

Tarkanian questioned about tickets

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A suspected sports bookie last season received some of Fresno State Basketball Coach Jerry Tarkanian's game tickets, a Fresno paper reported Thursday.

The tickets came from Jose Elgorriaga Jr., who is the coach's personal business agent but not a university employee, the Fresno Bee reported.

Athletic department records show that the bookie got at least 42 tickets and that his brother received eight from Elgorriaga. Tarkanian gets 90 tickets to each home game as part of his contract and said he gives Elgorriaga four to six tickets for each game.

Tarkanian said if some tickets were received by a sports gambler, "I certainly don't want my players associating with him."

The Bee previously labeled the bookie a "major sports better" in linking him to an investigation of possible point shaving by Fresno State players. However, law enforcement officials and others now say he is an active bookmaker, The Bee said.

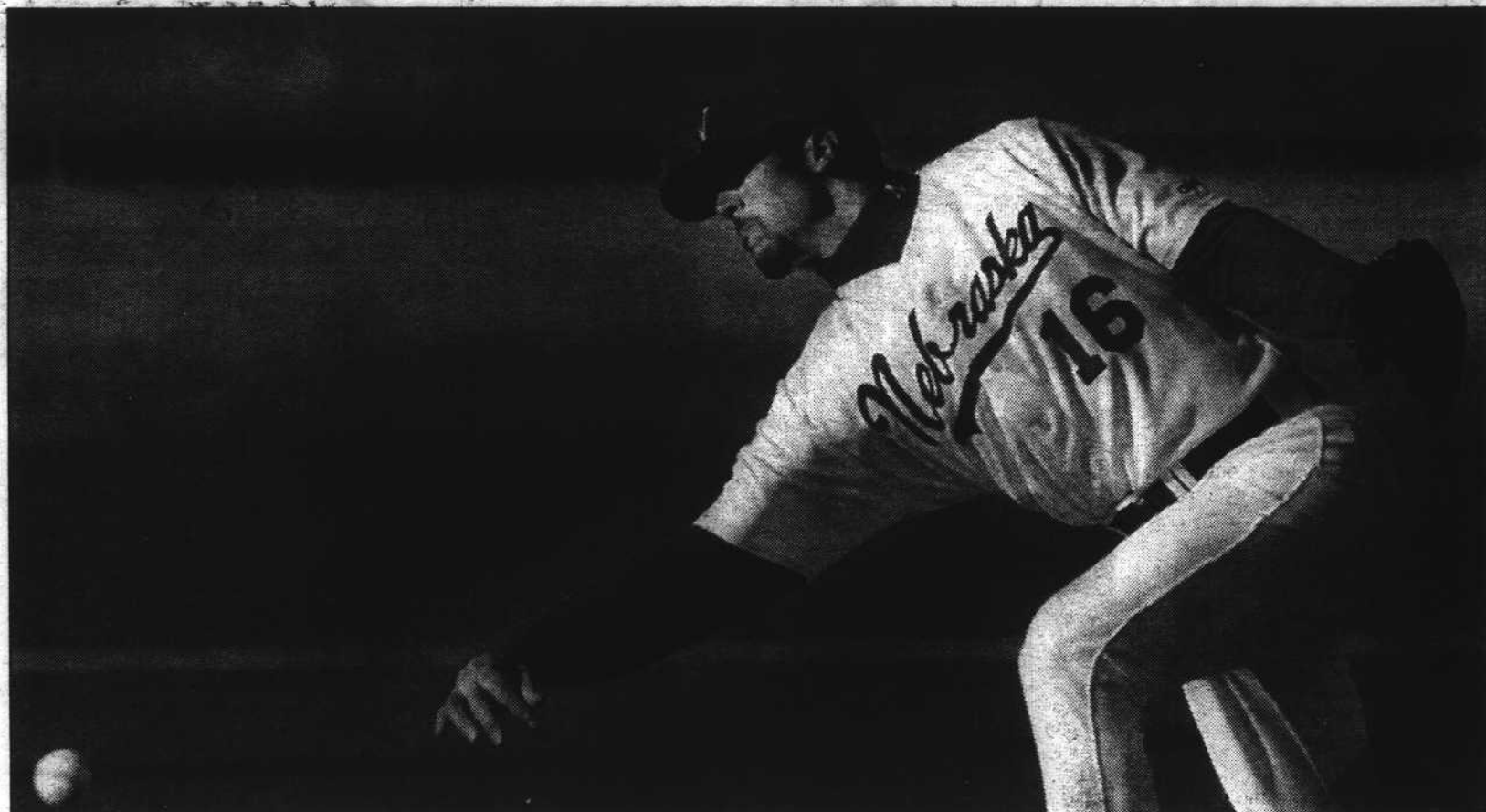
University officials and the FBI are investigating rumors of possible point shaving, an illegal practice where players try to keep the margin of victory inside the point spread. The investigations have focused on guards Dominick Young and Chris Herren, and both have denied any wrongdoing.

The Bee previously reported that Young was seen with the sports bookie at a nightclub and that Herren visited a Fresno pawnbroker who is a friend of the bookie.

The Los Angeles Times reported that members of a Southern California bookmaking ring were told Fresno State players were fixing games.

Fresno State President John Welty said he hopes the university's investigation will be concluded soon.

