

Winget recovers to help lead Husker pitching staff to success

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Nebraska pitcher Cody Winget is battling much more than just the competition when he steps on the hill.

The senior from Murray, Utah, was diagnosed with mononucleosis 2 1/2 weeks ago. Winget said he got the illness during the Gallagher Tournament in San Diego on Feb. 24-26.

But on Sunday in the Cornhuskers' 17-2 win over Missouri, the illness or Winget's lack of participation in the last three weeks didn't show.

Winget said he had only thrown about two or three times in the bullpen in the past few weeks.

Winget, who improved his record to 2-1 with the win, went seven innings and gave up only one earned run on seven hits. He also had four strikeouts.

On the season, he has a 5.32 ERA in 15.2 innings pitched.

The 6-foot-3 right-hander said, however, that his performance may not be the best judge of his physical state.

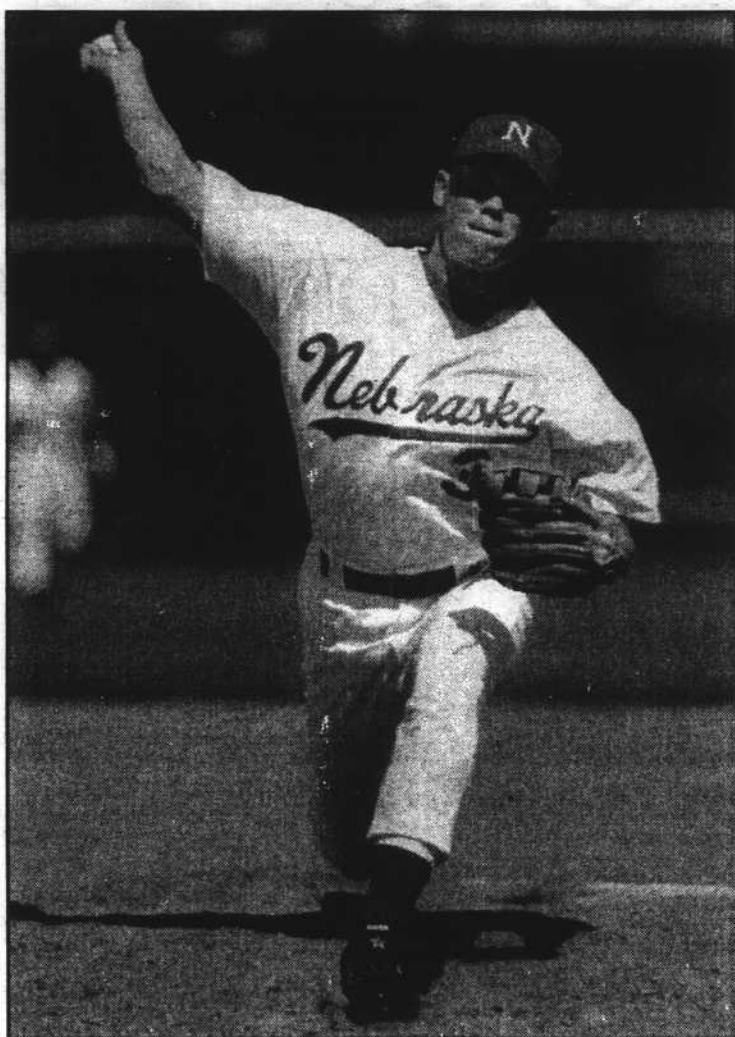
"I just felt out of whack," Winget said. "I'm always tired and feel like I have no strength."

Winget said he had trouble making certain adjustments while pitching because of his illness.

Winget's last appearance before Sunday was at Oklahoma on March 8, when the Huskers lost 3-2.

"Being sick and just trying to come back, I couldn't make the adjustments," he said. "It was a hard outing for the first time back, but I got outs and that was what I was supposed to do."

And that's what he did last year, when he started 10 games. Winget finished with a 5-3 record and a



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska pitcher Cody Winget delivers a pitch against Missouri at Buck Beltzer Field Sunday. Winget, a senior right-hander from Murray, Utah, has overcome a one-month bout with mononucleosis to become the Huskers' No. 1 starter.

5.11 ERA. He transferred to Nebraska after going 10-2 at Southern Idaho in 1993.

The next game for the Huskers is

tonight at Buck Beltzer field against Kansas at 7 p.m.

