

# SPORTS

Wednesday, November 15, 1995

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## SPORTS OPINION



### Todd Walkenhorst Two legacies come to end in last game

Something just does not seem right.

I'm walking through the union yesterday, and I'm noticing these signs.

"Oklahoma ticket for sale. \$100 or best offer."

In fact, I saw one that asked for \$250 for a pair.

My curiosity rose. I got on the phone and gave them a call.

To no surprise of my own, I was her first inquiry for the ticket mark-up scam.

"I was kind of asking that price as the high end of what I thought I could get," the ticket holder said.

No kidding.

I called another person who asked for \$115 a ticket. He tried to tell me he already had an offer for \$100. (Yeah right).

"I haven't sold them yet," he said. "I'm waiting to get more."

You'll probably be waiting awhile.

Maybe these students have been attending UNL for a long time and are still remembering the glory days of 1987 when they got absurd prices for their tickets.

Of course that year, the contest had larger implications. Nebraska was ranked No. 1. Oklahoma was No. 2.

Or maybe these students have not been in school long enough to actually acquire enough intelligence to figure out that this game is pretty much worthless.

Let me help you wanna-be ticket scalpers out.

If you want to get big money for your tickets, wait for a big game. Like against a team that's ranked.

Sure Oklahoma is a long-time rivalry, but that will pretty much end after Nov. 24.

It's time to wake up. Here's the facts.

Sooner Nation is dead.

Oklahoma has posted a less than sparkling record of 5-4-1, and dropped a 12-0 decision against Oklahoma State last weekend. The Cowboys' victory was their first against the Sooners since 1976.

Yes, this was the same Oklahoma State team Nebraska beat 66-21.

Even Gary Gibbs used to beat Oklahoma State and Kansas.

If you believe that Oklahoma is a top-notch team, ask coach Howard Schnellenberger about the quality of his squad.

"Our biggest downfall is the fact that we have not played with the confidence and consistency I thought we would," Schnellenberger said. "We have not found a way not to lose."

Don't expect the Sooners' winning ways to start in Memorial Stadium.

The Sooners' 2-4 mark in the Big Eight ensures them of their first sub-.500 conference record since 1972. That year Oklahoma forfeited three conference games. In 1965 the Sooners finished with a 3-4 conference record.

See WALKENHORST on 8

## Nee benches problem players

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

Because of a new disciplinary point system, three Nebraska basketball players will miss Thursday night's final exhibition game against Pella Windows.

Center Mikki Moore and guards Jaron Boone and Chester Surles will sit out because of the new team point system. Moore also missed the first game because of disciplinary reasons.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee installed a point system because he

wanted his players to become more responsible this season both on and off the court.

In the system, if players accumulate enough points, they will miss a game.

Nee said he hoped Moore would learn what it took to be disciplined now so he doesn't miss any games during the regular season.

"If Mikki doesn't get the picture now, he never will," Nee said. "I'm not mad at Mikki; I'm not down on Mikki or any of the men involved, but accountability and responsibility, those type words, they've got to do it. 'In the long run it will help.'"

Last year, the Cornhuskers sometimes didn't react in the manner Nee wanted. The frustration of an 18-14 season set in often, and Nee said that

had shown through in the wrong way.

"We went through growing pains last year," Nee said. "The growing pains were: Here's a player that was playing at a high level of ability individually, but his team wasn't performing to it. Those gestures, a lot of them were frustration and personal unhappiness with what was happening."

One player who often showed the frustration of last season was Boone.

Even though Boone averaged 17.5 points and 3.3 rebounds a game last year, Nee said, it seemed as if he didn't know how to act on the court.

"I think Jaron's on-the-court mannerisms and gestures distracted from his basketball ability," Nee said. "He could be the best and most consistent player in the Big Eight, but because of his decorum with referees, with calls,

with teammates and with the coach, everyone noticed it.

