

SPORTS

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Page 7

Big 8 Notebook

● When Kansas State guard Elliot Hatcher complained of chest pains while boarding the team plane after the Wildcats' 83-60 loss to Oklahoma State on Saturday, Kansas State coach Tom Asbury called the paramedics immediately.

"It's not something from my perspective you take lightly," Asbury said. "We've learned from Hank Gathers, and I was there the day he died."

Gathers, a forward for Loyola Marymount, collapsed and died during a semifinal West Coast Conference tournament game in 1990.

Asbury, who was the head coach at Pepperdine at the time, was preparing his team to play in the following game.

Hatcher was checked out at a Stillwater, Okla., hospital. Asbury said the problem wasn't serious, but Hatcher was going to get a full diagnosis this week.

● The Kansas women's basketball team set an NCAA record for highest free throw percentage with a minimum of 30 attempts. The Jayhawks made all 31 of their free throws in their 94-85 victory over Nebraska on Saturday.

The Jayhawks' 21-of-21 performance from the line in the second half surpassed the Big Eight's mark for most attempts without a miss in a half.

● Nebraska senior guard Kate Galligan was named Big Eight player of the week Monday in a split vote over Kansas junior Tamecka Dixon. Galligan averaged 31 points in the Huskers' losses to Kansas State (81-75) on Friday night and to Kansas on Sunday.

Missouri senior guard Jason Sutherland won the men's player-of-the-week award in a split vote over Oklahoma's Ernie Abercrombie. Sutherland averaged 23 points last week in two games, wins over Nebraska and Kansas.

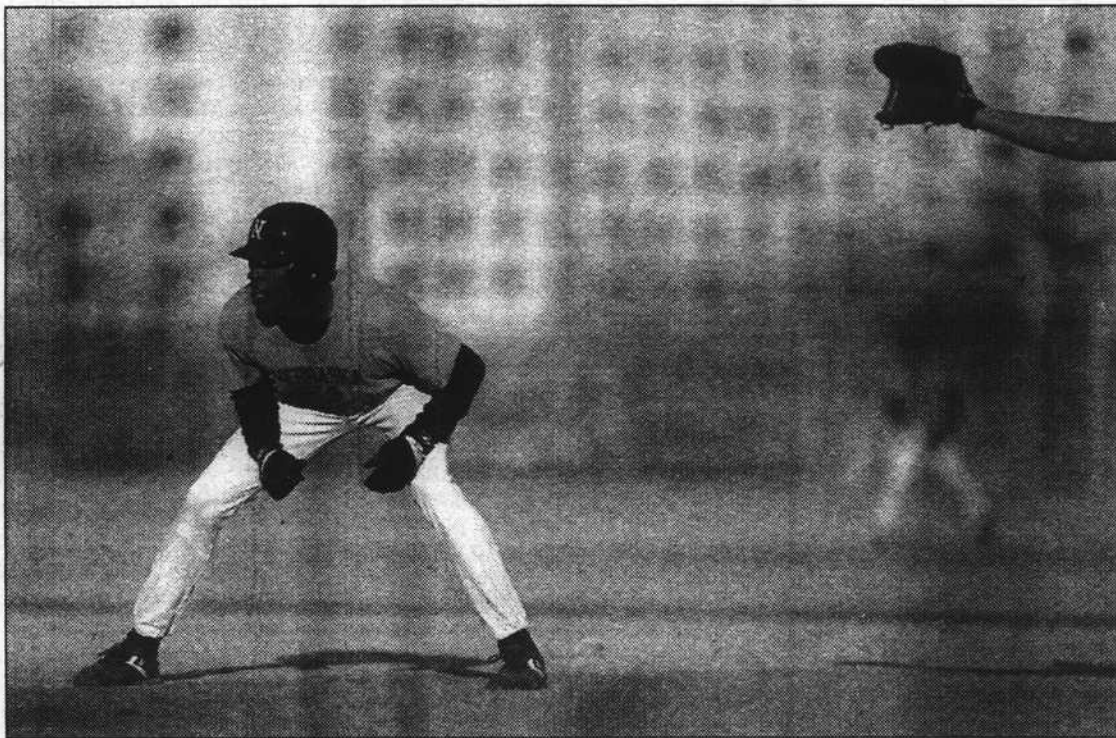
● Kansas State's suspension of women's basketball coach Brian Agler has brought former Wildcat men's coach Jack Hartman back to the Kansas State sidelines. Hartman coached the men's team from 1971 to 1986 and won his first game with the women on Friday against Nebraska.

