



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska right fielder Marc Sagmoen slides safely into third base on a steal against Kansas State Wednesday.

## Huskers warm up, sweep KSU

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

Playing in the cold suited the Nebraska baseball team just fine Wednesday night.

The Cornhuskers swept a doubleheader from Kansas State, winning the first game 13-9 and taking the second game 6-2 to improve to 14-15 overall and 4-6 in the Big Eight.

At the start of the second game, the wind chill at Buck Beltzer Field was 20 degrees, and by the end of the game, it had dropped into the low teens.

"I think that was one of the coldest doubleheaders we have ever played in," Nebraska coach John Sanders said. "We won though, so it got a lot warmer."

Despite the cold and windy conditions, Troy Brohawn and Tom Bergan gave the Huskers

strong pitching performances to lead Nebraska to the wins.

Brohawn started game one, allowing two runs on three hits and striking out eight in seven innings.

With the win, Brohawn improved to 5-0 with a 1.84 ERA.

In the second game, Bergan, 2-5, pitched the first complete game of his collegiate career, holding the Wildcats to two runs on three hits while striking out three.

Jed Dalton and Marc Sagmoen led the Husker 11-hit attack in game one of the doubleheader.

Dalton went 4-for-5 with one double and a season-high five RBIs in game one. He also scored one run and stole a base for the Huskers.

Sagmoen got the Husker offense rolling with a two-run homer in the first inning to give Nebraska a 2-1 lead. Sagmoen added a solo

the seventh inning of game two. On the day, Sagmoen went 3-for-5 with six runs scored and three runs batted in.

After taking a 3-1 lead into the fourth inning, the Huskers erupted for six runs, all with two outs, on four hits while sending 11 men to the plate in the inning.

Derek Dukart led off the fourth with a walk and advanced to second on Sean McKenna's sacrifice bunt.

Kurt Alderman then struck out but reached first on a wild pitch. After Robert Perry was retired, Brohawn doubled in Dukart and Alderman.

Darin Petersen followed with a run scoring single, and after a walk to Sagmoen, Darin Erstad doubled to score Petersen. Dalton followed with a two-run single to give the Huskers a 9-1 lead.

## Highly touted Erstad plays up to par with his reputation

NU freshman fielder says honors don't add pressure

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

It was just another day at the office for Nebraska freshman baseball player Darin Erstad.

The preseason Big Eight Freshman of the Year again lived up to his billing Wednesday by going 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a pair of runs scored in the Cornhuskers' 13-9 win over Kansas State in the first game of a doubleheader at Buck Beltzer Field.

But don't task the native of Jamestown, N.D., who entered the games hitting .318 this season, to be satisfied with his performance.

"There's always room for improvement," Erstad said.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said his starting left fielder had impressed him all season long.

"It's nice to see a freshman like him come in here and do what he's doing," Sanders said.

Erstad was tapped as the Associated Press' North Dakota Athlete of the Year last year after being named all-state in four sports (baseball, football, hockey and track).

Because of his high school accolades, Erstad was recruited for more than baseball. But having decided to play on the diamond, he said, he is just going to try to improve as the season progresses.

"You have to consider it's a big jump from North Dakota baseball to Division I baseball," Erstad said.

Along with being named the preseason freshman of the year, he was placed on Baseball America's Top 25 Freshmen list. But Erstad said he didn't let the notoriety of his honors bother him.

"I don't think it's a big pressure," he said. "There's enough pressure as there is."

## Woolridge's departure casts Huskers' future into doubt

Experts were all ready to predict Nebraska's first-ever men's basketball Big Eight title for the upcoming 1993-94 season.

This would have given the Cornhuskers the chance to take down those embarrassing NIT appearance banners from the rafters of the Bob Devaney Sports Center and replace them with a banner signifying a league championship.

But that was all before last Thursday.

With freshman point guard Andre Woolridge's announcement that he was leaving Nebraska and going to Iowa, the previous lock on a Big Eight title in Lincoln has now loosened, letting Kansas and Missouri into the race for the conference championship.

Woolridge, a 6-foot Omaha native, was named to the Big Eight's all-

freshman team because of his 4.9 points and 1.7 rebounds in 16.8 minutes per game.

But shouldn't have Nebraska fans expected bigger numbers from the former state high school basketball player of the year, who scored 50 points in the Class A championship game in 1992 to lead Benson to the state title?

No. Woolridge had to work himself into Husker coach Danny Nee's 10-man rotation and because the system tried to give all 10 players adequate playing time, it was hard for Woolridge to get enough time in game situations to adapt his skills to college-level play.

Fans in Woolridge's hometown of Omaha have complained that it was Nee's fault for not being able to let Woolridge's true abilities stand out.



Jeff Singer

But to blame Nee for Woolridge not being able to blossom fast enough would be like blaming the captain of the Titanic for having icebergs on his route.

In Nee's case, he did what he had to by giving Woolridge as much playing time as he could afford to give him while trying to get all 10 players into the lineup.

And just because he hasn't flourished as fast as everybody wanted, some fans came to the conclusion that Woolridge was overrated coming out of high school.

But there's one point these experts seem to have forgotten: HE'S ONLY A FRESHMAN.

This is especially forgotten when he is compared to California's super frosh Jason Kidd.

Woolridge was rated behind Kidd as the second-best point guard coming out of high school. And while Kidd has already developed into one of the premier point guards in the nation, Woolridge hasn't produced like that.

But this new Hawkeye will prove he deserved the accolades he received after graduating from Benson.

And the moral of this story for Husker hoop fans is that Woolridge's departure is going to hurt more than most people realize.

Remember what happened two

years ago when Nebraska had only one true point guard in Jamar Johnson, and the offense would collapse as soon as he went to the bench?

Well, the Huskers had better not let history repeat itself.

Erick Strickland said of Woolridge's departure: "Whenever you lose a quality guy, it hurts — but we'll adjust."

If Nebraska can adjust and sign a player to come in and back up Johnson, or if Strickland or Jaron Boone can make the switch to point guard, the Huskers can plan on ordering their Big Eight Championship rings.

But if they don't fill the glaring hole in their lineup, they can send the order forms to Lawrence or Columbia.

Singer is a senior news-editorial and political science major and a Daily Nebraskan sports senior reporter.

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