

Sagmoen signs with Texas Rangers

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Nebraska outfielder Marc Sagmoen accomplished almost every personal goal for a college baseball player and added yet another when he was drafted in the 13th round by the Texas Rangers.

Sagmoen, who signed with the Rangers June 8th, earned first-team All-American honors from Collegiate Baseball, U.S. Baseball Federation Coaches Association and Smith Super-Team Baseball Association.

Chad MacDonald, an official with the Ranger's minor league system, said the first step up the ladder for Sagmoen is rookie ball in Erie, Penn.

MacDonald said the Rangers were impressed with Sagmoen's offensive abilities.

"They liked his hitting ability," he said. "He'll start off in rookie ball, but depending on the way he progresses, he might move up to 'A' ball."

The biggest challenge for Sagmoen, MacDonald said, might be batting with wooden instead of aluminum bats.

"The biggest adjustment without a doubt for the rookies is adjusting to hitting with wooden bats," he said.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said he did not have any complaints about Sagmoen's hitting. Sagmoen batted for a .454 average in 1993 with 18 home runs.

"I think he'll do real well," Sanders said. "He got his chance and he'll take advantage of it."

Sanders did say he was disappointed that Sagmoen was not selected in the first 10 rounds of the draft.

"I'd like to have seen him go in the top 10 rounds, he definitely deserved to," he said. "I was really surprised he didn't, but at least he got the opportunity."

Oklahoma State coach Gary Ward, who led the Cowboys to their 17th College World Series appearance this year, was disappointed himself on draft day.

"I thought this ball club we had this year was as good as any and we only got two guys drafted, and that was in the 50th round," Ward said.

Ward, who has seen six of his players drafted in the first round in past years including Robin Ventura and Pete Incalvilla, said the pro scouts look at completely different things.

"I've never really tried to guess at what the pro people are looking

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— Ward
Oklahoma State coach

for," he said. "They look a lot more for tools than at the college performance."

"They draft the essential things needed to develop for a player to become great," he said. "They might have thought Sagmoen had peaked already."

However, Ward said it would not surprise him to see Sagmoen become successful.

"He's really a remarkable player," Ward said. "The things that strike you most are his poise and leadership."

Sagmoen was named the Big Eight Most Valuable Player, the first in Nebraska baseball history. He also earned the Big Eight Tournament MVP award.

"He did a darned good job here. We'll miss him," Sanders said. "He's an outstanding player and an outstanding person and I'm just glad he was here for two years."

Ward said Sanders and the Huskers may miss him, but the rest of the Big Eight will not.

"I could never see anything that the kid did that I didn't like," Ward said. "I take great pride in Big Eight baseball and I was extremely pleased that he earned all the honors he did."



Sagmoen

Big League



Former Nebraska center fielder Marc Sagmoen's accomplishments in 1993:

- ⊙ Batting average: .454
- ⊙ Home runs: 18
- ⊙ RBIs: 79
- ⊙ Big 8 Conference MVP
- ⊙ Big 8 Tournament MVP
- ⊙ First-team All-American

Scott Monroe/DN

Nee consumes summer with camp, recruiting, quality family time

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

After a 20-11 season and a third straight NCAA Tournament berth, Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee is not giving himself a pat on the back and taking a break over the summer.

Instead, Nee is using the time as preparation for next season.

"Coaching is definitely a year-round job," Nee said. "There are very few jobs that aren't year-round jobs."

Two major activities take most of Nee's time in the summer.

"There are two major consumptions for me in the summer," he said. "June is spent putting on basketball camps, and July is entirely for recruiting."

Nee said the summer basketball camps present him with an opportunity to set an example for young kids.

"I like camps, and I like young people," he said. "I think it's a gift to work with young kids, and these kids are at a very impressionable age."

"I'm not anyone special. I see being a role model for the kids as a responsibility."

Nee's time is not entirely spent on basketball, though. He also uses the summer to spend time with his family. At home, Nee is not only a coach, but father to three children ages 16, seven and five.

"I like to have a lot of family time with my kids," he said. "We'll go to Worlds of Fun or Oceans of Fun, or we'll go fishing. I'll do what they want to do."

When camps are in session, Nee arrives at the office at around 8 a.m. He gives a 15 minute to a half-hour lecture to the camp participants.

Nee then tackles some paperwork and plans his recruiting schedule. He then goes back out on the basketball court and watches his two sons at camp.

The afternoon is spent working out and watching films of next year's opponents in preparation for next season.

Finally, Nee spends a peaceful and quiet evening at home with his wife and children, goes to sleep at around 9:30 or 10 p.m. and does it all again the next day.

"It's a very long day," Nee said. Recruiting also takes up a bulk of Nee's summer. July is spent watching recruits and making visits.

"We'll probably see 500 kids, and we'll be flying all over the place," he said.

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