

# Cornhusker State Games to open

Nebraska has largest program among states having state-wide games

By Stacie Hakel  
Staff Reporter

The Cornhusker State has more to be proud of than just its football program.

Nebraska also includes the largest state games program in the nation, according to the executive director of the Cornhusker State Games.

Tom Ash said the Cornhusker State Games originally began as part of a nation-wide grass roots sports program that got its start in New York.

The games were geared to benefit the public through educating them about the advantages of physical fitness and well-being.

The idea spread, and now there are 44 states that have a state games program, Ash said.

"I am happy to say though, that Nebraska has the largest (program)," Ash said.

The Cornhusker State Games, which got their start in 1985, make up an amateur sports festival that is held annually in and around Lincoln beginning on the third weekend of July.

The games have become a tradition in Nebraska, attracting thousands of Nebraskans from the entire state to the Lincoln area.

There are 30 major sports categories as well as 40 other separate competitions. The activities range from the highly-competitive Olympic sports to those that are more recreational and geared towards simple participation.

The games are open to Nebraskans of all ages, and the only requirement to compete is that a person must reside in Nebraska 30 days prior to the event.

High school students may compete on the condition that they participate as individuals and not a school-sponsored team. College athletes also are eligible under national collegiate

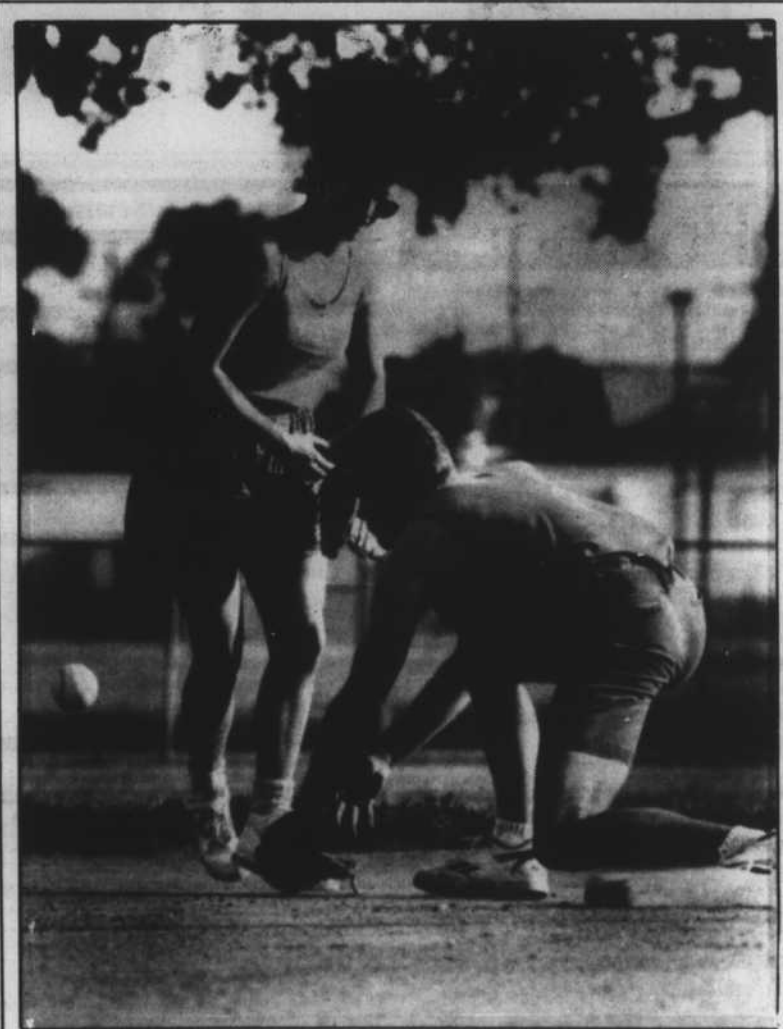
rules. The events sponsored by the Cornhusker State Games are diverse in nature. They range from aquatics, basketball, gymnastics and soccer, to bowling, chess, sailing and table tennis.

The deadline for entering the games is June 29. But the entry deadline for basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball and bowling has already passed.

To enter, participants must complete an entry form and pay an entry fee, which differs for each event, and return them to the Cornhusker State Games office in Lincoln.

