

Prize recruit verbally commits to Arizona

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

Ben Davis, the highly touted junior college player who visited Nebraska on April 9, verbally committed to Arizona on Monday.

Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College coach Phil Anderson said the junior college All-American decided to commit to Arizona after visiting Tucson, Ariz., this weekend.

Nebraska had been pursuing the 6-foot-9-inch, 245-pound power forward for the past few months.

"I haven't talked to Ben since he has been

back," Anderson said, "but from what I understand, he has said that he is going to Arizona. He has committed verbally but hasn't signed any papers yet."

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee declined to comment on the matter.

Davis, who led Kansas in rebounding as a freshman in 1991, transferred to Florida and eventually to Hutchinson before the 1992 school year.

Anderson said Davis would not take any more visits. He had originally planned to visit Oklahoma State and possibly California in the next few weeks, Anderson said.

Nebraska is still in the running for two other junior college big men.

Chris Sallee, a 6-foot-10-inch, 225-pound center from Phoenix South Mountain Community College, visited Lincoln this weekend. Sallee averaged 20 points and 13.2 rebounds per game for South Mountain last season. He also broke the school record for blocks, averaging 2.5 per game.

South Mountain Assistant Athletic Director Bill Pride said Sallee could add depth to a team like Nebraska.

"He can step in and help a lot of programs out right away," Pride said. "He showed tremen-

dous improvement between his first and second year here."

In 1992, Sallee averaged 5.8 points and 4.6 rebounds in 19 games. He played soccer as well as basketball.

Sallee played goalkeeper for South Mountain's soccer team in 1992 and did not focus solely on basketball until last season.

Nebraska assistant coach Jimmy Williams visited with Sallee, his father and South Mountain coach Willy Young in Phoenix on Monday.

Young said Sallee originally had scheduled

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Huskers to face Kansas on road

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

When the Nebraska baseball team faces No. 21 Kansas in five games this week, the Cornhuskers want to put their 10-game winning streak behind them, Coach John Sanders said.

Both for momentum and for psychological purposes.

"The winning streak just adds confidence to our team. Our lineup has finally stabilized. Our hitting is finally getting into rhythm," he said.

The Huskers, who have used the recent tear to improve their record to 24-16 and 8-7 in the conference, will face the Jayhawks at 7 p.m. Tuesday and at 3 p.m. Wednesday in Lawrence, Kan. Nebraska's Troy Brohawn and Tom Bergan are scheduled to pitch against the Jayhawks, who are 17-2 at home.

Last season, the Huskers won just two of six games against the Jayhawks. Both of Nebraska's wins came in

Huskers' Shepherd aims for All-American status

By Clay Short
Staff Reporter

Last season, Nebraska baseball player Troy Brohawn both pitched and played first base.

Brohawn turned out to be an All-American.

Sophomore Alvie Shepherd is hoping to duplicate Brohawn's efforts this year with the Cornhuskers.

Lately, Shepherd has been performing like Brohawn on the mound and at the plate for the suddenly streaking Huskers.



Shepherd

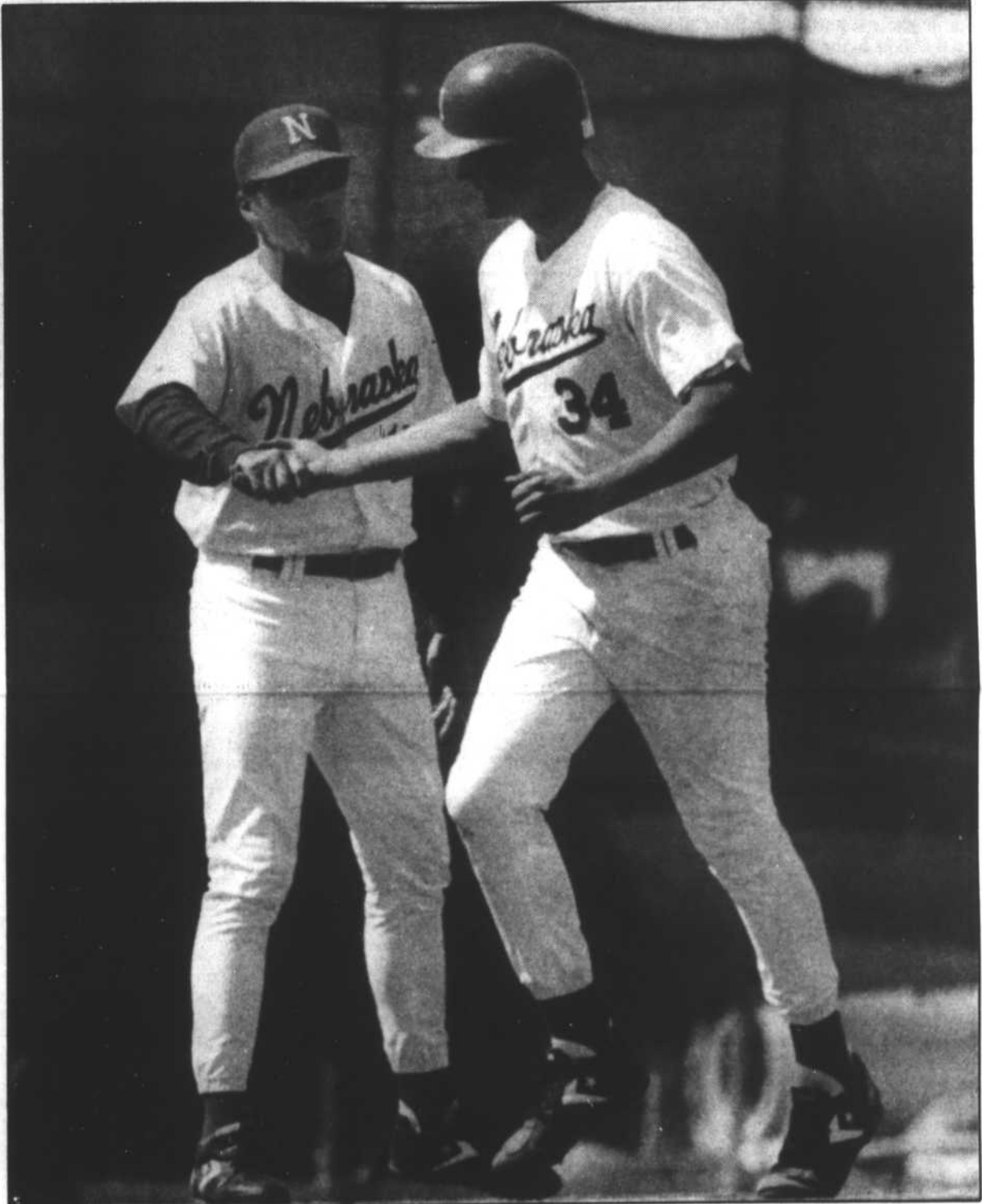
BIG 8 CONFERENCE Roundup		
Baseball Standings	Big Eight	Overall
Oklahoma State	15-4	29-11
Oklahoma	11-6	29-11
Kansas	11-7	26-11
Nebraska	8-7	24-16
Missouri	6-7	26-12
Iowa State	6-13	12-22
Kansas State	2-15	11-29

