

NU baseball coach invites Kansas State rematch

By Jason Bruhn
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team is leaving for Manhattan, Kan., today for an unscheduled rematch against Kansas State. The game between the 28-18, 9-7 Huskers, and the 26-23 Wildcats, 8-12 in conference play, will not count towards the conference standings.

The Wildcats split a four-game series with the Huskers in Lincoln over the weekend.

Coach John Sanders said he initiated the game with a call to Kansas State coach Mike Clark to keep his team sharp heading into the big series this weekend at Iowa State and Oklahoma.

"I wanted to get some play in against a Division I team that was close by

instead of Southwestern Louisiana or somebody," he said. "It's a good game for us to simulate a road trip."

Tim Seaton, senior co-captain and third baseman, said the Huskers were familiar with Kansas State after the series this weekend. He said he was confident that the Huskers would win.

"We pretty much know their hitters," he said. "We don't know who will be pitching against us yet, but as long as we play like we can, we should win. We just need to do the little things right, good pitching, play good defense. Just the little things and we should win."

Sanders said Kansas State would be a good challenge for the Huskers. "(The Wildcats) are aggressive on offense, they compete hard. We need to put together the kind of game we are capable of."

The Huskers, who are third in the conference, are facing a difficult weekend, but can still help themselves by closing in on the Big Eight Tournament, Sanders said.

"We've got a tough eight games ahead of us," he said. "People are really beating up on each other in this league. We can't assume anything, and we won't assume anything. We control our own destiny."

Seaton said the trip to Manhattan would be good to start the Husker's push into the end of their Big Eight season.

"I think it will be good for us and get us ready for Iowa State and Oklahoma when they come up," he said.

"We just have to take it one pitch and one game at a time, and we should have a good closing to our Big Eight year," Seaton said.

Nebraska-Kansas St. Series Notes

All-Time: Nebraska leads 111-70.

This season: The two teams split a four-game series this past weekend.

This meeting: Although it is a meeting between two Big Eight teams, the game will not count in the conference standings.



Scott Maurer/DN

Predictions offered for upcoming seasons

This is my last column as the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

That being the case, it would be easy for me to write one of those teary-eyed columns about how much fun I've had and talk about what went on in the world of sports this year.

But that would be far too easy — and boring. After all, everyone was there the first time it happened so I would just be repeating something that is already known.

So what I'm going to write about is something new, something different.

In other words, I'm not sure what to write about, so I'm employing an old column-writing technique — predictions.

As I see it, it's never too early to look ahead. A little speculation never hurt anyone. And it's always fun to watch the looks on people's faces when they read a column full of ludicrous projections.

First of all, the United States will win the basketball gold medal at the Summer Olympics.

Maybe not the most ludicrous prediction, but there is no way a team made up of Michael Jordan, Karl

Malone, John Stockton, etc., can possibly lose. I don't want to hear the argument about how a team of All-Stars won't be able to develop any team chemistry.

These are 12 of the best players in the world and they know how to win. And they will. Period.

NBA Finals picks? Chicago and Golden State.

It's not the first time I've gone out on a limb on a choice like this. Since they're never right, I figure I'm due.

Don't ask me who will win. I'll take Golden State and the upset, but I won't be watching. Give me college basketball over the NBA any day.

Speaking of college basketball, will Duke win three in a row?

Don't rule it out. But don't count on it, either.

I like Kansas and Indiana in the championship game. Both are loaded for next year and will be tough to beat. Michigan and Duke round out my Final Four. Oklahoma is my sleeper team of the year.

The Barcelona Dragons will win the World Bowl.

In that other professional football

league (the NFL, is it?), I'll play it safe and say an AFC team will win the Super Bowl. The AFC hasn't won the Super Bowl since 1984 and the streak will only grow longer next year.

If Deion Sanders can make the transition from baseball back to foot-

Nick Hytrek

ball quickly, you'll be watching the Atlanta Falcons win their first Super Bowl in January.

On to baseball where the season is just about to move into its second month.

The best overall divisions are the American League West and the National League West. But the World Series will be made up of teams from the other two divisions.

The Detroit Tigers are going to surprise everyone and win the World Series, beating the St. Louis Cardinals in five games — another surprise.

Moving closer to home, let's look at the Cornhuskers.

The football team will have a new quarterback. Sure, that's stating the obvious, but it's one of only three things that I know for certain about next year's team.

The other two?

Nebraska will not win the Big Eight. You'll be hearing "Boomer Sooner" in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Night.

Nebraska fans will be convinced "this is the year" after the Huskers roll over Utah and Middle Tennessee State in the first two games. Then the entire state of Nebraska will be in mourning the day after the Washington game.

