

# SPORTS

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## Cornhuskers see Drake wins as 'insurance'

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

After a rough four innings Thursday night, the Nebraska softball team decided to play.

The Cornhuskers trailed Drake 4-1 after four innings—four innings when Nebraska stranded seven baserunners, committed three errors and had numerous fielding problems.

Then everything changed.

The 37-17 Huskers rallied for a 6-4 win in that first game and kept their momentum going to crush the Bulldogs 12-0 in the second half of the doubleheader in front of a crowd of more than 150 at the NU Softball Complex.

Drake conceded the second game after 3 1/2 innings.

In the first game, however, the spark wasn't there, Husker coach Rhonda Revelle.

"We got a slow start, and then it was like something changed in the dugout," Revelle said. "Everything changed when they changed their minds."

"A bunch of people really tried to light a fire, and it was all them. I give them a lot of credit."

In the bottom of the fifth, Ali Viola lit the fire after hitting a home run to center field with one out. Then Angela Blackwood doubled to right.

Sarah Sinclair entered the game to run for Blackwood and scored on an error by Drake center fielder Jenny Ehlert.

See SWEEP on 8

## Hardball is back amidst the jeers and ump lock-out

MIAMI (AP)—Baseball returned Tuesday night with a big crowd, a few boos and a powerful performance by Raul Mondesi.

Last season's National League Rookie of the Year homered twice, doubled and drove in four runs to help the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Florida Marlins 8-7, ending the splintered sport's record 257-day layoff.

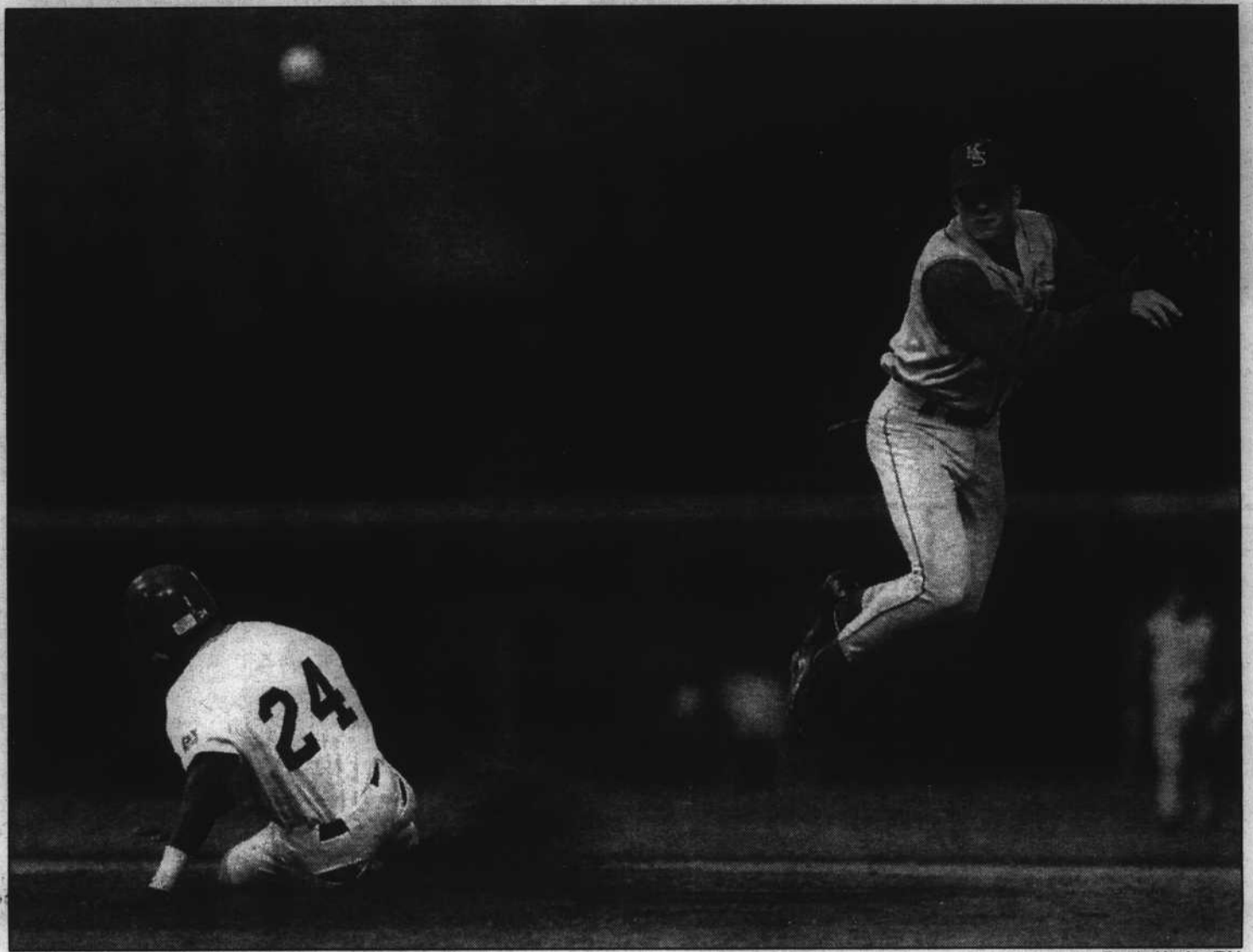
Although there were a few thousand empty seats on opening night, the crowd of 42,125 was announced as a sellout. The first game since the strike, however, was still surrounded by another labor problem—locked-out umpires picketed outside, while replacement umpers worked without any arguments.