And Winget said that he was really glad to be back in action.

Series against KU may test Huskers

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team will continue a five-game homestand with a two-game series against Kansas in a 7 p.m. game tonight and a 3 p.m. game Wednesday at Buck Beltzer Stadium.

The Cornhuskers enter the series looking to improve on their 5-5 Big Eight record and 16-11 overall mark.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said the Huskers' record was a bit disappointing but said he was confident Nebraska could put together a strong second half of the season.

"I think we're a darn good team, but we just don't happen to have a darn good record right now," Sanders said. "But part of it is that we haven't exactly been playing a creampuff schedule."

The Jayhawks' 10-20 record makes them look like creampuffs, Sanders said, but the Huskers will be tested by Kansas.

"They are a solid ball club with solid players, and we are going to have to be ready," Sanders said. "They've been in some tough games, but they are trying to turn it around."

Kansas has made consecutive trips to the NCAA Regional Tournament—including a trip to the College World Series in 1993—but the Jayhawks have struggled this season.

Kansas is 2-6 in the conference. The Jayhawks were swept at home in a three-game series against No. 3 Oklahoma State by a combined score of 36-12 over the weekend.

The Jayhawks still have All-Big

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JOHN SANDERS

Nebraska baseball coach

Eight pitcher Jamie Splittorff, who entered the season with a 17-3 career record.

But Splittorff has struggled too. He has staggered to a 2-5 start and owns a 5.53 ERA.

Without Splittorff's dominant presence, the Kansas pitching staff has went into a decline with a ballooning 6.53 team ERA, and opponents are hitting .306.

The Jayhawks' hitters haven't provided much offense either, hitting just .259 and just .198 in Big Eight games.

Meanwhile, the Huskers carry a .323 batting average and a 5.65 ERA into the series.

The Huskers have not won consecutive games since defeating Kansas State on March 24 and March 26, and Sanders said the Kansas series provided an opportunity to start a streak.

"We want to get our ball club on a roll," Sanders said. "I think it is a good time to get on a roll if we can be more consistent and play well."

Echo-Hawk

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killed."

That winning attitude showed this weekend when Nebraska played host to No. 19 Oklahoma State.

Nebraska won the first game of a doubleheader 4-2 Saturday before losing the second game 9-8 in nine innings.

On Sunday, the two teams split

another doubleheader.

In the first game Sunday, Echo-Hawk doubled in Sandra Brown in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game at four.

Echo-Hawk rounded second when Cowgirl centerfielder Angie Irby's throw went into the Nebraska dugout.

The umpires originally allowed Echo-Hawk to score on the play, but then it was ruled that she must go back to third.

Echo-Hawk said the play could have changed the outcome of the game.

played hard."

Instead of the Razorbacks taking control at the end like they had done all tournament long, it was the Bruins who came up victorious at the end. UCLA managed to hold Arkansas without a field goal for a 4:47 stretch that ended with Williamson's first basket of the second half with 2:25 to play.

That made it 77-68, and the Razorbacks were out of the last-minute miracles they had managed in the early rounds.

NCAA

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bounds. And Dollar, the backup point guard who played in the shadow of the lightning quick Edney, came up with eight assists.

"I think he had the best tournament of any player of the 64 teams up until tonight," Harrick said of Edney. "But what a gutsy performance by the rest of the guys. They sucked it up and

Nebraska running backs return to spring practice

From Staff Reports

Nebraska running backs Lawrence Phillips, Damon Benning and James Sims returned to practice Monday at Memorial Stadium, Coach Tom Osborne said.

Phillips finished three-fourths of practice and Benning participated in half of practice, Osborne said, and both seemed to be getting better.

I-back Brian Knuckles did not practice, but Osborne said Knuckles may return either Wednesday or Friday.

Overall, Osborne said he was glad to see some running backs return.

"It looked better having guys in there that have been out there before," Osborne said.

The Cornhuskers will have a 50-60 play scrimmage Wednesday.

Carpenter

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points. The Cornhuskers were second with 76, and Michigan rounded out the field of three with 31.

The North Carolina women edged out Tennessee 77-71 for the team title. The Husker women finished third with 56, while Georgetown and Michigan rounded out the competition with 39 and 30, respectively.

Pepin said he was pleased with the overall effort of the team for the first outdoor meet.

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