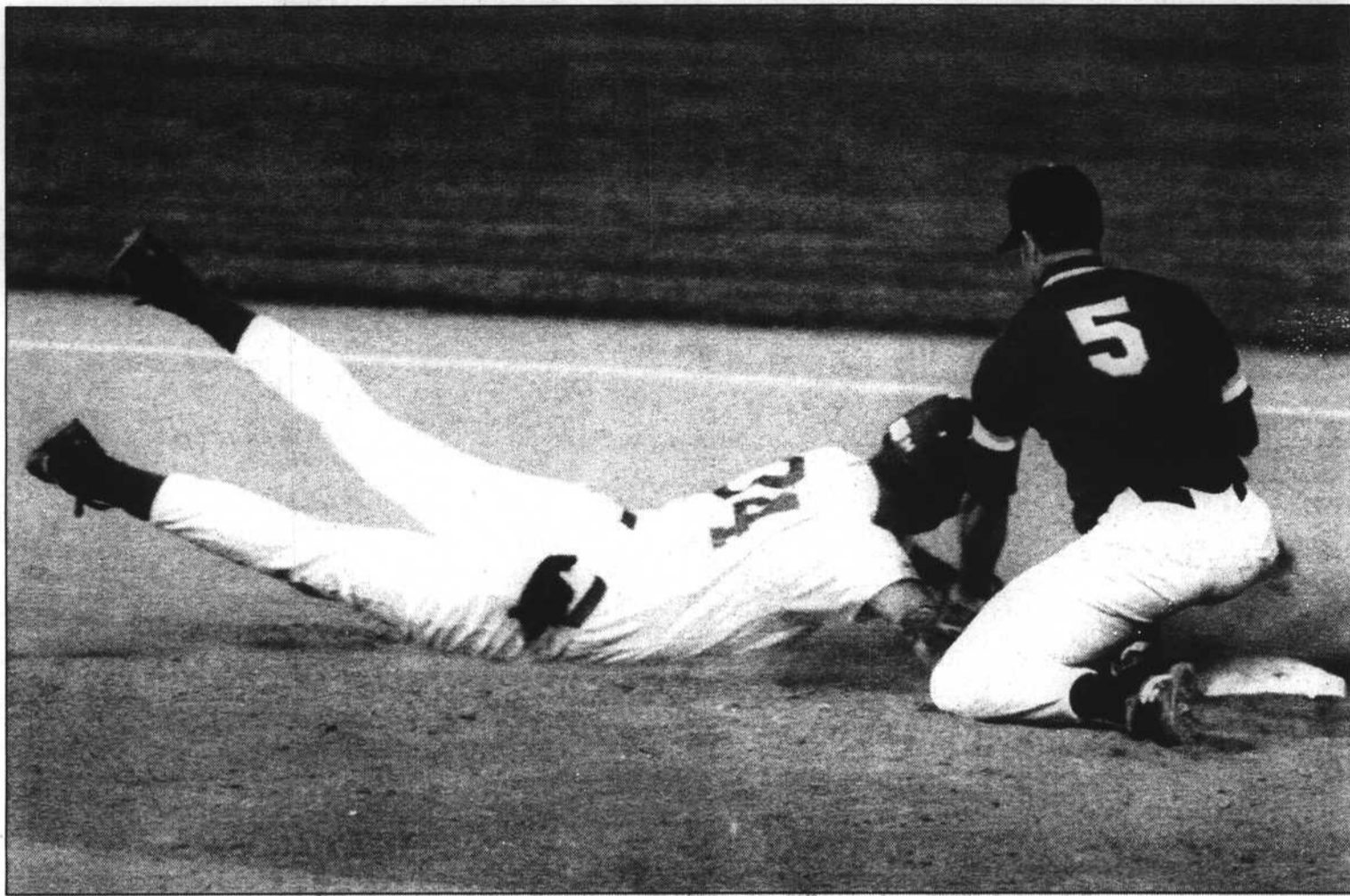


SPORTS

Friday, April 14, 1995

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Nebraska bats bombard 25th-ranked Bluejays



Scott Bruhn/DN

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska hitters feasted on Creighton pitchers for 31 runs and 40 hits in a doubleheader sweep Thursday.

The Cornhuskers, 21-13, opened with a 19-4 win over the 25th-ranked Bluejays in a 1 p.m. game at the CU Sports Complex in Omaha.

Then the two teams traveled to Lincoln for a 7 p.m. game at Buck Beltzer Stadium.

The change of venue didn't help the Bluejays, 22-11, and the Huskers posted a 12-6 win.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said the doubleheader could not have gone better for the Huskers.

"We got solid pitching, and we only had to use four pitchers, which we needed because we play eight games in five days," Sanders said. "The whole day went exactly according to plan." Junior designated hitter Alvie Shepherd, freshman first baseman Todd Sears and junior left fielder Darin Erstad did the most damage for the Huskers during the doubleheader.

Shepherd's three-run home run in the seventh inning of the opener gave the Huskers a 10-4 lead.

But Shepherd had just begun his barrage on Creighton pitchers. He ended the day with three home runs, five hits, two walks and five RBI.

Shepherd combined with Sears to hit back-to-back homers in the eighth inning of the first game to seal Nebraska's win.

Although the win was all but locked up with a 16-4 lead, Sears wasn't finished.

He hit his second home run of the day in the ninth to finish the first game with three hits, six RBI and four runs scored.

In the second game, Sears added three singles,

Nebraska's Alvie Shepherd slides back safely into second base as Creighton's Jon Dunlop applies the late tag.