"It was a non-productive juvenile behavior, and I think he's aware of that."

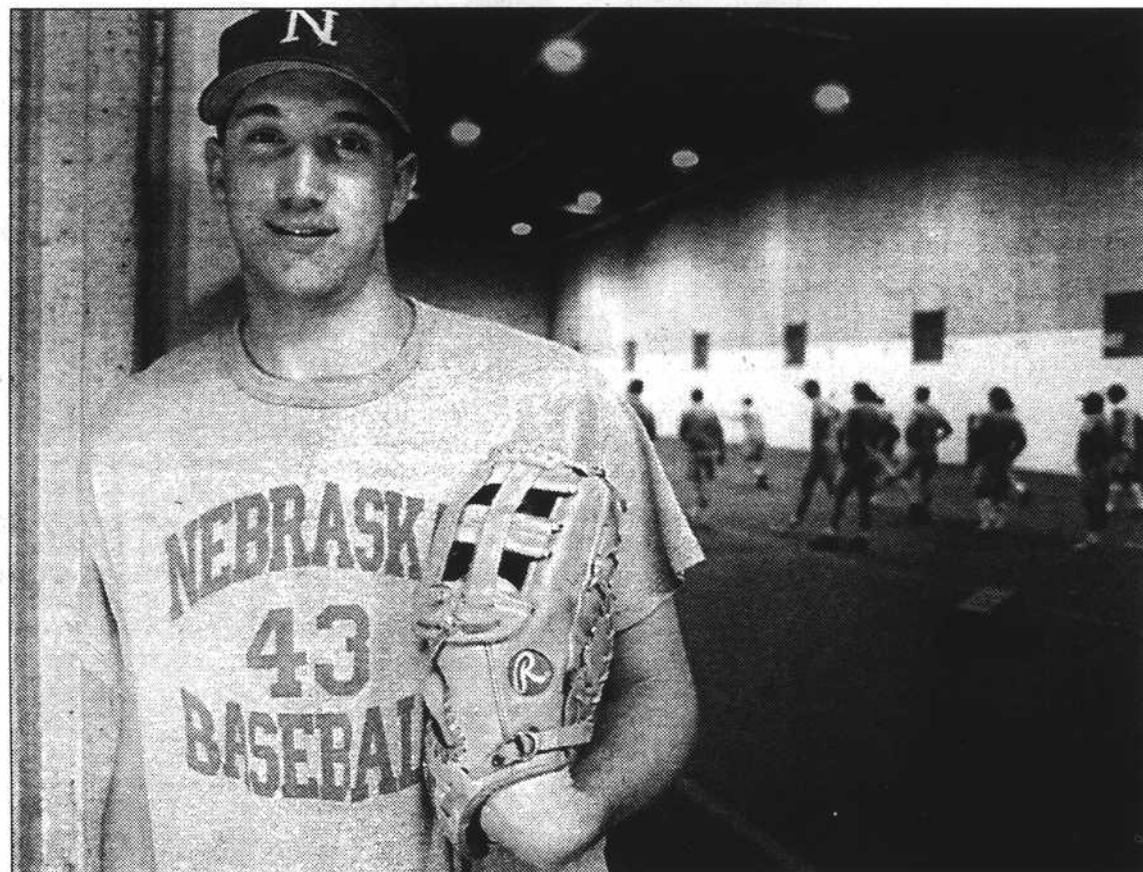
To try and curb that from happening again this year, senior guard Erick Strickland said he met with Nee at the end of last season to try and set up some kind of discipline system.

And now he's glad discipline is being enforced.

"Last year it seemed like we were in a little disarray, and we needed a little structure to help guys along," Strickland said. "I think it keeps guys on their toes and on their p's and q's knowing they have to get the job done to get on the court and play."

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## Atlanta dreams



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Nebraska first baseman Todd Sears recently participated in the Fall Baseball Trials in Homestead, Fla. The trials are the first step in the journey to making the Olympic team.

