

# Wednesday's baseball games rained out, not rescheduled

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team's games with Kansas State scheduled for Wednesday were canceled because of rain.

The Cornhuskers, 27-18, were supposed to resume Tuesday night's suspended game at 3 p.m. Wednesday, before playing Wednesday's regularly scheduled game.

The Huskers trailed the Wildcats 6-0 in the

top of the fifth inning when the game was suspended. But the game will not count as a loss on Nebraska's record because it did not go the required five complete innings.

The games cannot be made up because Big Eight rules do not allow conference games to be rescheduled.

Nebraska will continue conference play this weekend with a three-game series at Kansas.

# Baseball's opening day finds smaller crowds, angrier fans

From The Associated Press

Something was missing Wednesday during the first big day of the baseball season — fans.

Even with free tickets in some places, crowds were much smaller than usual for opening day, just as many teams feared, following the 232-day strike.

Only 24,091 fans showed up in Atlanta, where the Braves sold out most of their games last season, and there were just 24,170 in Kansas City, where grandstand seats were free. Milwaukee drew its worst opening-day crowd since 1973, and though the New York Yankees had 50,000, that was about 6,500 fewer than last year.

Many fans were booing and carrying protest signs — and worse.

Chicago White Sox outfielder Mike Devereaux had a beer dumped on him late in the game at Milwaukee. In Kansas City, a fan caught a foul ball, threw it back on the field and was cheered.

"That was just my way of saying, 'Hey, here's one back at you,'" Bryan Kuhn said after the toss. "I figured with all the money both sides whine about losing during the strike, they probably needed it more than I do."

Overall, attendance at six afternoon openings was down in five parks, compared with last year.

"After 8 1/2 months, it's something that's

going to happen," said Brewers owner Bud Selig, the acting commissioner who called off last season's World Series. "We got a lot of work ahead of us. It'll take some time, and we're not underestimating that."

In Cincinnati, a plane circled Riverfront Stadium pulling a banner that read: "Owners & Players: To hell with all of you."

"It doesn't really feel like opening day," admitted Reds fan Virg Nortman, 76.

The major-league season started Tuesday night in Miami, where the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Florida Marlins. It was the latest opening day in baseball history, and followed a spring training shortened to three weeks.

The cut-down spring took its toll, especially on pitchers who did not have plenty of time to prepare for the season.

Kevin Appier of the Kansas City Royals had a no-hitter in progress through 6 2/3 innings against Baltimore, but was pulled to save his arm. The Orioles got a hit in the eighth inning against reliever Rusty Meacham.

New Royals manager Bob Boone was booed when he took out Appier. There has been only one opening-day no-hitter in history, by Bob Feller in 1940.

"Obviously, I'd like a chance to finish the game and get a no-hitter," Appier said. "But to throw that many more pitches is a risk and you really can't do that. I understand where he's coming from. That's the farthest I've taken one, but I understand why I was taken out."

# Men's tennis team fought hard, couldn't pull off championship

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's team had a shot to win at the Big Eight Championships last weekend.

But like all season, the Cornhuskers just didn't have what it took to win, Coach Kerry McDermott said.

The Huskers lost their first match 4-2 to Oklahoma State and came back with a 4-0 win over Missouri at the Big Eight Championships in Oklahoma City.

Kansas won the conference title.

McDermott said the Oklahoma State match went the same way as most matches all season.

"We competed really well, especially in singles, and we were right there," he said. "We just didn't compete hard enough at one or two spots. We played better than we did in the dual against them, but we still could have beat them."

McDermott said there was no doubt in his mind that his team would finish its season with a win over Missouri.

"We knew we were going to win against Missouri," he said. "We were a little bit down after losing to Oklahoma State. But knowing it was the last match of the season and that it was Missouri, we knew we'd win."

McDermott will lose only Andy Davis and

Rick Stempson off of this year's 6-14 Husker team but will add Roshan Fernando from Lake Oswego, Ore., to the roster.

Fernando was a semifinalist in Oregon's 4-A class and was ranked sixth in the Pacific Northwest.

"We think we've got a good one," McDermott said. "He's got the potential to be a very good player for us. He visited here a few weeks ago and really liked the school. With everyone but Andy and Rick coming back, we think we've got a good nucleus to build a solid program and be back where we want to be."

McDermott said the Huskers wanted to be in the top 50 in the country and the top half of the Big Eight.

But for that to happen, McDermott said, the team would need to raise its level of competitiveness.

"As a team, I didn't feel like we showed that competitive spirit when we were down," McDermott said. "We had a lot of 4-3 losses. It came down to the other team having a greater desire to win. We started doing a better job of it once the Big Eight started, but not good enough."

"When we were competitive and playing hard, we were right there in it with everyone else."

# Walker

Continued from Page 12

learning how to play well," Walker said.

In addition to working on skills, the Huskers lined up quality opposition for spring exhibition games. Nebraska will play Duke and Notre Dame, both figured to be pre-season top five picks.

"We competed with them pretty well," Walker said. "It exposes our players to the highest level of play and forces them to play at their best."

Nebraska's young starting squad that includes nine freshmen and two sophomores will be helped by off-season signings.

The Huskers signed two transfer students

earlier this month. Kari Uppinghouse and Lynne Officer will both transfer as sophomores. Uppinghouse played her freshman year at George Mason and sat out last season.

Officer, a Millard North graduate, played last year at Tulsa and started as a freshman. Officer will be able to play next year because Tulsa waived the rule that states that a player must sit out one year after transferring.

Walker said he believed both players would have an immediate impact on the team.

"Uppinghouse we're pretty excited about," Walker said. "Just an excellent player and a high-school All-American."

"We feel good because she looked at Clemson, Creighton and Notre Dame."

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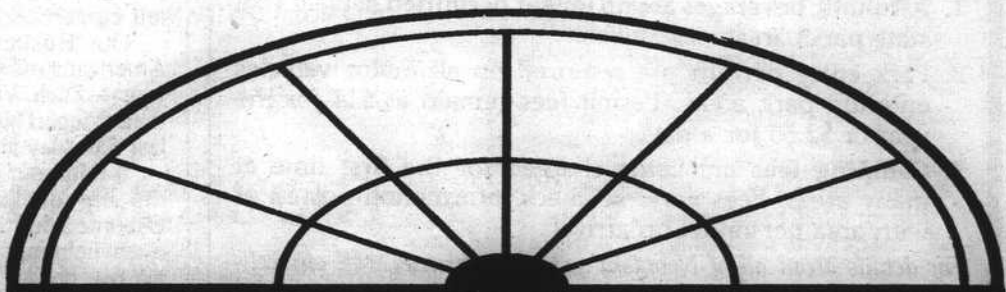
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