis this year and have really helped our doubles play," McDermott said.

McDermott said their unique antics actually could be beneficial to their play.

"They're both the same type of crazy, free-spirited type of guys, and they're good friends off the court, which really helps in doubles," McDermott said.

As for the tandem's future after this season with the return of the redshirts as well as some highly-touted incoming freshmen recruits, the two said they would take the next two years in stride.

"We're happy just having the opportunity to play, and I look forward to the next two years even if I don't play," Segrist said.

Bray agreed with his teammate. "I've had fun just being part of the team," Bray said. "This will probably be our last year to shine, so we're going to make the best of it."

Scoreboard

Sunday Results

Soccer

Phi Delta Theta wbf over Phi Gamma Delta; Alpha Tau Omega A 4, Sigma Phi Epsilon 0; Delta Upsilon A 5, Sigma Chi 0; Alpha Tau Omega B 5, Delta Tau Delta 2; Delta Upsilon B 2, Sigma Nu B 1; I Phelta Thi 4, AGE 1; Roscoe Pounders wbf over Really.

Co-Rec Softball

SAM & The Grand Slams 12, Abel 10 9; Abel 2 13, McDougall Blues 5; McDougall Blues wbf over AEAC; Animals of Science 24, Puddle Jumpers 4; Abel 8 wbf over Harper 6; Bushwackers 18, Miller Time 3; Abel 2 17, Bundy Bunch 11; CJSJ 12, Animals of Science 4; Soaks wbf over The Blind Watchmakers; Soaks 15, CJSJ 9; Pound 8 & Co. 12, Burr Beer Nuts 2; Bruins 10, Bundy Bunch 3; Bruins 10, Buchwackers 6.

State games registration open

From Staff Reports

Registrations opened Wednesday for the eighth annual Cornhusker State games, which will be held July 10-19 at more than 70 sites around Lincoln.

The statewide amateur sports festival will feature 39 competitive or participant events and is expected to

draw more than 16,000 entrants. The midsummer sports gathering has been the largest among 40 similar programs nationally in recent years, organizers said.

The 1991 games attracted 16,088 participants ranging in age from 88 years to 11 days.

Ex-Husker credits work ethic

O'Brien's tenacity yields long career

By Matt Larsen
Staff Reporter

Pete O'Brien is one of a rare breed of baseball players.

In the midst of one-year wonders and brash showboaters, the former Nebraska star stands out for his hard work ethic and quiet, steady production throughout a decade-long career in the majors.

Although he has not received the publicity accorded to some of his more famous contemporaries, O'Brien has turned in several solid years at first base for the Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians and now the Seattle Mariners.

The California native's road to the majors began with his decision to transfer from Monterey Peninsula College to Nebraska in 1978 as part of Cornhusker coach John Sanders' California recruiting effort.

"Nebraska was a really good move for me," O'Brien said. "It was very conducive to me putting my best foot forward to get drafted."

After being named to the All-Big Eight team in 1979, O'Brien was drafted in the 15th round by the Texas Rangers. Three years later, O'Brien was in the majors.

From 1983 through 1991, O'Brien played in at least 142 games each season. The only exception was in 1990 when he went on the disabled list for the first time with a broken thumb.

During that nine-year stretch he averaged double-digit home run totals and 75-90 runs batted in each year while wielding one of the best gloves in the American League at first base.

O'Brien attributes his success to hard work.

"I feel like my winters really make my years and I really feel like I out-work my opponents during the off-season," he said.

Some credit must also go to good luck, he said.

"Staying healthy is the key," O'Brien said. "If you can stay healthy and can play in a majority of the ball games, your numbers should take care of themselves."

This year O'Brien will not be spending as much time at his familiar first base post. With promising youngster Tino Martinez looking for playing time, O'Brien will be spending more time at designated hitter and possibly in the outfield.

But O'Brien said it's really not a challenge.

"It's more me rooting for him to have a good year and vice-versa," he

said.

One of the biggest changes this season for O'Brien is that he will be playing for a Seattle team that could be in contention for a division title, even in the American League West, a division many experts consider the toughest in baseball.

"We've got some question marks pitching, but I think we're real sound offensively and defensively," O'Brien said. "We're in a very tough division, and we're going to have to have some people step forward on the mound and give us some quality innings."

At age 34, many major leaguers are in the twilight of their careers. But O'Brien just keeps producing solid, if unspectacular, numbers.

He intends to keep doing just that.

"To me, being consistent for a long period of time is a real tribute to the individual who kept himself in shape," he said. "I think that you have guys who come in and have big years, then you don't hear about them."

"I always modeled the Eddie Murrays and the Robin Younts. These guys are going hard every year."

"Consistency is what I'd like to be remembered for."

O'Brien admits that life on the road is a grind, but he intends to keep on playing.

"As long as I'm healthy and I feel like I'm enjoying it still, and the travel doesn't get to me I'll keep going."

Wichita

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to get hit hard.

"We have been playing not to lose," he said. "Now we need to make things happen instead of trying to keep them from happening."

Wolforth said he believed this could be the difference between his team

and the best teams in the country.

"There's a very slim difference between victory and defeat," he said. "We've got it in us. Now it's the job of the coaching staff to get it out of the players."

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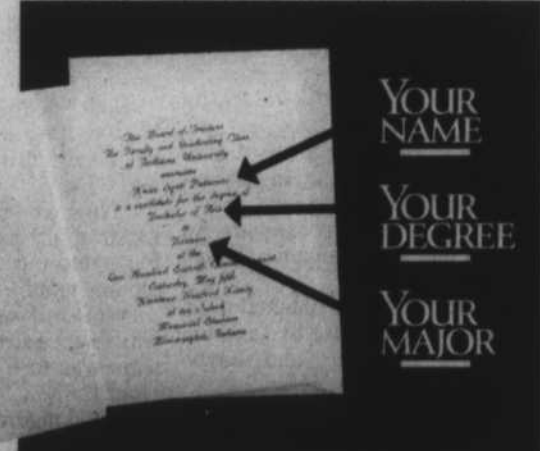
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