

SPORTS

Thursday, February 29, 1996

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SPORTS OPINION



Todd Walkenhorst

Huskers, Jays need to meet in the spring

It's the end of February on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, so three things are certain.

— The basketball team has plummeted into its annual season-ending free fall.

— Spring football is just around the corner.

— It's cold outside, so it must be time for baseball at the Buck.

Many people probably were not aware that the debut of the Cornhusker baseball team at Buck Beltzer Stadium already has been postponed. Many people probably couldn't even imagine Wednesday — when the temperature was 10 degrees — that there should have been a baseball game.

It wasn't just any baseball game that was canceled. This was the premiere rivalry in the state, a bitter in-state clash with the Bluejays of Creighton.

A two-game home-and-home series that would have determined state bragging rights for the next year was called off. Tuesday, the Huskers were supposed to play the Bluejays in Omaha, but believe it or not, it was cold in the Big "O" too, forcing that game to be postponed as well.

Granted, baseball at Nebraska is not exactly a revenue-generating sport, but it does have a loyal fan following.

The bad blood and tense relationship between the Jays and the Huskers should produce some of the most anticipated battles of the season. So it would be nice if the games were scheduled when you did not have to fear getting your tongue stuck to the metal bleachers.

Why not play this game later in the season? After the Huskers play their conference schedule and the Bluejays play their Missouri Valley schedule, put a climax at the end of the regular season with the battle of 1-80.

Instead, we are stuck with postponement after postponement until one day these two games get played — probably on the same weekday — and many fans won't have a chance to see it happen.

As it stands now, the Huskers are slated to play Wayne State on May 5. I'm sure that will draw quite a crowd. At least it will be a little warmer.

Cold weather always will be a factor for northern schools when it comes to baseball, but it's time for a series of this magnitude to be scheduled later in the season, when the players won't be able to see their own breath.

Postponement may have been the best thing that could have happened to this series for the sake of the fans. At least these games now will be played at a later date, like in the spring.

Walkenhorst is a senior broadcasting and advertising major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Husker hopes shattered by CU

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

BOULDER, Colo. — The Nebraska basketball team's shooting was so bad in the second half Wednesday night against Colorado that it broke the backboard — literally.

Colorado	78
Nebraska	64

With 1:07 remaining in the game at the Coors Event Center, Mikki Moore and Terrance Badgett went up for an offensive rebound. Badgett pulled down on the rim, shattering the backboard and sending broken glass onto the players' heads.

Moore and Badgett ran to the training room with blood streaming down their arms, ending the night for the pair

of Cornhuskers.

It also ended the game. Nebraska coach Danny Nee agreed to call off the remainder of the contest before a stunned crowd of 4,047, handing Nebraska its ninth straight loss, 78-64.

Badgett required five stitches to his right shoulder and Moore needed two under his right eye and two in his right shoulder. Colorado's Dennis Giffin suffered a minor cut on his left hand.

The missed dunk ended a horrendous second half of shooting in which Nebraska shot 30.8 percent from the field and made 2 of 12 3-point attempts. Overall, Nebraska shot a season-low 35.8 percent.

The loss dropped the Huskers to 15-13 overall and into a last-place tie with the Buffaloes at 3-10 in the Big

Eight. The nine-game skid, which leaves Nebraska with an 0-7 mark in February, is the longest losing streak since the Huskers dropped nine straight in 1963-64.

"It can't get any lower," Nee said. "I thought we were competing in the first half. We just went through a hell of a drought in the second half."

For much of the game Wednesday, it looked as if Nebraska might end its streak. The Huskers led 36-30 at the halftime, but after Colorado trimmed the lead to 54-51, the Huskers went cold.

After tying the game at 54, the Buffs went on a 20-5 run to take control. Colorado was led by junior Martice Moore, who made 10 field goals en route to scoring a game-high 30 points. Freshman Chauncey