At the opening ceremonies and the athletes' party, adults must purchase a \$5 admission ticket, while registered competitors and children ages 12 and under will be admitted free.

Competition sites will have open admissions, and finals in all sports are scheduled for July 10-19.



Staci McKee/DN

Molar Rollers Chad Ortmeier, a senior dentistry major, and Pam Harms, a sophomore dentistry major, try to get their hands on a loose ball during their intramural softball game Tuesday evening at the Vine softball complex.

## Two Nebraska softball players receive academic accolades

Two University of Nebraska softball players were recently named to the 1992 GTE Academic All-America team.

Denise McMillan, a sophomore history major, is an outfielder from

Westerville, Ohio and earned a spot on the second-team.

Ann Halsne, who plays at third base for the Cornhuskers, hails from Decorah, Iowa, and was voted to the third-team for the second consecutive year, earning a berth last season as a

designated hitter. Halsne was a senior health/physical education/recreation major.

The teams are selected by the members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

## Petersen honored as one of nation's top baseball freshmen

A University of Nebraska baseball player was recently named a member of the 1992 Mizuno Freshman All-American team.

NU freshman shortstop Darin Petersen was named to the team

chosen by Collegiate Baseball.

Petersen finished the season hitting .329 with 54 hits, 32 RBIs, seven doubles, one triple and one home run. He had a .402 slugging percentage as well as the least strikeouts on the team

for starters with 21 in 55 games.

Petersen also had six sacrifice hits, two sacrifice flies, stole eight bases, had a .909 fielding percentage and turned 19 double plays for the Cornhuskers.

## Father

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bring back memories for my dad and gave me some for the future.

Tommy John's big southpaw-windup off the stadium mound, Manny Mota's patented swing and Steve Yeager's awkward crouch behind home plate were scenes my dad had seen many times before, but were new experiences for me.

The only player that appeared to be missing on this Father's Day was former Dodger first baseman Steve Garvey, as it only seemed appropriate that "Mr. paternity suit" be at the stadium on this day.

When the final inning of the exhibition game ended, a sense of satisfaction as well as remorse arose as the former stars disappeared into the blue stadium dugouts.

My father had just seen his heroes come and go, making it hard to come

back to reality after having left it for three innings.

But now it was my turn to watch my baseball heroes play, whom I had difficulty imagining playing in future oldtimers contests.

In what would end up being my and my dad's last trip to the stadium, we settled in to watch today's players file out of the dugouts in which the veterans had disappeared moments before.

Days like these remind me of a quote from last summer's movie hit "City Slickers," in which Daniel Stern tells Billy Crystal that he and his dad could never communicate about anything, but could still always talk about baseball.

The world of sports seems to be that missing link between children and their fathers. No matter how silly

it appears, sports can be the therapy that fathers and kids use to communicate and express each other's views.

So to all the fathers this Sunday, may the television be kept on ESPN, the beer be kept cold and the munchies always be at an arm's length away, because dads — this day's for you.

Singer is a senior news-editorial and political science major and is the Summer Daily Nebraskan's copy desk editor and a senior sports reporter.

## Baseball

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also led the team in doubles and walks, and was only one of two Nebraska players to start in all 56 games.

Murphy was also known for his good behavior on and off the field. This year he was awarded the Big Eight Sportsmanship Award, which is voted on by the conference's umpires.

Murphy isn't a stranger to St. Louis — he grew up there until his family moved to Las Vegas when he was in high school. He said he always hoped he would be drafted by the Cardinals.

"I couldn't believe it," Murphy said. "Being able to grow up around the Cardinals organization, it was like

a dream come true."

Ironically, the last Nebraska catcher that was drafted was Tim Pettingill, who was picked by St. Louis in the 1988 draft.

Pettingill recently gave up playing pro baseball, but Sanders said Murphy has the chance to excel in the minor leagues and eventually play ball in the majors.

"Now he has the chance to do real well and realize his dream," Sanders said. "I think he'll do real well."

When asked if he thinks he'll be playing in St. Louis' Busch Stadium soon, Murphy said he's planning on it.

"I sure as hell hope so; just give me about four or five years," Murphy said.

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