The Marlins rallied from an 8-2 deficit, scoring four times in the ninth inning before Rudy Seanez struck out rookie Charles Johnson to end the game.

The fans greeted the players with a mixed reception.

See DODGERS on 8

## Rained out



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska center fielder Mel Motley is forced out at second base as Kansas State shortstop Heath Schesser completes the second-inning double play.

## Foul weather suspends baseball game

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team's game with Kansas State was suspended in the top of the fifth inning because of rain at Buck Beltzer Stadium Tuesday night.

The Cornhuskers, 9-11 in the Big Eight and 27-18 overall, trailed the Wildcats 6-0 with two outs in the fifth when the game was suspended.

Rain delayed the game for 10 minutes in the bottom of the fourth inning, and players covered the field with tarpaulins until a break

in the storm.

Play resumed but so did the rain, and the game was suspended after a half-hour delay.

A loss to the Wildcats would drop the Huskers into fifth place in the conference standings behind Kansas State.

The Wildcats, 9-11 and 23-18, sent nine batters to the plate in the top of the first inning, and the first five Kansas State hitters scored to take a 5-0 lead.

Nebraska starter Bob Courter, who entered the game with a 3-0 record and a 5.13 ERA, allowed five hits, walked five and hit

one batter in 4 1/3 innings of work.

Matt Koeman shut down the Huskers through four innings, allowing only one hit in four innings. The 6-foot-4 junior right-hander from Grand Junction, Colo., entered the game with a 4-2 record and a 5.60 ERA.

The Wildcats had one run in with two outs and runners on first and second base and first baseman Brad Harker at the plate when the game was called.

The game is scheduled to resume Wednesday at 3 p.m., followed by the second game of the series.

## Priorities force Husker baseball coach to 'pitch' pros

Baseball is back.

Major-league players threw out the opening pitch Tuesday to open their 144-game season.

Like New Year's Day or the first day of spring, Opening Day is a time to look forward to a new beginning.

Phil Harrison dreamed of being a part of Opening Day.

He hoped to open his season pitching in San Diego for the Atlanta Braves.

After a career of solid pitching, inexplicable releases and shattered dreams, Harrison spent Opening Day in Lincoln coaching Nebraska pitchers.

For Harrison, Opening Day was a time to reflect on an old dream and pursue a new one.

He had a career minor-league record of 54-37 with an ERA under 3.86. He pitched in the Cubs' and Expos' organizations.

He pitched in Venezuela and Mexico, where he was almost killed twice for being an American. His career ended with a bottle of Corona in his hand on a rooftop in Mexico.

After long rides in a Volkswagen taxi and a beat-up bus, Harrison was back in the states and professional baseball was behind him.

He returned to Nebraska to earn his degree and coach for the Huskers.

He thought his dream of playing in the majors was dead, and he accepted it.

But Braves scout Brian Kohlscheen kept the dream alive. He offered Harrison a minor-league contract and a chance to pitch as a replacement player in the majors.

Harrison left the stability of Lincoln to pursue his dream again.

But Harrison's chance lasted only 12 innings with the Braves. He combined on a no-hitter. He struck out 10 and walked just one batter. He scattered nine hits and picked off four base runners. He had a 3.00 ERA.

He was released.

"I knew the consequences going into spring training," Harrison said. "They had every intention of signing former Braves before signing



Jeff Griesch

anybody else."

Harrison's dream was taken, but he knew things could be worse.

The day before he was released, a Braves replacement player and Harrison's new friend, Dave Shotkoski, was shot and killed.

"I saw his locker empty the next day after he got killed, and I just lost it," Harrison said. "Dave was a wonderful human being. He made the whole experience seem more realistic."

"Once he got killed, it made me stop and think: Here's a guy who quits his job at Coca-Cola in Chicago for a chance to play in the

major. For most of these guys, being in the big leagues is an end all, be all. And he loses his life.

"After I got released, I was still trying to deal with Dave's death. It made me realize that I really need to get my priorities straight. There is more to life than playing in the majors."

After Harrison was released, he was offered \$6,000 a month to pitch in Mexico. He turned it down.

"I could make ten grand a month in Mexico and be miserable because the life is terrible," Harrison said. "I wanted to be in the big leagues, not the Mexican leagues."

"Baseball's been my life. I've done everything in baseball that you could possibly do to get to the majors, but it just wasn't meant to be."

Nebraska coach John Sanders gave Harrison until April 15 to return to the Huskers or sign a professional contract.

Harrison returned to Lincoln April 11 and began coaching April 13 against Creighton.

"I'm glad I'm back. I am tired of being defeated. I want a chance to win," Harrison said. "I'm at a place where there's no reason I should fail. It makes me feel secure and more in control of my life."

Harrison is trying to put professional baseball behind him again and concentrate on his future.

He wants his degree. He wants to learn to be a better coach. He wants to pursue a new dream—to coach in the majors.

"I'm learning to be a coach. There's still a lot I have to learn," Harrison said. "I've had a lot of offers to coach, even with the Cubs, but I didn't feel like I was ready."

"I feel like I'm back in control of my life again, and I accept everything that has happened to me as part of my fate."

"Now, my fate and my dream is to coach."

Griesch is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.