

NU coach is remaining positive; injured pitcher isn't

Broken foot stuns Brohawn, teammates

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

While Coach John Sanders sat behind his desk at the Nebraska baseball office on Tuesday, he somehow managed to maintain a positive outlook.

His Cornhuskers not only lost their first three games of the season at Oral Roberts in Tulsa, Okla., but also lost All-American pitcher Troy Brohawn.

"We feel terrible for Troy," Sanders said. "He's here to play baseball, not sit around in a cast. But I think the positive thing is that he will be back for crunch time."

Brohawn, a left-handed pitcher from Woolford, Md., broke his foot during the third inning of Friday's 11-1 loss to Oral Roberts and

will miss five to eight weeks of the young season.

Brohawn stumbled in the soft dirt near third base and limped back to the dugout after the final out of Nebraska's half of the third inning.

After having his foot taped, Brohawn returned to the mound for his warm-up pitches, but he couldn't continue and was taken to a local hospital.

"When the doctor told me my foot was broken, I was shocked," Brohawn said. "I said, 'What? You've got to be kidding me.'"

His teammates were just as stunned, Sanders said.

Nebraska trailed 2-1 before Brohawn left the game, but Oral Roberts scored five runs in the bottom of the third and went on to win 11-1. The Huskers also lost 11-6 Saturday and 5-4 Sunday.

"It was a shock; the way it happened was so strange," Sanders said. "I think it definitely affected us Friday and may have carried over a

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— Brohawn
NU baseball coach

little bit Saturday.

"But we played well Sunday, and I think we have accepted what has happened and we are moving on."

Brohawn underwent surgery Monday at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Doctors inserted a screw into his foot.

Surgery went well, Brohawn said, and he expects to return in five weeks. He will wear a hard cast for two weeks and then a walking boot for two more weeks before he can start rehabilitation.

The loss of Brohawn will allow the younger Husker pitchers to get more experience early in

the season, Sanders said.

"Our whole attitude is by no means panic," Sanders said. "It will definitely be good for us in the end because we'll be deeper, and it will force us to get rolling."

But while Sanders remains positive, Brohawn is finding it more difficult to see a bright side to his injury.


"Coach always talks about positives and tries to get us to see the good side of things, but right now it is hard," Brohawn said. "All I know is I am lying here with a damn cast on my foot, and April seems more like it is five years away than five weeks."

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Nebraska's Erik Piatkowski (right) and Kansas forward Patrick Richey will face off in a 7:05 p.m. game in the Bob Devaney Sports Center Wednesday. The Jayhawks have dropped five of their last six games at Devaney.

Jayhawks

Continued from Page 9

that is not going to help us Wednesday night unless we come ready to play.

"What has happened in the past is not going to have any effect on what's going to happen Wednesday night. I think this is the biggest challenge of the year as far as playing against a team that is very focused and determined."

And if the Huskers are not focused and determined, Nee said, they won't win.

Nee said he was rooting for the Jayhawks to beat the 20-2 Tigers on Sunday so Kansas wouldn't be coming to Lincoln so hungry for a win.

"Wednesday night is a major challenge," he said. "We have got a great basketball team coming in here after two games that have not been the best situations for them. I was really hoping they would win against Missouri."

The past few games have not

Probable Starters

Nebraska vs. Kansas

Bob Devaney Sports Center, 7:05 tonight Radio: KLIN 1400

Nebraska (14-8/4-6)				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	PPG	rpg
F	Bruce Chubick	6-7	11.2	6.7
F	Terrance Badgett	6-6	9.7	4.6
F	Eric Piatkowski	6-7	19.6	6.3
G	Jaron Boone	6-6	11.9	2.3
G	Jamar Johnson	5-11	10.9	2.6

Kansas (21-5/6-4)				
Pos.	Player	Ht.	PPG	rpg
F	Patrick Richey	6-8	7.7	4.6
F	Richard Scott	6-7	12.6	4.6
C	Greg Ostertag	7-2	10.2	9
G	Jacque Vaughn	6-1	8.0	2.2
G	Steve Woodberry	6-4	15.5	4.3

DN graphic

ended well for the Huskers, either. Nebraska has lost six of its last eight games, and Nee said the Huskers needed to turn it around in a hurry.

"This is the critical part of the season," he said. "We have three out of the next four at home. If we win the next three, we are right where we are supposed to be."

Merger

Continued from Page 9

"I'm not really able to comment on a lot of what has taken place because I've only been involved a little," Papik said. "I'm sure the Big Eight wanted to get a 12-team league. A 12-team league does allow divisions and a playoff. That's an additional contest, which would be an attractive game for television and bring in more money for the conference."

Although TCU is one of the schools out of the loop, TCU Athletic Director Frank Windegger said in a statement Tuesday that the proposed merg-

er does not exclude TCU from other options.

"There are still numerous options available," he said. "The Pac-10 is still looking, the Big Ten is still looking, etc. It would be premature to say that everything is signed and sealed as long as there are other options available."

Papik said he would assume the Big Eight was looking at schools that would better benefit the conference.

"Those (invited) schools certainly have something to bring to the table," he said.

Fan base may have been consid-

ered when the invitations were sent. Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M and Tech all averaged home attendance of more than 33,300 at football games last fall. Those bypassed by the Big Eight, meanwhile, pulled in fan averages no higher than 26,255 for 1993 football games.

Students like the potential for greater prestige, higher poll rankings, more TV exposure and new rivalries, Texas Tech Student Association president Mike Fietz said.

"The students in the Southwest Conference are kind of sick of hearing us be talked bad about — not getting the recognition the SWC schools deserve," Fietz said.

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Introduction to WordPerfect for IBM
Thursday, February 24 1:30 - 3:00 Sandoz lab

Introduction to Microsoft Word for Macintosh
Thursday, February 24 3:30 - 4:30 Andrews Hall lab

Thursday, March 3 3:00 - 4:00 Andrews Hall lab