

# NU warms up, splits series with Cowboys

## Huskers move to 5-3 in Big Eight, 23-13 overall

By Peter Theoharis  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's baseball team used the weather conditions to its advantage on Sunday, as the the Cornhuskers downed Oklahoma State 5-3 to earn a series split.

The win gave the Huskers a 5-3 record in the Big Eight, 23-13 overall. Oklahoma State dropped to 29-9 overall and 8-4 in the conference. Nebraska won Friday 4-3. Oklahoma State took both games on Saturday, 7-0 and 7-4.

In Nebraska's win on Friday, Mike Zajeski threw 182 pitches and went

“The wind played a big factor against their offense. Coach said to throw strikes and let them hit it in the air.”

— Izumi, NU pitcher

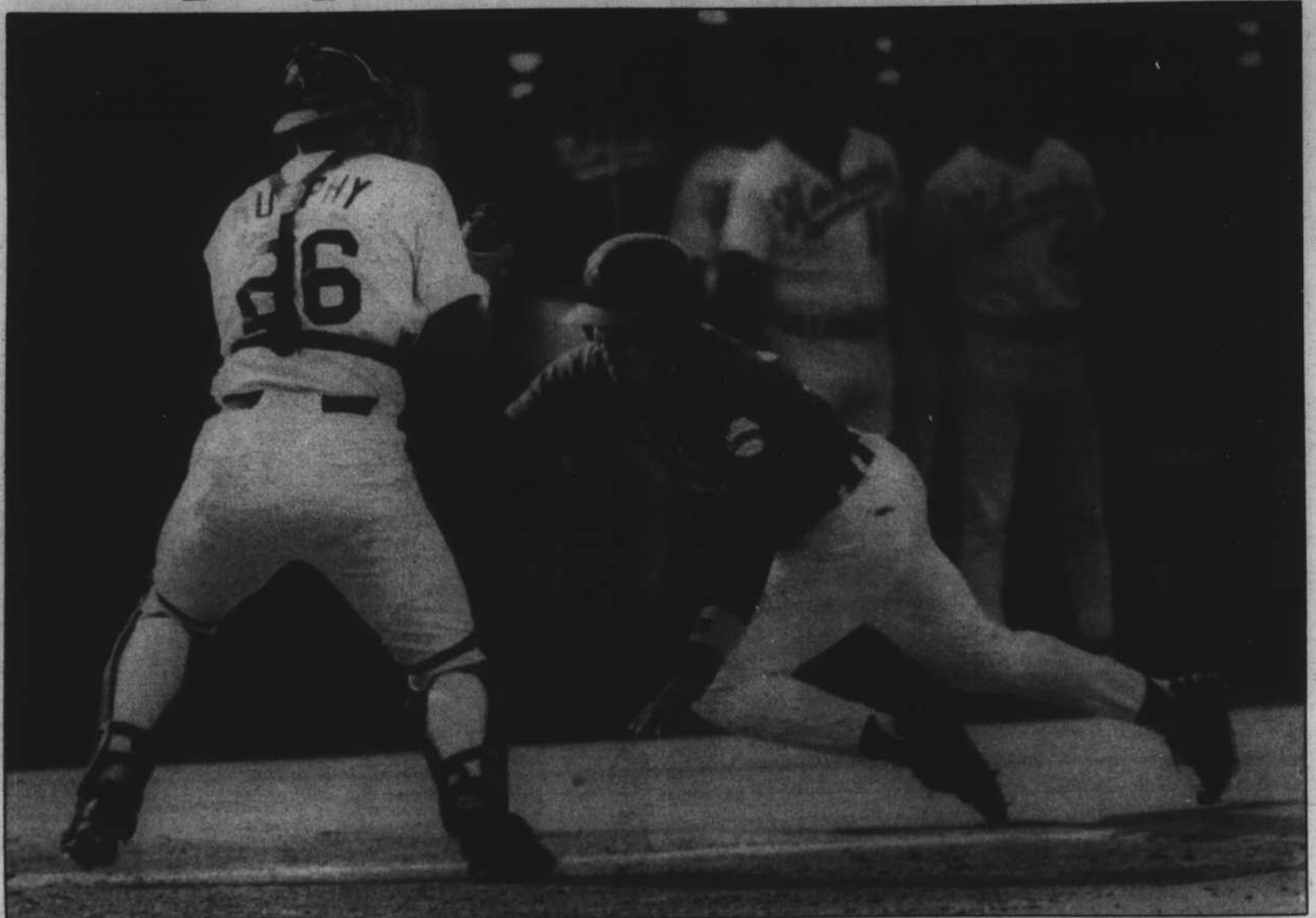
the distance. The win improved Zajeski's record to 5-3.

With the wind gusting in from right center field on Sunday, the Cornhusker pitchers challenged Cowboy hitters all afternoon. The wind, teamed with the 36-degree temperature at game time, made it apparent that few balls would leave the park, which made the pitchers more aggressive.

Husker starter John Izumi, 2-0, earned the win, giving up three hits and no runs in 5 1/3 innings of work. Izumi said Coach John Sanders told him to go after the Cowboy batters.

“The wind played a big factor against their offense,” Izumi said. “Coach said to throw strikes and let them hit it in the air.”

Sanders said Izumi's ability to



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska catcher Jeff Murphy prepares to tag out Joe Wallace of Oklahoma State in action Saturday. The two teams split the four-game series this weekend. The Cornhuskers won 4-3 Friday and 5-3 Sunday. The Cowboys swept Saturday's games 7-0 and 7-4.

change speeds on the Cowboys was the key to Izumi's success.

