

Heroes use CPR to save life of softball player's father

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Nebraska assistant softball coach Lori Sippel stopped short of calling herself and trainer Chris Oelling heroes for their efforts to help 41-year-old Bob Offenbacher on Thursday night.



Sippel

to resume the rain-delayed second game of a doubleheader.

Athletic Director Bill Byrne said Sippel and Oelling became heroes when they performed

CPR on Offenbacher until paramedics arrived. However, Sippel said Sunday, the real hero of the situation was Offenbacher.

"He fought just as hard as anyone else," she said.

While being called a hero was flattering, Sippel said she was simply put in a situation where she had to help.

"It was just reaction," she said by telephone from Stillwater, Oklahoma. "Together, we did whatever we could to help him."

"We weren't going to leave him until somebody else took over."

Terry Beek, women's sports information director at NU, was at Thursday's game and called 911 after Offenbacher collapsed.

Sippel and Oelling revived Offenbacher once, but he slipped back into unconsciousness by the time paramedics arrived two or three minutes later.

"There was no heartbeat — no breathing at all," Beek said. "When the (paramedics) got

“**It was just reaction. Together, we did whatever we could to help him.**”

— Sippel
Nebraska assistant softball coach

there and hooked up the monitor, it was a flat line."

Paramedics applied a defibrillator, which shocks the heart in an attempt to get it beating again, to Offenbacher.

By the time they put Offenbacher on a stretcher to take him to the hospital, Beek said, he was conscious and talking.

Offenbacher is improving but is in serious condition after undergoing six-vessel bypass heart surgery early Friday morning, a nursing

supervisor at Bryan Hospital said Sunday.

She said he had since been taken off some life-support equipment — including a respirator.

Sippel said she was going to tell Offenbacher that he was courageous when she saw him again. She said she didn't know what else to say.

"I don't think what he's been through — what we've all been through — words can say," Sippel said. "What it would come down to is a big hug."

While the team was focused on its games Sunday against Oklahoma State and Monday against Wichita State, Sippel said the events of Thursday night were still on their minds.

"It was a real reality check for a lot of people," she said.

Hot bats propel NU to 10th straight win

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska had outscored Kansas State 11-8 in the previous two games of the three-game series.

The Cornhuskers had beaten the Wildcats in the past four games.

But no one could have expected what happened Sunday before a season-high crowd of 2,385 at Buck Beltzer Field.

Eleven pitchers were used as the two teams combined for 37 runs and 31 hits in the Huskers' 23-14 victory over the Big Eight cellar-dwelling Wildcats.

Nebraska won its 10th straight game and improved its record to 24-16 overall and 8-7 in the conference.

The 23 runs eclipsed the previous season high of 15 runs earlier this season high of 15 runs against Kansas State. Every Husker starter had at least one hit as Nebraska swept a season series with a Big Eight team for the first time in six years.

Right fielder Matt McKay said the Husker bats were on fire Sunday.

"But I didn't expect it to be like this," he said.

McKay, who had two hits and drove in three runs, said the hitting outburst didn't come as a surprise to him.

"Ever since Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, we've started to improve," he said. "We're finally getting to where we should be."

"We've been building and building, but it's taken a while."

It didn't take long for the Husker bats to get rolling Sunday.

After Kansas State scored in the top half of the first inning, Nebraska's first five batters got on base as the Huskers jumped out to a 3-1 lead.

But the Wildcats stuck with the Huskers for a while.

With the score 5-1, Kansas State batted around and scored six runs in the third inning, including a two-run home run off junior right-hander Chris Bauer. Bauer, who raised his record to 2-0 on the season, relieved starter Cody Winget in the third inning after the Wildcats' first five batters in the inning got on base.

Then the Husker bats ignited.

In the bottom of the third, 14 Ne-



Travis Hoying/DN

Nebraska's Troy Brohawn slides safely into third after smashing a three-run triple in the sixth inning of the Huskers' 23-14 victory over Kansas State Sunday. Brohawn went 3-for-3 to raise his average from .265 to .308. He added one RBI.

braska batters came to the plate, and the Huskers exploded for nine runs to make the score 14-7.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said he was happy to see the Huskers have a big at-bat.

"We've been struggling to put big innings together," he said.

Husker first baseman Alvie Shepherd, who won his first game of the season Friday to raise his record to 1-3, got it done with his bat on Sunday.

Shepherd hit a three-run home run, his fifth of the season, over the center field fence in the bottom of the fourth inning to give the Huskers a 17-8 advantage.

The sophomore from Chicago knocked in six runs on the day. Husker designated hitter Troy Brohawn went 3-for-3 with four runs scored. And third baseman Derek Dukart extended his hitting streak to a career-high 18 games.

The Wildcats tried to mount a comeback against sophomore right-hander Craig Sanders, who relieved Bauer to start the sixth inning.

Sanders retired the first two Kansas State hitters he faced, but he then gave up a single to designated hitter Matt Miller and a double to catcher Chris Bouchard.

The 6-foot-4-inch right-hander

walked two to load the bases and then walked in a run before getting the last out of the inning with Nebraska up 19-10.

Kansas State scored four more in the top of the seventh before Husker pitcher Bob Courter entered the game to replace Sanders. Courter retired one batter and walked another before he gave way to Mike Bellows, who leads the team with nine saves.

Bellows got the Huskers out of the seventh and held the Wildcats scoreless during the final two innings to seal the victory.

Bellows will be available to pitch

Tuesday against Kansas in relief despite pitching in all three games, Sanders said.

"We have a day off (Monday), and Mike's pretty much a flow-type pitcher who can go every day," he said.

Sanders said the sweep gave the Huskers a lot of confidence going into their two-game set against Kansas Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Kansas State has been able to neutralize some teams," he said. "We have to give ourselves some credit here. We just kept coming back. We showed resiliency."

Blackshirts dominate sputtering offense in scrimmage

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

With one week remaining until the annual Red-White game, the Cornhusker defense is winning the battle of the spring.

The Blackshirts swarmed the Husker offense during Saturday afternoon's scrimmage, limiting the top Husker unit to minus 8 yards on its first three possessions.

The Nebraska defense shut the offense down until No. 3 I-back Marvin Sims plunged into the end zone from five yards out on the Huskers' eighth series.

On the next possession, No. 1 quarterback Tommie Frazier led the top unit down the field against the No. 1 defense. Fullback Jeff Makovicka scored on a 6-yard run.

That was the only score by the top offense

and the only points allowed by the No. 1 defense.

"The defense played real well," Husker coach Tom Osborne said. "As the scrimmage went along, the offense played a little better. But we still had some mistakes offensively."

Osborne was encouraged by the play of the Blackshirts, who have the potential to become a dominating unit, he said.

"I think we have a chance to be a little better defensively than we were a year ago, provided we get some good depth," Osborne said.

Third-string quarterback Matt Turman, who will be a junior in the fall, was the most effective signal-caller in the scrimmage. Turman completed eight of 11 passes for 130 yards and three touchdowns. He also was the only Husker quarterback not to throw an interception.

“**I think we have a chance to be a little better defensively than we were a year ago.**”

— Osborne
NU football coach

"I don't think you can get quite an accurate picture of what our quarterbacks can do, with the green jerseys on," Osborne said.

He said Frazier would have been more effective had he been allowed more freedom.

"We are not running the same number of options or the same type of options that we would normally run," Osborne said.

Frazier, who was sacked four times, completed five of eight passes for 59 yards and no touchdowns. He was picked off once.

Osborne said he also was worried about the Huskers' kicking game. Following the offense's

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