

Woolridge stresses books before buckets

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

When it comes to being a student-athlete, Andre Woolridge prefers to be known more for the former than the latter.

Woolridge, one of three freshmen recruits on this year's Nebraska men's basketball team, was an all-state performer at Benson High School in Omaha.

But his 3.3 grade point average and recognition on Benson's honor roll are what he's most proud of in high school.

And he's hoping to take his "success in the classroom" attitude to the

collegiate level.

"It doesn't matter about my basketball awards. Right now I'm looking toward the future," said Woolridge, who said his main goals at Nebraska are "No. 1 to graduate and then make sure I'm physically and mentally the best basketball player I can be."

Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said Woolridge was an example of the type of student-athlete he wanted playing in the Cornhusker program.

"On my first impression of him, he's the type of person that qualifies for what I call 'a student-athlete' — he's got his priorities in line," Nee said.

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— Woolridge

— "Despite being centered on academics, the 18-year-old Woolridge can't escape the attention he has received for his play. With fellow freshmen guards Erick

Strickland and Jaron Boone, Woolridge is part of what many consider to be Nebraska's best recruiting class ever.

Recruiting analyst Bob Gibbons earlier put this year's Husker class in his national top-10 list, and the three freshmen have helped Nebraska receive a No. 11 ranking in Sport Magazine's preseason ratings.

Woolridge said the freshman trio would help make the Huskers a national power in coming years.

"With Erick and Jaron, we're going to help the program and put Nebraska basketball on the map," Woolridge said.

The 6-foot-2 Woolridge said al-

though there would be pressure to perform, he just wanted to blend into the chemistry current team members have already established.

"I just want to come in and contribute positively," Woolridge said. "I'm not planning on coming here and scoring a lot of points — I just want to contribute to the team."

Scoring points was not a problem for Woolridge in high school, as he scored 50 in the Nebraska Class A finals last March at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Benson's state championship victory.

In high school, Woolridge received

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NU looks to slash athletic deficit

Priority seating, skyboxes possible

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

Nebraska football fans willing to pay the price may be able to view Cornhusker games from skyboxes or priority seats in the future.

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs, said the athletic department is considering those and other measures to help eliminate its \$1.8 million deficit.

"We are currently talking about and getting involved with these things in our Athletic Development Office," he said.

Fouraker said no committees had been established to evaluate proposals for the skyboxes or for priority seating. No formal decisions will be made about pursuing the plans until athletic director Bill Byrne takes over for Bob Devaney in January, he said.

But Fouraker said both proposals were being seriously considered as a method of raising revenue for the athletic department.

"Those are all things we talked about several times," he said. "I think the skybox issue is certainly something we want to take a look at."

Fouraker said the existing press box could be expanded or a new one could be built specifically for skybox viewing purposes.

Priority seating, or giving better seats to donors to the athletic department, is another option that is being explored, he said.

"I think it's something that will be looked at, how seriously, I'm not sure

See DEFICIT on 7



Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska split end Trumane Bell reaches for a pass in last Saturday's 55-0 Cornhusker win over Oklahoma State. Nebraska will take a week off before playing at Missouri on Oct. 24.

Huskers staying sharp with contact

From Staff Reports

For the second time in the past three weeks, the Nebraska football team has two weeks to prepare for a game.

How the team reacts to another open date will rest with the individual, Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said.

"I think it pretty much depends on how the team reacts," Osborne

said. "If they don't concentrate and keep their minds in practice, it will hurt."

The Huskers escaped Tuesday's practice injury-free, although linebacker Mike Anderson was held out because of an earlier knee injury.

"He's still a kind of sore, it's nothing big," Osborne said.

Osborne made sure his team would keep some contact going in

practice so the team would stay as sharp as it was in Saturday's 55-0 win against Oklahoma State. The Huskers went through a full-pad practice Tuesday and will scrimmage Friday.

"We went through a live pass drill and pass protection for 25 snaps," he said. "I think it's important we have some contact. If you can go two weeks without contact, it can hurt you."

Nebraska may need the week off to prepare for a tough conference schedule. The Huskers' next game will be Oct. 24 at Missouri, followed by a home date against defending Big Eight co-champion Colorado.

Osborne said that although Nebraska has beaten quality opponents, the conference schedule would be tougher.

Clemens belongs in Red Sox uniform forever

I opened the paper Saturday morning, expecting to read something about my high school football team or some outrageous quote from Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones.

That stuff was in there, all right. But when I opened the paper, that wasn't what caught my eye.

Instead, it was a tiny story out of Boston. Some rumor about the Red Sox trading Roger Clemens straight-up for the Texas Rangers' Juan Gonzales was buried three pages into the sports section.

And while the Miami-Penn State game was just coming on television and while I was waiting to watch Oakland play Toronto in the American League Championship Series, it was the Clemens news that intrigued me most.

Roger Clemens in some other uniform? Please, no.

Even though I'm not a Boston fan, I swear I'll never watch baseball again if the Red Sox trade Clemens. It would be just plain sacrilegious.



John Adkisson

He's a young throwback to the sport's glory years. He pitches through pain. He doesn't shave a lot. He can even make spitting look manly.

Roger Clemens is no pretty boy. More important, Clemens is a rarity in that he's played his entire career in Boston.

We've seen some great players close their one-team career in grand style this season. Kansas City's George Brett and Milwaukee's Robin Yount each made it to the 3,000-hit plateau, and they've played with their respective teams since they stepped into the majors.

There are other examples: Baltimore made

sure Cal Ripken Jr. would be a lifetime Oriole by offering him a lucrative multiyear contract. And if there is justice in this world, Don Mattingly should end his career with the Yankees, and Kirby Puckett should always be a Twin.

It's more than a matter of looking good in one uniform. It's a matter of young fans being able to love a particular player and identifying that player with one team.

When Dale Murphy led Atlanta to a divisional title in 1982, I loved him. Ten years later he's laboring away with the lowly Phillies, a sad end to a stellar career.

We've seen great players reduced to nobodies in other sports: The Milwaukee Bucks play the Seattle SuperSonics next week in a pre-season game in Omaha, and people will get a chance to see former great Moses Malone playing for the Bucks.

Moses is out of shape. Moses is no longer an impact player. Moses has been traded countless times. But 7-year-old kids who have never

seen Moses Malone in his prime will only see a balding fat guy who can barely make it down the court.

That's not to say that Roger Clemens' late career would ever resemble that of Malone's. Clemens still has a future of pitching greatness ahead of him.

The point isn't what's ahead of Roger Clemens. It's what's behind him.

No matter what would happen to him in Texas, there's no way to erase the image of him striking out 19 Mariners or blowing a gasket in the 1990 American League Championship Series.

It's up to teams like the Red Sox to ensure that Clemens ends his career with Boston. Even talking about trading one of the best players in the team's history can't help anything.

Everything he's done has been done in a Boston uniform, and there's no reason to change his colors now.

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