See SWEEP on 10

Huskers to 'benefit' from recent signings

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's basketball team received two national letters of intent on Thursday from Tyrone Lue and Larry Florence.

Lue, a 6-foot guard from Kansas City, Mo., averaged 23.5 points, eight assists and six steals for Raytown High School, which went 27-1 and made it to the state quarterfinals.

The lone senior on the Raytown team, Lue selected Nebraska over Arkansas, Memphis, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas State.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said Lue should provide the Huskers with a strong point guard.

"He's a quality point guard and a winner in every aspect," Nee said. "Tyrone has a tremendous person-

ality, and from what I've seen, has the ability to make players around him better."

Florence averaged 19.2 points, 14.2 rebounds and 4.3 blocked shots a game for Phenix City (Ala.) Central High School. The 6-6, 215-pound forward picked the Cornhuskers over Alabama, Alabama-Birmingham, Clemson, Auburn and New Orleans.

"Larry is an explosive player who can defend and score," Nee said.

Nee said the additions of Lue and Florence — along with fall signings Bernard Garner and Alvin Mitchell — would benefit Nebraska next year.

"I'm excited about the potential of this class," he said.

Doubleheader makes for Husker uncertainties, leads to NU wins

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

The doubleheader between Nebraska and Creighton was not an ordinary doubleheader.

Rain and cold weather forced the postponement of Nebraska's scheduled games with the Bluejays on Tuesday and Wednesday.

First the Cornhuskers had to leave for Omaha shortly after 9 a.m. to take early batting practice and infield before the 1 p.m. opener at the CU Sports Complex.

The Huskers played for more than three hours before beating their intrastate rivals 19-4.

But the Huskers had no time to celebrate before jumping into three vans driven by Sanders, assistant coach Mike Ashman and assistant coach

Mike Anderson and returning to Lincoln for the second game of the doubleheader at 7 p.m.

Before getting into one of the vans to leave for Lincoln, Nebraska designated hitter and pitcher Alvie Shepherd said the Huskers were entering uncharted waters.

"I don't know how we are going to react because it hasn't happened before," Shepherd said. "This is definitely a new thing for all of us. It is going to be interesting to see how everybody reacts for the second game."

"It is going to be a great challenge to get mentally ready to play again, but I think everybody is up for it."

Shortstop Darin Petersen said the Huskers spent the more than two hours between games watching television, eating and trying to stay loose for the second game.

The Huskers followed their first game win with a 12-6 victory over the Bluejays in the nightcap.

Petersen said the break between games helped the Huskers.

"It was actually kind of nice to have that long break between games," Petersen said. "It gave us a chance to stop thinking about baseball for seven hours straight like we would have to do during regular doubleheaders."

Nebraska coach John Sanders said his team could not have reacted any better to the unusual circumstances.

"It is tough to get up and drive to Omaha and then come back and play here," Sanders said. "It is tough to stay mentally focused for that period of time. It is a real challenge, but I think we responded well and had a good attitude."

Tennis team hopes to disprove record, gain confidence

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

The 4-13 Nebraska men's tennis team knows it hasn't lived up to that record, and Coach Kerry McDermott said he hoped his team would prove it to No. 12 Kansas.

But first Nebraska will face Missouri Saturday and then finish its regular season against the Jayhawks Sunday.

McDermott said he knew Nebraska was better than its record.

"One of our players (Adrian Maizey) came up to me the other day at practice and said, 'We have to be the best 4-13 team in the country,'" McDermott said. "I have to agree with that. We have had so many close matches that could have gone either way. We're a lot better than our record indicates."

"Right now, we just have to con-

centrate on holding our heads above water and trying to get some respect from our opponents. To do that, we're going to need to beat some teams."

McDermott said the Huskers shouldn't have any problem doing that against Missouri Saturday in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Missouri is at the bottom of the cellar as far as the Big Eight is concerned," he said. "They've never really been a threat to upset us. I just feel if we play well, we shouldn't have any trouble. We want to use it as a tuneup for Kansas."

"Everyone on the team knows we're going to win that one, so we just tell the kids to give 100 percent and try to be off the court as quickly as possible. They need to get their matches over quickly and save their energy for Kansas."

Sunday will be a much different story for the Huskers.

"It will be like night and day from Saturday to Sunday," McDermott said. "This may be the best team Kansas has ever had. Looking at teams that gave them a go — (they) were teams we had chances to beat. So I think we have a chance."

"They're by far the better team, but anything can happen. If we go out and give 100 percent and play our best, some things can happen, and I'm confident we can win."

McDermott is looking forward to finding out just how good the 12th-ranked Jayhawks are.

"If they beat us 6-1 or something, then obviously they're a lot better team," he said. "But I think we can make it close, and that's what we need. I just want our guys to see that they can go out and compete with anyone in the top 25, especially No. 10 through 25."

Everyone on the team knows we're going to win that one (Missouri), so we just tell the kids to give 100 percent and try to be off the court as quickly as possible.

KERRY MCDERMOTT

Nebraska men's tennis coach

"I also want to show Kansas that we're going to battle them and not just lay down. A lot of things can happen for us."

Nebraska's next competition after this weekend will be the Big Eight Championships April 21-23 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

McDermott said finishing the season on a positive note was more im-

portant than Nebraska's record.

"We're not going to get a top four seed (in the tournament) unless we upset Kansas," he said. "Even then, it would be hard for us to get one. But we want to get some momentum going into the Big Eight, so we can beat our first opponent. It would be nice to have some confidence."