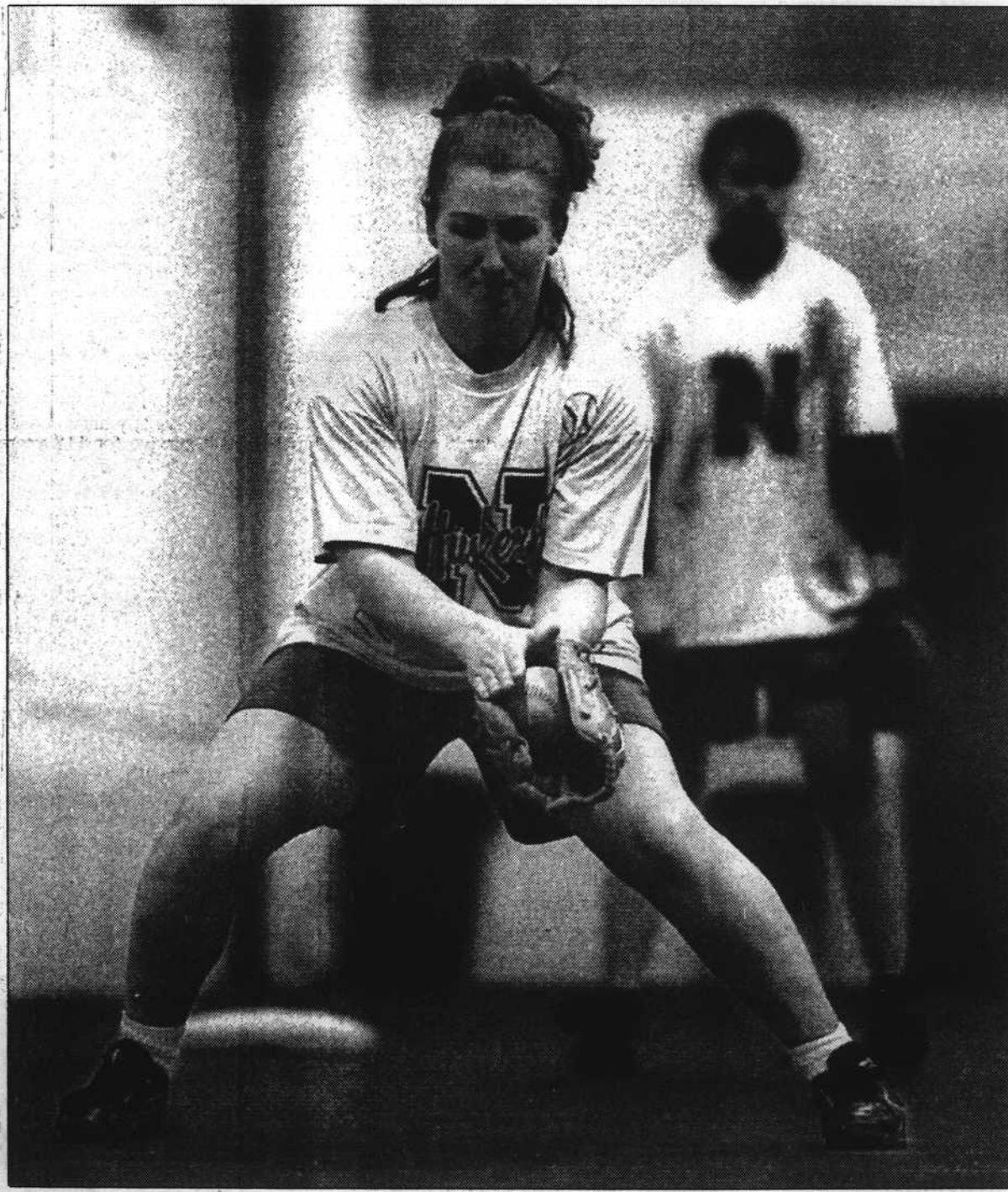
Billups added 21 points for the Buffaloes, which improved to 9-16.

In that 11:21 span, the Huskers converted just 2 of 21 field goal attempts, and at one point they missed 12 shots in a row. After the 9:33 mark of the second half, Nebraska went without a field goal until Tom Wald made a 3-pointer with 1:53 left.

Erick Strickland, who led Nebraska with 15 points, said he was shocked the Huskers couldn't make a basket in the second half.

"We were so wide open on all the shots we took, but we just didn't knock them down," Strickland said.

Jaron Boone added 13 points for Nebraska. Moore scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds, Bernard Garner scored 12 points and Tyrone Luc dished out a career-high nine assists.



Marni Speck/DN

Nebraska pitcher Stacie Stafford leads the Huskers with 23 strikeouts in four appearances this year and has a 1.75 ERA.

NU pitcher wants more than wins

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

For Nebraska softball pitcher Stacie Stafford, happiness doesn't come easy.

Stafford, who has pitched the Cornhuskers to two of their seven victories this season, said she was happy with only half of her starts this season.

"I was happy in the Texas-Arlington and the Oregon State game," she said.

Stafford, a senior from Fair Oaks, Calif., also pitched in both games of a doubleheader sweep of Creighton last Saturday in Omaha. She relieved Melanie Raimondi in the first game. In the second half of the doubleheader, she pitched a complete game, allowing three runs.

"I was satisfied," she said. "I felt like in the second game I kept my composure fairly well. As far as the first game went, I was out of rhythm."

In 24 innings pitched this season for the 7-1 Huskers, Stafford has recorded 23 strikeouts, a 1.75 earned-run average and has held opposing hitters to a .207 batting average.

Nebraska coach Rhonda Revelle said she was pleased with Stafford's performance against the Bluejays.

"Barring when she came into relief," Revelle said, "I thought she threw really well. It wasn't her best game, but it was a very good game."

Stafford said she knew she could do better.

"In the second game, there's just a couple of innings I'd like to have taken away," Stafford said. "Every game's got those innings."

Sometimes games are full of those innings, she said.

See LOAN on 8

Doctors to check Frazier for blood clots

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

The worst appears to be over for former Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier, who was hospitalized this week with a sinus infection.

Frazier's mother, Priscilla, said Wednesday she had spoken to her son from her home in Bradenton, Fla., and was planning to fly to Lincoln today to see him at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

"I plan on giving him a piece of my mind," Priscilla Frazier said. "I want

him to stop taking me through this."

She said her son sounded "groggy" during their conversation, but he also showed signs of improvement. He was dehydrated, she said, had a bad sinus infection and was worn down.

While Frazier is in the hospital, doctors will examine his right knee to make sure no blood clots have formed. During the 1994 season, in which Nebraska won the first of two straight national titles, Tommie Frazier missed seven games because of blood clots in his right leg.

He returned to the field on Jan. 1, 1995, and led Nebraska to a 24-17 win over Miami in the Orange Bowl. This season, he directed the Cornhuskers to another national title with a 62-24 victory over Florida in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2.

Since the Fiesta Bowl, Frazier, who is slated to graduate in May with a degree in business administration, has been busy trying to fulfill many autograph signings and media obligations, his mother said. He also attended the NFL combines earlier this month in Indianapolis.

On Saturday, Frazier attended an autograph signing at The Book Center in Norfolk, where he signed 547 posters but was not feeling well, said Donna Meyer, an employee of The Book Center.

"He took frequent breaks but was managing to get by all right," Meyer said.

Priscilla Frazier said her son became light-headed after the signing session, but he never passed out. When he still felt ill Monday, he was admitted to the hospital, she said.