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Splittorff

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Jamie's father said he tried not to encourage his son to pitch when he was younger.

Jamie Splittorff, drafted by the Royals out of high school, said he wanted to someday pitch in the major leagues like his father did.

"I'm in a glamorous position being the son of a former major leaguer," he said. "My dream is to someday play major league baseball."

"I guess I've got it in the genes, so that may help."

Paul Splittorff is now a broadcaster for the Royals. He tries to get to as many Jayhawk games as his job permits.

"I missed Jamie's last two starts, but I was able to get the Oklahoma game when we were in New York," he said. "The station had the system rigged, so I could hear it on the radio."

"Another time when we were in Minneapolis, I had the press secretary call the press box in Lawrence every 20 minutes for updates on how Jamie was doing."

Chandler remains hopeful about NBA draft chances

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

Derrick Chandler is working on beefing up his resume.

Chandler, who was the lone senior on the Cornhusker basketball team last season, said his chances of finding a job in the NBA were looking pretty good.

He just got back from a professional camp in Virginia that took the top 64 college players, and the scouts liked what they saw.

He got invited to another camp in Chicago for the top 48 players at the end of the month, and he's looking forward to showing them what he's got one more time.

"That will be the last chance the pro scouts can see you," he said. "It will be a good opportunity to showcase my skills."

"Right now the word is I could be an early second-round pick," Chandler said. "This year's draft is really up in the air."

Chandler, who will be graduating

from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln May 8 with a degree in human development, said the scouts told him they liked his rebounding and defense, but they felt he needed to get quicker so he could play power forward.

"They want me to have more finesse than power."

And Chandler will do what it takes to make it in the NBA.

"I figure I've got my whole life to work a nine-to-five job," he said. "I'm young and healthy now; I want to play basketball."

Chandler said he had spoken to former Husker Rich King, who plays for the Seattle SuperSonics, about playing in the NBA.

"(King) told me you've got to be strong and you've got to work your butt off," he said.

Chandler said he could bring those things to any NBA team.

"I'm a great rebounder with a strong body; I'm a team player, a role player; and I work hard day in and day out."

But if the NBA doesn't work out,

Chandler's got some other possibilities, including checking out the basketball leagues in Europe.

"The dream is always to play for the NBA," he said. "If that doesn't work out, I'll step back and look at the situation."

"A lot of people have asked me what I thought about playing in Europe... it would have to be the right situation."

Perhaps a more likely option, Chandler said, would be for him to return to the Washington, D.C., area and open a recreation center for kids.

Ultimately, he said, he hopes to be able to act as a big brother or counselor to kids in urban areas.

"I want to give back to the community and help the next person up," he said. "People look up to you because you're a basketball player. I would give them somebody to talk to or a place to stay or whatever."

But first, Chandler said he hoped to find a place for himself in the NBA.

"I haven't got all the basketball out of my system yet," he said.

Tennis team looks for individuals to win first Big Eight team title

Injury-ridden OSU is first obstacle

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott is hoping that his 12th trip to the Big Eight Tournament will be a little different than previous years.

This time, he hopes his team will give him a win.

The Cornhuskers open the Big Eight Tournament against Oklahoma State in Kansas City, Mo., on Friday after finishing third in the Big Eight regular season race. The tourney finishes with the championship match on Sunday afternoon.

McDermott said he wants this weekend's tournament to be significant for the program.

"We just want to go down there and make some history," McDermott said.

Nebraska has never won a Big Eight championship.

McDermott expressed confidence in the team's opening round match against the injury-ridden Cowboys.

"We're not going to have a lot of trouble with them," McDermott said. "They've had quite a few injuries and they'll probably have to forfeit two matches."

That was the case a week ago when the Huskers defeated Oklahoma State. In the dual, the Cowboys were forced to forfeit at No. 6 singles and at No. 3 doubles after sustaining injuries. Nebraska won 5-2.

With wins, the Huskers will likely face Kansas in the tournament's semi-

finals and Colorado in the championship match. The Huskers lost to both teams during the regular season.

McDermott said the team must think of its individual jobs in order to be successful as a team.

"Everyone has to perform and no one has to take the lead," McDermott said. "They have to be self-motivated to win their own point, then they can come off the court and worry about the rest of the team."

McDermott said the lineup for the weekend is set except for the No. 6 singles position.

Both Anthony Kotarac and Anthony Cunningham will vie for the final singles spot.

McDermott will wait until today's practice to make the decision but did say he would "go with whoever will win."

KU

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Brohawn out at the plate.

"If you make mistakes, you are going to get beat," Nebraska coach John Sanders said.

Sanders said the Huskers' inconsistent play is hard to explain, but he remains positive that his team can turn it around.

"We got enough pitching to win today, we just didn't get any hitting," Sanders said. "The good sign is that we at least pitched."

Brian Martin took the loss on the mound for the Huskers Wednesday, allowing four runs on eight hits in 7 2/3 innings.

The bottom of the Kansas order did most of the damage as the last three hitters combined seven hits and scored three runs. The other two hits came from leadoff hitter Jeff Berblinger.

Kansas scored a single run in the second and added two more in the fourth inning. They scored their final run in the seventh to take a 4-0 lead.

Chris Corn picked up the win for the Jayhawks, improving his season

mark to 7-2.

Sean McKenna provided the only Husker highlight of the day with a towering two-run homer to left-center field in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Petersen reached on an error by Kansas third baseman Brent Wilhem to lead off the eighth. McKenna followed a fly out by Sagmoen with his second homer of the season.

Nebraska's next action will be this weekend as the Huskers travel to Ames, Iowa, for a three-game series against Iowa State.

Streak at 8 as NU loses

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team set the record for the longest losing streak in school history after the Cornhuskers dropped a doubleheader Wednesday at Wichita State.

Nebraska lost 7-6 and 4-2 to the Shockers and extended its losing streak to eight games. Overall, the Huskers' record dropped to 11-20.

In the first game, senior shortstop Shae Sloan went 3-for-4 with four RBIs. The Huskers took a 4-0 lead to the top of the third inning, but Wichita State rallied to tie the game in the sixth inning and win in the bottom of the seventh.

Cody Dusenberry (5-11) picked up the loss for Nebraska.

In the second game, senior catcher Kris Vucurevic was 2-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base. Wichita State scored four runs in the fifth inning off Husker starter Jody Splichal, whose record dropped to 6-9.

Nebraska will resume action Saturday with a home doubleheader against Iowa State beginning at 1 p.m.



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