

SPORTS BRIEFS

Three wins elude Husker softball team

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team dropped three of four games to Iowa State this weekend in Ames, Iowa, to fall to 19-29 overall and 1-11 in the Big Eight.

In Saturday's doubleheader, Nebraska lost the first game 8-2, but came back in the second game to claim its first victory in conference play with a 3-2 win.

Tobin Echo-Hawk went 3-for-4

in the game, while Melanie Raimondi earned the victory.

Nebraska stranded 10 runners during its 5-1 loss in Sunday's first game.

Iowa State finished the weekend with a 5-1 win over the Huskers in Sunday's second game, as the Cyclones improved their record to 14-25-1.

Nebraska plays host to Creighton tonight in a doubleheader beginning at 6 p.m.

NU track teams earn runner-up honors

From Staff Reports

Nebraska finished second to Tennessee in both the men's and women's competitions of the Gatorade Classic Friday and Saturday at the University of Tennessee.

The Nebraska women, ranked first in Track & Field News dual-meet rankings, were edged out by the third-ranked Volunteers, 160-156.

The Husker men beat Illinois 118-101 for second place, as Tennessee captured the men's title with a score of 168 1/2.

Sophomore Paulette Mitchell

broke her own school shot put record with a toss of 54 feet, 11 1/4 inches, while Nicola Martial broke the Gatorade Classic record in the triple jump by leaping 42 feet, 10 1/4 inches.

Kris Ellenbacher also took first place for the Huskers with her time of 17:23.43 in the 5,000-meter run. Nebraska also won the women's 1,600-meter relay.

Balazs Tolgyesi won the 1,500-meter run, and Steve Gordon took the triple jump crown to help boost the Husker men to their second-place finish.

Baseball team's winning streak snapped in big way by Jayhawks

By Jeff Griesch Senior Editor

The Nebraska baseball team was flying high coming into this weekend's series with Kansas, but the Jayhawks brought the Cornhuskers back down to earth with a three-game sweep at Buck Beltzer Field.



Brohawn

The Jayhawks, 30-13 and 14-9 in the Big Eight, climbed back ahead of Nebraska in the conference race by handing Husker ace Troy Brohawn the first home loss of his career Sunday.

Kansas cleanup hitter Brent Wilhelm got to Brohawn early with a two-run homer to left field with two outs in the first inning.

The Jayhawks got to Brohawn for two more runs during the next inning before the left-hander was relieved by Mike Bellows.

Brohawn, 3-2, said Sunday just wasn't his day.

"That was probably the worst outing I've ever had since I've been here,"

Brohawn said. "I didn't feel like I had anything on the ball. The only thing that was working was my change-up, and you can't throw 100 change-ups."

"I just felt lazy, and it seemed like everything was moving in slow motion."

Bellows tried to hold the Jayhawks at bay so the Huskers could mount a rally, but the Huskers' top reliever struggled with his control and allowed two more runs.

Nebraska coach John Sanders, whose team fell to 26-17 overall and 10-8 in the Big Eight, said the Huskers' failure to get hits with runners on base killed Nebraska's chances at a comeback.

"We didn't get very many opportunistic hits today," Sanders said. "Kansas was much more opportunistic today than they had been, and they got the hits they needed."

The Huskers had chances in both the eighth and ninth innings but stranded runners at second and third in both innings.

For the game, the Huskers left 14 runners on base, including 11 in scoring position. Nebraska was a combined 2-for-18 hitting with runners in scoring position.

"We had some chances," Sanders said. "We just didn't execute. But you have to give their pitcher credit. He pitched well and threw strikes."

The Jayhawks started the Huskers' skid on Friday with a 9-8 win in 13 innings. Nebraska lost after tying the score twice with home runs by Darin Erstad in the bottom of the ninth and Matt McKay in the bottom of the 11th.

On Saturday, the Huskers fell to the Jayhawks 9-7.

Nebraska catcher David Crain said the Huskers may have suffered from an emotional hangover on Sunday.

"I think Friday's game took a lot out of us," Crain said. "We played with a lot of energy and emotion, but today everything seemed really slow, and we were making plays really nonchalantly."

Sanders wasn't too concerned with the three losses, he said, but the Huskers need to get back on track quickly.

"It is kind of a shock because we made a great run and then all of a sudden—bingo, bango, bongo—we lose three games," Sanders said. "But that's baseball. The good thing is that we still have opportunities in front of us and a lot of home games in the Big Eight."

Harrison

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floor exercise title last season.

Harrison shared the same feeling as Grace.

"I didn't have a whole lot left for the individual championships," Harrison said.

Gymnasts like Harrison and Grace have something extra that separates them from the pack, Allen said.

"Dennis is one of those guys that

could have the flu, he could be dying, and he would go out and perform," Allen said. "He has something other people don't have. Grace has got it, too."

"You don't know how they do it. Maybe it's something in their genes—something in their will."

Nebraska's other All-American finishers included Burkett Powell, second in the parallel bars; Che Bowers, fourth in the pommel horse; Rick Kieffer, fifth in the rings; and Grace, sixth in the high bar.

Champs

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"I have been a coach for a long time," Allen said. "I have had teams go out and fall all over the place. This team went out and did it. And they deserve credit for it."

The meet was the fourth consecutive time Nebraska scored more than 287 points. No other team posted a score of 287 once this season.

"This is the biggest," Harrison said.

"We wanted this more than anything else."

Allen, who has coached Nebraska to eight national titles in the last 15 years, said this team might be as good as any team he had coached.

"This team has got a lot of power," he said. "They work hard and it pays off. We hit on 97 percent of our routines, and that's amazing."

"It was a perfect day for Nebraska gymnastics. It's another one of those days that goes down in history."

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