Lawrence.

Sanders said the games with the Jayhawks this week—including three at Buck Beltzer Field this weekend—could forecast how well the Huskers do in the stretch run of the season.

"We're still jockeying for position," he said. "Pitching and defense have really helped us win some games."

See STREAKING on 8



Nebraska baseball player Alvie Shepherd is congratulated by Cornhusker baseball coach John Sanders after smashing a home run in Sunday's game against Kansas State. Shepherd hit better than .500 during the Huskers' weekend sweep of the Wildcats.

Travis Heying/DN

Baseball hot streak drives in NU fans at Beltzer Field

Thousands of fans dressed in scarlet and cream make their way through the gates of the stadium.

Shirtless college guys grill hamburgers on a hibachi while a hot sun bakes down on them.

The Nebraska fight song booms over the stadium while hundreds of hungry and thirsty fans wait in line at the concession stand.

The crowd roars as a Husker gallops across the turf, headed for another Nebraska score.

After more than three hours of a hard-fought battle, the flow of fans slowly begin to trickle out of the stadium with another Husker victory in hand—this time, a 23-14 final.

Just a typical fall football Saturday in Lincoln.

But it's not fall—it's spring.

And it's not football, it's baseball season.

The images described above did

not come from Memorial Stadium. They came from beautiful Buck Beltzer Field, the little hideaway that sits in the shadow of the goliath football mecca of Nebraska.

While hundreds of thousands of people pack the wooden bleachers at Memorial Stadium to see the football Big Red each fall, Buck Beltzer is sometimes lucky to see hundreds pass through its chain-link front gate.

In fact, if you walk into Buck Beltzer for a game on a chilly night in late February or early March, it looks more like barren Buck Beltzer.

But on Sunday, the bleachers at Buck Beltzer were full, and it truly was beautiful.

Apparently, word got out that the Huskers are on a hot streak, and with the weather on a hot-streak of its own as the temperature hit 90 degrees, the fans hit Buck Beltzer in full force.

The grandstand area, which seats



Jeff Griesch

1,500, was packed, and public address announcer Rick Schwiager even asked fans to get a little closer in the third inning.

Along with the 1,500 in the stands, close to 100 stood in the shade under the bleachers for a field-level view from behind the plate.

And hundreds staked out little spots down the right field foul line and in the outfield.

All together, the official total was 2,385 fans. Young children chased foul balls and each other while parents tried to ignore them.

Chronic college underachievers

tossed the football around behind the right field fence, while track stars played catch with a baseball.

UNL swimmers mocked the Kansas State outfielders while women gymnasts took in the rays, and a bare-chested group of football players enjoyed the scenery.

Even a few reporters and a lazy, good-for-nothing, nonworking member of the sports information department made their way to the lush green grass behind the outfield fence.

Everything about the day was beautiful.

Well, everything except the pitching.

The barrage by both teams included: 37 runs, 31 hits, 20 walks and 10 batters hit by pitches by 11 different pitchers.

While most pitchers would like to forget everything about Sunday except for the weather, it was a day to

remember for the hitters.

Every Husker starter had at least one hit, and seven Huskers had multiple-hit games as Nebraska picked up its 10th straight win.

The Huskers improved to 24-16 on the season and went over the .500 mark (8-7) in the Big Eight after picking up their first season series sweep in six years.

Along with being happy about their hits, the players were even happier to have a big crowd see them take their licks.

Senior third baseman Derek Dukart summed up the day the best.

"It was a great day for baseball," Dukart said. "We are playing well, and everytime we come to the ballpark, we feel like we are going to win. It's nice to have people here to see us."

Griesch is a junior news-editorial major and is the Daily Nebraskan assistant sports editor.