

## City baseball outlook growing

By Jeff Zeleny  
Senior Editor

The possibility of minor league baseball coming to Lincoln could prove to be a bigger gamble than supporters once thought.

Under a plan being considered by the Lincoln City Council, city keno profits would provide \$1.3 million in funding for Sherman Field renovations, and build a second field nearby for Lincoln youth baseball programs.

But city officials disagree about the risk involved with using keno funds that are not yet available.

"Risk and opportunity are two sides of the same coin," said Ken Haar, city council member. "It's a risk, but I think it's a small risk. I look at this as an opportunity for the city of Lincoln."

Lincoln Parks and Recreation director Jim Morgan said using keno-generated funds before they actually became available was potentially dangerous.

"If the State of Nebraska goes into the lottery system, keno will dry up," he said. "Will it take five years or 10 years? That's the question."

Most officials do agree professional baseball in Lincoln would benefit the city greatly, but the city council approved last week a plan to spend \$10,000 to study the city's baseball field needs.

Morgan said the study would include architectural engineering consulting work.

"Before you can make the next decision, you have to have good information," Morgan said. "When you start talking about designing and developing this, we need to buy some skills."

Haar said the survey was a good method to make more information available to baseball proponents.

"I just think it would be good for the city," Haar said of professional baseball. "It's the sort of thing that has benefit for all of Lincoln."

— 66 —

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It's great family entertainment and a good community thing."

Although no specific organizations have expressed interest in Lincoln, Morgan said Miles Wolf, founder of the Northern League and editor of Baseball America was aware of Lincoln's interest.

"Miles has expressed interest for the city of Lincoln, providing the city can update Sherman Field," Morgan said.

Wolf could not be reached for comment Wednesday from Durham, S.C.

Adding a professional league of any type to the city would be a great asset for Lincoln baseball enthusiasts, said NU baseball coach John Sanders.

"I just think it would be positive," he said. "It would be an uplift for baseball in general. Any time there is an uplift in general, there is an uplift specifically."

Sanders said Wolf was enthused about bringing baseball to Lincoln. The Northern League would be good for the NU program also, he said.

"It would provide an outlet for our players," he said.

The Northern League has a variety of players, Sanders said, and would be better for the city than a specific professional club.

"It would kind of be a mixed bag," he said. "The Northern League concept holds better. Locally franchised it could be better spirit."

99 —

## Jennings earns highest honor

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Karen Jennings, the most decorated women's basketball player in Nebraska history, added the final collegiate award of her career when she was announced the winner of the Wade Trophy.

The Wade Trophy is annually given out to a woman senior All-American that is committed to academics, and has served as an exemplary positive role model for women in sports.

"I was excited and really shocked," Jennings said. "To be honest, I really couldn't believe it."

"It was an incredible award to receive considering all the community things that went into it."

The trophy is named after Margaret Wade, who became the first women's college coach to be inducted into the National Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. Wade retired at the end of the 1978-79 season, with a high school and college coaching record of 610-112.

Among some of the past recipients of the award are Nancy Lieberman, Lynette Woodard, Cheryl Miller and Teresa Weatherspoon.

"I looked at that list and just said 'Wow,'" Jennings said. "They were all my role models as I was growing up."

Jennings, who is the all-time leading scorer in Cornhusker history, said her teammates deserved some of the credit for her receiving the honor.

"In a way, I hate receiving all these awards and not having my teammates get anything," she said. "I feel like I get too much attention and they didn't get enough, but I couldn't have done any of it without them."

Jennings said she had enjoyed the help of others as well.

"I feel very fortunate for everything that God gave me. I feel very fortunate to have been given the athletic ability and the opportunity," she said. "Of course, I've had good coaching and my parents have been very

— 66 —

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— Jennings  
former UNL  
basketball player

supportive, too."

The trophy will be presented on November 21, at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic in Jackson, Tenn. It has been sponsored for three years by Danskin and Shape Magazine.

"All the honors are great, but this is special because it's so many things and it's on the national level," Jennings said. "For me to be chosen for something like this on the national level really means a lot."

Jennings will graduate from UNL in August with a degree in exercise physiology. She has signed with a French team and will begin her professional career August 15.

### Award Winner

Nebraska graduate Karen Jennings is the 1993 Wade Trophy Award winner for leadership and academic excellence in women's basketball.

#### Previous Winners

- 1992 Susan Robinson  
Penn State
- 1991 Daedra Charles  
Tennessee
- 1990 Jennifer Azzi  
Stanford



Scott Monroe/DN

## NU volleyball sets sights on tough year, coach says

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Volleyball team has used a competitive non-conference schedule to help the Cornhuskers win 17 Big Eight titles.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said this year's schedule wouldn't be any different. Scheduling tough teams, Pettit said, helps prepare the Cornhuskers for post-season play.

"You always want to play the toughest teams because it prepares you for the Big Eight tournament and the NCAA tournament as well," he said. "Every year our schedule is about like this."

"We always try to play some of the strongest teams in our region."

The Cornhuskers will start their regular season Sep. 1 at home against Iowa. They will then travel to University Park, Pa. for the Penn State Invitational Sep. 3-4.

"That's a very tough match to have that early in the year," Pettit said. "(Penn St.) will be ranked in the top 10 without a doubt and are going to be

very tough at home."

Among the other opponents the Huskers will be facing in non-conference play are Louisiana State and Georgia at the Firstier Invitational in Lincoln.

"That's going to really be a challenge. Georgia is probably the toughest team in the south," Pettit said. "Both LSU and Georgia will be in the top 10."

Nebraska will also host the Arby's Classic Sep. 10-11. Teams competing along with the Huskers will be Washington, Wyoming and Louisville.

"I really won't know until the season begins, but if I had to guess, I would say Washington will be the strongest of those teams," Pettit said. "They'll be in the top 20 for sure."

Big Eight play for Nebraska begins Sep. 29 with a home match against Kansas State.

"Colorado will be very good this year," Pettit said. "I think after Colorado and Nebraska, there is going to be a drop-off in the Big Eight."



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