"To date, we've found no substance to the allegations about point shaving," Welty said.



MATT MILLER/DN

SPENCER VAN LINGE throws a pitch earlier this season. NU plays host to Kansas State for three games this weekend.

NU enters series with confidence

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

Despite losing four of its last five games in the Bank of America Rainbow Classic at Honolulu, the Nebraska baseball team returned home with confidence.

The Cornhuskers defeated 10th-ranked Wichita State and Cal State-Northridge before losing to New Mexico, Washington, Hawaii and Wichita State.

A 5-2 victory over New Mexico last Sunday sent the Huskers in a positive direction, NU coach John Sanders said.

Nebraska (16-18 overall and 2-7 in the Big 12 Conference) will play host to Kansas State (21-9 and 4-8) in a three-game series beginning at 7 p.m. today at Buck Beltzer Field. KSU has already beaten NU twice this season.

"Out of the tournament, we gained more consistent play," Sanders said. "It was a game a day against outstanding competition."

The Husker offense scored 41 runs on 50 hits—including 19 from junior Todd Sears and senior Francis Collins. The duo have combined to hit .399 on the season.

Collins, who finished the tournament going 12-for-28 with nine runs scored, said NU could have done better against the tough competition.

"We beat the good teams and played even to the teams that we should have stepped up to and beaten easily," Collins said. "We've been playing to the other teams' potentials. We haven't been playing to ours."

After starting the season hitting .171 through NU's first 12 games—Collins has raised his average to .367, which ranks second on the team behind Sears' .438.

"I'm feeling more comfortable at the plate than I was at the beginning of the year—ever since Minnesota," Collins said.

In 26 games since the Hormel Foods Classic began on Feb. 28 in Minneapolis, Collins has hit .426 and had a 14-game hitting streak snapped last week. But the secret to his suc-

cess is simple, he said.

"I have good bat control," Collins said. "I just feel like I have to put it in play and then use my speed."

As a junior last season, Collins led the Huskers with a .424 average and compiled a 38-game hitting streak—the fifth longest in NCAA history—before being named to the All-Big Eight second team.

This year, Collins and Sears have been the two most consistent bats in the lineup, Sanders said, and both have provided support for the players around them.

"When you have a leadoff guy like Francis and three-hole guy like Todd," Sanders said, "players will relate to the two. Guys look at them and know that these are quality hitters and they feel comfortable when Todd and Francis are doing well. It's a confidence builder for everyone."

Collins agreed that his teammates respond to his success.

"They know they have to contribute too if they want to play," Collins said. "It should bring up their confidence a little bit. We just try to lead them. We should sweep them."

"We've been playing to the other teams' potentials."

FRANCIS COLLINS
NU center fielder

Sanders will send senior right-hander Steve Fish to the mound today against the Wildcats. Fish won two starts in Hawaii and lowered his earned-run average to 4.34.

Senior left-hander Pat Driscoll (2-2), who has thrown at least five innings in each of his eight starts, will take the hill Saturday at 2 p.m. and junior lefty Kenny Duebelbeis will likely get the nod at 1 p.m. Sunday.

"We just have to play to our potential—not to theirs," Collins said of the Wildcats. "If we do, we'll beat them. We should sweep them."

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Golf team going in right direction

By SAM MCKEON
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's golf team began its stretch run towards an NCAA Tournament berth with a third-place finish at the Dr. Pepper Intercollegiate in Pottsboro, Texas, last weekend.

NU made a strong move in the second round to jump from fifth to third and then held on to finish with a 895, five strokes behind Northwestern and 32 strokes behind champion Southern Methodist.

Cornhusker Coach Larry Romjue said although his team played well, there is still room for improvement.

"We finished second in the tournament last year," Romjue said. "We felt like we could have finished second again, but we made a couple mistakes."

Individually, NU was paced by sophomore Josh Madden and senior Mikkel Haug, who both finished eighth in the tournament behind SMU's Jamie Stanley, the

"If we do well in Arkansas, we don't have to worry as much about the rest of our tournaments this year."

LARRY ROMJUE
NU men's golf coach

tournament's winner.

Haug has been a pleasant surprise to the team this spring. After not playing in the fall, Haug was not expected to heavily contribute to the team, but since a sixth-place finish at the Texas-San Antonio Invitational he has looked strong, Romjue said.

Romjue said Haug has improved more than any NU golfer over the past six months.

"He started off playing well this spring and he has continued to play well as the year has went on," Romjue said. "He's been able to hold his position in the lineup and be consistent."

On the other end of the spectrum lies sophomore Steve Friesen.

Coming in as the Huskers' top golfer after winning two tournaments in the fall, Friesen has struggled some-

what this spring, going without a Top 10 finish in four tournaments.

"Steve hasn't quite come around, but I think he'll be there when it counts," Romjue said. "He's made a few too many mistakes with his game but he's got the ability to still win tournaments."

NU returns to the fairway on April 7-8 for the Arkansas State Invitational in Jonesboro, Ark. Included in the 18-team field are ranked teams Iowa State, Arkansas State and Drake.

Romjue said a strong showing at Arkansas State will help alleviate some of the pressure of tournaments in the future.

"If we do well down in Arkansas, we don't have to worry as much about the rest of the tournaments this year," he said. "It takes off some of the pressure."