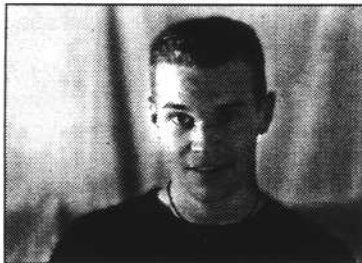


Sports Opinion



David Wilson

Soggy weiners remain part of baseball lore

They're plump, juicy and a tradition at any baseball game. At Buck Beltzer Field, Fairbury brand hot dogs are called for by name.

But as one opens the foil packaging, the red-dyed Nebraska-grown wieners are not very pleasing to the eye.

"They look really gross," said 13-year-old Jenny Whitener, who downed a dog in NU's doubleheader against Kansas State on Saturday, "but it tastes like a normal hot dog. Shouldn't they be brown?"

The red-dyed dogs typically turn the soggy buns a pinkish color — but the dye is a good thing said Beverly Wisheart, the concession manager at the Buck.

"I think the Fairbury dogs are just made that way," Wisheart said. "But I like to tell the fans that they are red for Big Red football."

Not everyone buys her story. "A lot of people from different places will open the hot dog and say, 'Ew, it's red.' But almost everyone who tries them agrees that they're the best."

Three years ago, Armor hot dogs were sold at the Buck, but a fan survey brought the bark back from the Fairbury dogs.

Weather greatly affects the sale of the \$1.50 meat products, Wisheart said.

Even the Ultimate Husker Fan, Kent Johnson, said he likes Fairbury dogs best. The bushy-bearded Johnson can be seen at nearly every NU sporting event loaded down with Husker memorabilia wearing a Husker-red cowboy hat topped by a Nebraska baseball cap.

"At Kansas State I had a hot dog," Johnson said, "but it wasn't as good as the ones I've had here. They're a baseball tradition."

But fans aren't the only ones who eat the wieners. Athletes also get their go-power from Nebraska-grown Fairbury dogs.

Wisheart said the Cornhuskers are given 50 dogs between games of a doubleheader. Some players, she said, come back and buy more.

Nebraska football player Brendan Zahl stopped by the Buck to watch some baseball Saturday and eat some hot dogs. Zahl scarfed down two dogs in the bottom of the sixth inning of the first game.

Wisheart said she is positive that the dogs aren't left-overs from the football season, but Zahl isn't quite sure.

"I don't know that they get all fresh ones at the end of football season," Zahl said, "but I'm sure they're kept well frozen."

"Hot dogs are definitely part of a baseball game. It's kind of like popcorn at the movie theater."

Wilson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

NU finishes third, makes finals

Dillman injures both knees before NCAA Midwest Regional.

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

SALT LAKE CITY — In a fraction of a second, the 1997 NCAA Midwest Regional took on a whole new meaning for the Nebraska women's gymnastics team.

Just 40 minutes before competition started Saturday night, Nebraska's Amie Dillman sprinted down the runway for a practice vault.

As the sophomore hit the mat, the growing crowd at the Huntsman Center gasped in unison.

In an instant, Dillman's legs buckled underneath her and she fell back, writhing in excruciating pain from both knees, which she dislocated on the landing.

Tears filled her teammates' eyes as Dillman lay on the padded floor for nearly 20 minutes and Nebraska Coach Dan Kendig realized Dillman would not be able to compete on the floor exercise and the vault.

"We talked in the locker room, and it was tough to talk about without getting choked up," Kendig said. "You feel it. You try to rally around it."

The eighth-ranked Cornhuskers did rally around their fallen teammate and earned third place behind Utah and Arizona State. Nebraska's score of 195.15 and ASU's 195.225 gave both teams one of seven at-large bids to the NCAA Championships April 17 through 19 in Gainesville, Fla.

The Utes' score of 195.7 produced their 11th-consecutive Regional championship and their 22nd straight trip to Nationals.

Kendig said the loss of Dillman affected Nebraska tremendously.

Utah Coach Greg Marsden said the effects of Dillman's injury were more far reaching.

"I think it was hard for all of us because every one of those athletes and every one of those coaches know that threat is out there anytime," Marsden

said. "When it happens, suddenly it doesn't matter anymore whose team they're on. Everybody feels it."

Marsden said the Utes were mediocre in their victory, scoring a below average mark in each event — including a dismal 48.55 performance on the floor exercise.