The men's basketball team will return to the NCAA Tournament.

Coach Danny Nee has a solid recruiting class coming in. The Big Eight will be tough again but the Huskers should finish in the top half of the league and will win their first-ever NCAA Tournament game.

While I'm hot, I'll even say they'll make it to the Sweet 16.

The women's basketball team will

also make it to the NCAA Tournament. Coach Angela Beck also has done a solid job of recruiting and has Karen Jennings, the best player in the league, returning.

Volleyball coach Terry Pettit can look forward to another successful campaign. Another Big Eight championship will follow the Huskers back into their home at the Coliseum.

And there will even be one national championship won by a Nebraska athletic team.

The men's gymnastics team narrowly missed out on a title this year, and everyone returns to the team. Add in one of the top high school gymnasts in the country, and Coach Francis Allen will be making room in the trophy case for his eighth title. Just ask him. It's more than likely that he'll tell you himself.

So there you have them.

Call your bookie and put your money down now. Just don't come looking for me when you lose your student loan check.

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Tennis

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was the big winner over the weekend for Nebraska. Rahme, a native of South Africa, made the most of his new spot in the lineup. He was the lone Husker to win both of his singles matches.

McDermott said the lineup change was beneficial to Rahme, who finished the Big Eight regular season with a 1-5 record at No. 1 singles.

"He seemed to be real hungry this week," McDermott said. "He showed the intensity he's been lacking all year."

Along with Rahme, No. 1 singles player Karl Falkland, No. 3 Mike Garcia and No. 4 Andy Davis all came away with victories in Sunday's win over Iowa State. Doubles victories by No. 1 tandem Rahme and Falkland and No. 2 pair Garcia and Davis capped the Husker victory.

McDermott said that although his team finished with an average result, the addition of two redshirts and some highly touted recruits should make next year's trip to Kansas City more successful.

"I feel like next year's team has the potential as being one of my best teams ever and will give us the opportunity to make a name for ourselves," McDermott said. "I'm so anxious, I wish the season could start tomorrow."

On the other side of the net, the women's tennis team equaled the feats of its male counter-

part by bringing home a fifth-place finish following Sunday's 5-4 victory over Oklahoma.

Nebraska got to the fifth-place dual against the Sooners after losing 5-2 to Colorado on Friday and rebounding to beat Missouri 6-0 on

the teams that finished higher than us."

Jacobson, who finished his first season as head coach of the women's team, said this had been a memorable season.

"In my 12 years of coaching, this has been the most fulfilling year that I've ever had in coaching and is a credit to the individuals that I've had the opportunity to work with," Jacobson said. Saturday.

Nebraska coach Scott Jacobson said his squad played up to expectations.

"We finished where we were expected to finish and played well enough to play up to our seed," Jacobson said. "I was impressed that once we didn't accomplish our initial goal, we were able to bounce back and accomplish the most that we could."

Nebraska swept all six singles matches against the Tigers on Saturday and followed that effort by getting four more singles wins from Flannery, Junius, No. 4 player Rachel Collins and No. 6 Tina Coutretsis on Sunday.

Collins said a fifth-place finish was satisfying, but didn't reflect the actual talent in the conference.

"It was a nice way to finish the season, but we had the ability to finish higher," Collins said. "I don't consider us as the fifth team in the Big Eight, and I think we're better than some of

he said. "Those two sentiments would seem to point to why there was not an abundance of NFL-type talent among the senior class."

Mitchell's pass-catching abilities were considered far superior to his blocking skills. Coach Tom Osborne used Mitchell mainly in passing situations, and left the run responsibilities to junior-blocking specialist William Washington.

In Monday's early rounds, Nebraska wingback Nate Turner was selected as a tight end by Buffalo in the sixth round, while Husker cornerback Curtis Cotton went to the Los Angeles Raiders. Nebraska wide receiver Jon Bostic went to Denver in the seventh round.

Later in the day, Husker linebacker Mike Petko was taken in the 11th round by New England, and Nebraska quarterback Keithen McCant was selected by Cleveland in the twelfth round.

Draft

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back Tyrone Legette.

Three more conference players were taken in the fifth and final round Sunday and the draft resumed Monday. Tampa Bay took defensive back Rogerick Green of Kansas State — the 118th player overall; Miami picked Wildcat-offensive tackle Chris Perez as the 124th selection, and Oklahoma linebacker Joe Bowden went to Houston as the 133rd player picked.

"Our coaches made mention throughout the course of the 1991 season that our strength lay in the underclassmen," said Tim Allen, assistant Big Eight commissioner.

"They seemed to have indicated the Big Eight would be stronger in the next few seasons by their comments over the course of the year,"