● Ironically, Bramlage Coliseum, where the women play their games, is on Jack Hartman Drive. Hartman's return marks the third time in Big Eight history that a men's coach has returned as a women's coach. Doyle Parrack of Oklahoma coached the men from 1956 to 1962 and the women from 1978 to 1980. Colorado's Sox Walseth directed the men's team from 1957 to 1976 and the women's team from 1981 to 1983.

● Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier won an ESPY award Monday night for his 75-yard touchdown run against Florida in the Fiesta Bowl. Frazier's run earned college football's play-of-the-year award. Frazier was also up for college football player of the year, but the award went to Eddie George of Ohio State.

Big Eight notebook compiled by senior reporter Mike Kluck.

Leading the way



Nebraska right fielder Mel Motley takes a lead off first base Monday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field during Husker baseball practice. Nebraska will play in Phoenix this weekend.

Motley a mentor for Huskers

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

Although the Nebraska baseball team opened its 1996 season with five new faces in the starting lineup, three returning seniors gave the Cornhuskers much needed support in the middle of the order.

"We lost some good people with good numbers but return three solid players, (Matt) Meyer, Mel Motley, and Todd Sears," Nebraska coach John Sanders said. "Those guys are going to be called upon to be stable and have the kinds of years they had last year — if not better."

In the Huskers' opening series, Motley led the way, driving in eight runs with six hits and helping Nebraska outscore New Mexico State 47-30 in the three-game series.

Despite his performance and senior status, Motley, Nebraska's starting right fielder, said he did not see himself as a leader. The 2-1 Huskers will play in the Adidas Classic this weekend in Phoenix against Texas Tech, Arizona State and Northwestern.

"I talk to a lot of the young guys. We just talk baseball," Motley said. "I don't feel a lot of added pressure on myself to try and do anything

more."

Sanders said if Motley put up big numbers this season, the younger players would look up to him for that reason alone.

"He just needs to do what he can do — put up numbers," Sanders said. "If you start thinking, 'I'm a leader,' then you forget about putting up numbers. And all of a sudden you're not a leader."

Motley has been drafted twice over the course of his baseball career and turned down both offers.

In 1992, he was drafted in the 32nd round by the New York Yankees after his senior year at Riverside Poly High School in Riverside, Calif. But Motley decided to attend Riverside Community College.

During his sophomore year in 1994 at Riverside CC, Motley hit .301 and earned honorable mention honors in the All-Orange Empire Conference. He was drafted in the 39th round by the Cincinnati Reds. Once again, Motley turned down the chance to play professional

baseball and transferred to Nebraska.

"I was drafted twice, and they never really offered me anything I could get excited about," Motley

said.

In his first season with the Huskers last season, Motley finished with a .357 batting average, ninth in the Big Eight. After an 8-for-13 performance at the Big Eight postseason tournament, Motley was named to the all-tournament team. Despite an outstanding performance with a Division I team, Motley was not drafted.

"Not getting drafted last year made me realize how important school is," Motley said. "Right now, I just want to do well in school and play baseball."

Sanders said Motley's skills had earned him the interest of professional scouts. But name recognition alone, Sanders said, would not guarantee him a spot in the amateur baseball draft this year.

"I certainly think that he can play at the next level," Sanders said.

Motley said he had set some personal goals for this season but was not concerned about getting drafted.

"The one thing he can take care of is how hard he works and how hard he prepares," Sanders said. "If he works harder than he did last year, there is no reason he can't have as good, if not a better, year."

Huskers hope to regroup

By Vince D'Adamo
Staff Reporter

Everything that could have gone wrong for the Nebraska basketball team in February has gone wrong.