Kendig described Nebraska's night in the same fashion.

"To be able to get to Nationals and have such a mediocre day by our standards," Kendig said, "I think it's a tribute to their talent level."

The Huskers stayed close behind Utah and ASU throughout the meet and entered the final rotation trailing the Sun Devils 146.55-146.3.

But NU struggled to a 48.8 score

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Dillman



MATT MILLER/DN

NEBRASKA CATCHER Andrew Sawyers loses the ball as Kansas State's Jason Bichelmeyer slides into home during game one of Saturday's doubleheader.

Husker bats heat up in wins

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

An 18-7 loss to Kansas State in the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday had the Nebraska baseball team looking for revenge.

The Cornhusker bats went to work in game two pounding out 18 hits to defeat the Wildcats 12-5.

Nebraska, which downed Kansas State 8-7 on Friday, improved to 18-19 overall and 4-8 in the Big 12.

"We totally supported our players and just got their confidence back in that 20-minute period," NU Coach John Sanders said. "We're climbing that ladder. We're playing a lot better. The turnaround was because our guys weren't down, they were up."

Junior left-hander Kenny Duebelbeis (3-1) provided support on the mound taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning before al-

lowing three runs on four hits.

"The way we got beat in that first game," Duebelbeis said, "they kind of rubbed it in. But we came back and put it right back in their face."

Duebelbeis, who pitched seven complete innings, improved his earned-run average to 5.17 while striking out four.

"Kenny pitched a great game, and that's exactly what we needed," Sanders said. "We needed to have someone come out and set the stage for us on the mound and give us a chance to score. We did a great job offensively."

Junior first baseman Todd Sears finished the second game 3 for 5 with two home runs, three runs scored and five RBI. His wind-aided 420-foot shot to right, which scored three runs in the first inning, may have been his most important hit of the series.

"That first game was a huge let down," Sears said. "It was impor-

tant for us to get a head start and jump out in front."

Sears improved his team-high average to .446 with six hits in 11 at bats — including three homers — against the Wildcats last weekend.

Senior Francis Collins, junior Kevin Harrington and junior Bryan Schmidt each added five hits in the series.

In the first game, Sears collected three of NU's nine hits and knocked in three of the Huskers' four runs. But Kansas State rocked the Nebraska staff for 21 hits and 18 runs.

Senior left-hander Pat Driscoll (2-4) took the loss for Nebraska after allowing six runs in six innings.

The Wildcats, who had defeated Nebraska twice earlier this season, fell to 22-10 and 5-10. Though it lost the series 2-1, Kansas State outscored Nebraska 30-27.

"It was really big for us to win two against these guys," Sears said. "We need to be moving up — not down."

Alexander shines at new spot

By VINCE D'ADAMO
Staff Reporter

During another early spring scrimmage when the defense dominated the offense, fullback turned temporary I-back Dan Alexander became the offense's enforcer.

Alexander, thrown into the I-back spot because of an injury to DeAngelo Evans, bulled his way for 46 yards on eight carries. The 6-foot-1, 250-pound redshirt freshman from Wentzville, Mo., was one of the bright spots for an offense that accomplished little during Saturday's scrimmage at Memorial Stadium.

"He's very powerful," NU Coach Tom Osborne said, "and he has just enough movement to make you miss."

The offense did show occasional signs of life only to be turned back by four turnovers and numerous penalties. A depleted offensive line didn't help matters, Osborne said.

Projected starter Eric Anderson was not full strength because of a shoulder strain, and Josh Heskew missed the scrimmage with a broken foot. Offensive linemen Adam Julch and Jeff Clausen also missed the scrimmage with knee injuries.

Sophomore quarterback Jeff Perino scored the scrimmage's lone touchdown on a 1-yard quarterback sneak. Osborne said the offensive problems are nothing out of the ordinary.

"Usually after four days of practice," Osborne said, "it's hard to look real good offensively from the stand point of being polished. I wasn't overly impressed with our offensive production."

The lack of scoring was because of a mixture of poor execution and good defense, Osborne said. Cornhusker quarterbacks completed 11-of-39 passes for 121 yards and Monte Christo tossed two interceptions.

Quarterback Scott Frost — who was 2 of 8 passing for 23 yards — led all rushers with 54 yards on seven carries, including a 35-yard scramble.



Alexander

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