“His change-up gave him a chance,” Sanders said. “When they were sitting on his fastball he was able to get them to chase the change-up.”

Izumi said he did not know if he would start until Sunday morning. He said he was excited to get the starting

nod, after he struggled with Oklahoma State last season, in a 10-9 loss. “I owed them,” Izumi said. “I really wanted this start.”

Nebraska reliever Steve Boyd owed the Cowboys a little payback of his own.

On Saturday, Boyd came in with Nebraska leading 4-3 in the seventh.

By the end of the inning, Oklahoma State had scored four times on two walks and two hits en route to the win.

The right-hander entered Sunday's game in the eighth inning with the score 5-3. He retired all four batters he faced, as he set the Husker season save record with eight.

Boyd said it was satisfying to set

the record against the Cowboys.

“This is the best team to do it against,” Boyd said. “It's a real good accomplishment for me.”

Sanders was pleased with the way Boyd came back from Saturday's outing.

See **BASEBALL** on 9

## Track teams shine despite clouds

By John Gardner  
Staff Reporter

It was cold. And it was very windy. But the Nebraska track and field teams were hot.

At their own Nebraska Invitational Saturday, the Husker men and women cruised to victory. The men scored 198 points to easily defeat runner-up Minnesota, which finished with 91. Southwest Missouri State grabbed third with 89 points, Colorado State finished fourth with 75, Kansas State had 71 and Missouri scored 47.

The women finished first with 85 points, followed by Kansas State with

40, Colorado State with 38 and Missouri with 26.

Coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased with the performances despite the conditions.

“Considering the way the weather was today, the times were real good,” he said. “Everyone ran real relaxed today.”

And the 198 points scored by the men didn't surprise Pepin.

“We've got a pretty good team there,” he said.

The Nebraska men placed in all but one event they entered and claimed victories in six.

Travis Grant won the 100-meter

dash in 10.65, anchored the winning 400 relay (40.63) and ran the first leg of the second-place 1,600 relay (3:14.84).

Stephen Golding ran away from the pack in the 110 hurdles with a winning time of 14.20. Golding also ran on the 400-relay team.

Jerry Marsec won the 400 in 47.44, then placed fourth in the 200.

Mark Jackson, Albert Fleming and Ken Waller ran the other legs in both the 400 and 1,600 relays.

Kevin Coleman continued his season-long domination in the shot

See **TRACK** on 9

## Women gymnasts fall short of nationals

By Robert Birkeland  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team went into the Midwest regional meet on Saturday at Salt Lake City with little national respect, but ended up leaving the meet nationally ranked and four one-hundredths of a point short of a national championship berth.

The Cornhuskers' score of 191.225 was a season high and the eighth-highest score in school history.

Utah won the meet with a score of 197.075 and Arizona finished second with a score of 194.100.

The Huskers finished fifth behind those two schools and Arizona State (191.950) and Brigham Young (191.500).

The Huskers were ranked 22nd in the national rankings going into the weekend, but when the results from the regional meet came out Sunday afternoon, they were ranked 13th — one spot from the national meet.

“It would be interesting to find out if anyone jumped nine spots in the (national) rankings,” Coach Rick Walton said.

“We had a good meet. It was the best meet of the year in terms of score.”

Husker freshmen and All-Big Eight selections Nicole Duval and Martha Jenkins qualified for the national meet in St. Paul, Minn., on April 25.

Duval was fifth in the all-around competition with a qualifying score of 38.4291 and Jenkins was ninth in

the meet with a score of 38.3208.

Walton said while Duval had her best meet of the year and Jenkins had an average meet, both did what it took to get to nationals.

He said nationals would be a good experience for the two freshmen, but they were disappointed that the team did not qualify.

Walton said people did not give the Huskers enough credit during the season and they were a good team that was having trouble putting it together.

“We were probably one or two meets shy of having a great year,” Walton said. “If we would have put anything together in the month of February we would have had the average to go to the national meet.”

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Men's gymnastics team wins regional; becomes qualifier

Nebraska's top-ranked men's gymnastics team took another step toward winning another national championship this weekend when the Cornhuskers won the West Regional Saturday in Albuquerque, N.M.

Nebraska scored a 286.175 to win the 10-team regional, which decided half of the eight-team NCAA championships that will be April 23-25 in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers' score was the ninth-best in school history.

Stanford, which is ranked second in the country, scored a 285.275. Brigham Young and UCLA

finished third and fourth, respectively, and will round out the NCAA qualifiers from the West Regional. The top four teams from the East Regional will also compete in the championship.

Nebraska's Dennis Harrison finished second in the all-around competition, scoring 57.97. Brigham Young's Liang Jing-Wei won the all-around with a 58.47.

Husker Richard Grace was fourth with a 57.10.

Harrison finished second in the floor exercise, still rings and horizontal bar, and teammate Che Bowers took second in the pommel horse.

### Women's golf team primed for home-course invitational

The Nebraska women's golf team will be the host of the seven-team Husker Invitational, which starts today and ends Tuesday at the Pioneers Golf Course.

Nebraska Coach Robin Krapfl said it was crucial for the Cornhuskers to play well.

“We only play at home once a year,” she said. “It is important to put a good performance on the board.”

The tournament field includes Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Creighton, Iowa State, Missouri-Kansas City and Memphis State.

Today, 36 holes will be played, and the meet will conclude with 18 holes on Tuesday.

Cold weather might be a factor, Krapfl said.

“It looks like the weather conditions will be adverse for Memphis State,” she said.

The Huskers should have a good chance at winning the tournament, Krapfl said.

“It's a pretty balanced field, but it's our home course,” she said. “Everybody on the team is playing well, so I think we're ready.”