And Cornhusker coach Danny Nee said he felt the pain.

"It hurts," Nee said Monday. "When you keep losing, things become magnified."

Nebraska's 74-59 loss to Iowa State dropped its record to 15-9 overall and 3-6 in the Big Eight. The Huskers have lost five straight for the first time since 1989-1990.

Before losing to the Cyclones, the Huskers lost a 99-98 heartbreaker against Missouri on Wednesday night and dropped games to Iowa State, Kansas State and Kansas.

Nee said a few breaks along the way could have left Nebraska in an entirely different situation heading into its final five conference games.

"We gave such a great effort at Missouri," Nee said. "If we could have held on to it, it would have been a different story."

Nebraska rallied from a 20-point deficit in that defeat. The Huskers now have the rest of the week to prepare for Saturday's 8:05 p.m. contest against Oklahoma State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We need the five days," Nee said. "We feel now we can regroup."

The five-game losing streak has put the Huskers' backs against the wall. The Huskers, who held a team meeting Monday but did not practice, are sixth in the Big Eight and only a half game from the conference's cellar.

Nebraska defeated Oklahoma State 66-57 in Stillwater, Okla., earlier this season. But a return to full strength has helped the Cowboys win two of their last three games, including a 23-point rout of Kansas State on Saturday in Stillwater.

"They've improved tremendously," Nee said of the Cowboys.

The Huskers are not the only Big Eight team to go through a slump this season. Several schools accustomed to winning began the conference season poorly. But Oklahoma State, Oklahoma and Missouri — unlike Nebraska — are making midseason runs at the NCAA Tournament.

The Cowboys lost six of nine games at one point. Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said the team never lost hope.

"For the first time this season, everybody's in good health," Sutton said. "We've got good people. I never

See BIG 8 on 8

Eierman's career as a Husker ends

By Mike Kluck and
Antone Oseka

Senior Reporter and Staff Reporter

It was announced Monday that Nebraska wrestler Mike Eierman's eligibility has expired and he will no longer compete for the Cornhuskers.

Eierman, a former All-American and NCAA qualifier the past two seasons, wrestled twice for the Huskers on Feb. 3 and Feb. 4 against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. He pinned both of his opponents.

The senior 150-pounder from Chicago will have to forfeit both matches, which will change the result of the Oklahoma match. Nebraska defeated the Sooners 19-17, but will now lose 23-13. Oklahoma State defeated the Huskers 22-16 and will now win 28-10.

Nebraska senior associate athletic director Al Papik said no further pen-

"I haven't really thought about not being a part of the team anymore."

MIKE EIERMAN

former Nebraska wrestler

alties were contemplated.

"My understanding is (Nebraska coach Tim) Neumann submitted a letter requesting a hardship in 1993-94," Papik said. "He (Eierman) would not meet the requirements."

According to NCAA rules, if an athlete competes in fewer than 20 percent of the team's competitions and doesn't compete in the second half of the season, he can be eligible for a hardship. Eierman's 1993-94 year had been in question.

Neumann said he thought Nebraska Faculty Representative James

O'Hanlon submitted to the NCAA a letter of appeals to grant Eierman a hardship for the 1993-94 season. O'Hanlon, who was out of town Monday, did not submit such a letter.

Eierman won his first 14 matches of the 1993-94 season, but did not compete the second half of the season because of personal reasons. He finished the year with a 19-5 record and 4-4 dual record.

"I wish it wasn't the way it was," Neumann said.

Eierman was dismissed from the

Husker team at the beginning of the 1995 season for disciplinary reasons. He was reinstated at the beginning of the second semester.

Neumann said Eierman would train with Husker assistant coach Brad Penrith to wrestle freestyle. He also will work to completing his degree in human development and family science.

"Four years ago getting his degree wasn't a priority," Neumann said. "I told him last week that it didn't look good on him receiving a hardship."

Eierman said he was surprised on Monday when he learned he had not received a hardship.

"I haven't really thought about not being a part of the team anymore," Eierman said. "The coaches supposedly told me I got the hardship two years ago."