## Sears participates in Olympic trials

By Gregg Madsen  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska baseball fans have grown accustomed to seeing first baseman Todd Sears take the field wearing the traditional red and white of the Huskers. Next summer, however, they could see him wearing the red, white and blue of Team USA in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Sears recently took part in the 1995 Fall Baseball Trials, Oct. 27-29, in Homestead, Fla. The three-day camp is the first step in choosing the lineup for Team USA.

The 6-foot-6, 185-pound sophomore was one of 66 top amateur baseball players chosen to participate in the trials.

"I think it went pretty well," Sears said. "It was a lot of fun down there, just meeting some of the guys, and playing with the best players in the nation, that's experience alone right there, just playing with the best players and getting to know some of them."

In nine at-bats at the trials, Sears

hit .444 with three doubles and four RBI.

"I wasn't there, so I can't say exactly how he did," Husker coach John Sanders said. "But I know that he did well, obviously, from his stats, you can tell he held his own."

Sears said the biggest learning experience of the trials was more mental than physical.

"Everybody down there had a different way of playing the game and getting ready for things," he said. "It was interesting to see everybody's methods."

"I think it showed me where I am and where I stand and what I need to do to get better so I can improve myself that way."

USA Baseball, the governing body of American baseball, will narrow the field of 66 players down to 40 after the 1996 season, and from there, 20 to 25 players will be selected.

The fall trials were more of a "get to know them type thing," Sanders said. "It wasn't a make or break

thing. What it did was give these guys a chance to meet the players up front."

"In Todd's case, it gave them a chance to really see him play, because he was pretty much shut down after 43 games last year because of injury."

The nagging staph infection to which Sanders was referring didn't stop Sears from hitting .346, nailing 10 home runs, and having 50 RBI for the Huskers last season.

Sears said the thought of making Team USA would be in the back of his mind this season.

"It will be hard not to think about it," he said. "Of course, that's a great opportunity, to play for the Olympics. But the best thing for me to do will be to not think about it because that will be just a little added pressure that I don't need."

Sanders said that Sears had a great chance to make the team.

"If it was up to me," Sanders said, "I'd vote for him."

## Huskers honored for great years

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

Christy Johnson guarantees she will cry before the Nebraska volleyball team's match Wednesday night.

Johnson, along with fellow seniors Billie Winsett and Allison Weston, will be honored tonight before the 7:30 match as Nebraska, 24-1 and 11-0 in the Big Eight, plays host to Missouri, 6-23 and 1-9 in the conference, at the NU Coliseum.

Together the three players have combined to play in 344 matches and helped the Cornhuskers win 23 matches in a row this season.

Johnson said it would be an emotional time before the match against Missouri.

"It's amazing to me that I'm still here grinding away," Johnson said. "I'll be really sad, but I'll be really happy about what the team has accomplished."

In her five years at Nebraska, the Huskers have established a lot. Nebraska has participated in five NCAA Tournaments in that span and the Huskers have won four Big Eight titles.

Assistant coach Cathy Noth, who played for the Huskers from 1981 to 1984, played her final regular-season home match against Iowa State Nov. 7, 1984, and she said the experience tonight would be one the three would never forget.

"It's going to be emotional because it happens so quick," Noth said. "It won't hit them until senior introductions, but I've talked to Christy Johnson, and she said she was going to cry."

But that probably won't be the seniors' last appearance at the NU Coliseum. Being ranked No. 1, Nebraska probably will play host to three NCAA Tournament matches.

Johnson said the crowd at the NU Coliseum would help Nebraska tremendously in the NCAA Tournament. She said she found out how important the crowd could be Sunday against Florida.

"I couldn't hear what my hitters were saying, but we're used to the atmosphere," Johnson said. "It's a big advantage."

The setter from Millard North said her most memorable matches at the Coliseum were last Sunday's win over Florida, the 1992 match against Colo-

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