

## Garcia leaves Huskers

By ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Reporter

For the first time as a Cornhusker, Gabe Garcia didn't play in three straight games this weekend. He didn't even show up at Buck Beltzer Field.

Garcia, a junior transfer from Canada (Calif.) College, quit the NU baseball team Friday after being pulled from his starting spot in right field. Garcia had been batting cleanup all season with a .321 average. In his final two games, against Nebraska-Omaha Wednesday, he drove in 12 runs and went 5 for 9 at the plate.

After the doubleheader, which NU split with the Mavericks, Garcia told the Daily Nebraskan the team didn't want to play the originally unscheduled games against a non-Division I school.

"We just didn't want to be here," Garcia said Wednesday. "If they want to make our record better, this doesn't do us any good."

"We came out today and said, 'Why are we here?' We were here all damn day. In the early season, it's good. But now we need to practice and rest. We have school to worry about."

Garcia said he thought he was benched because of his comments. But Nebraska Coach John Sanders said Garcia's benching had nothing to do with his remarks.

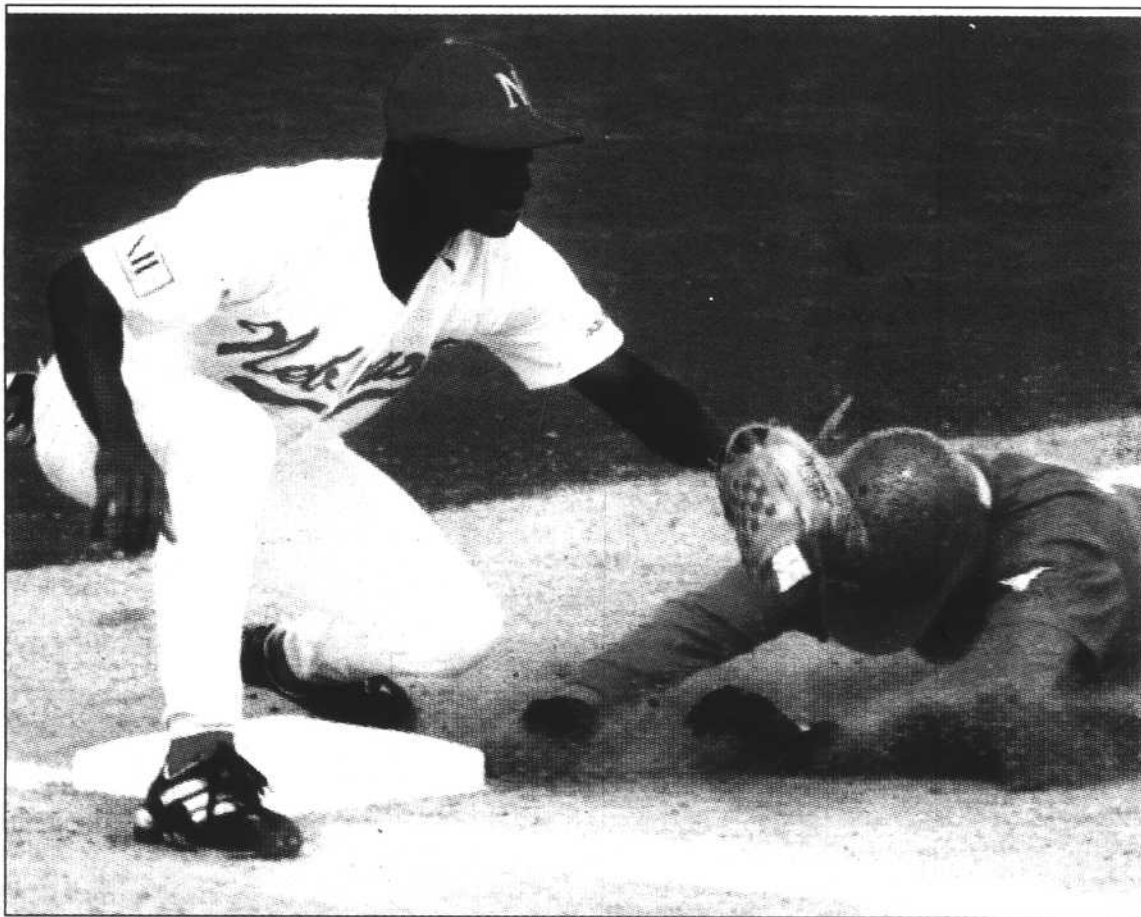
"Eric Mumm is a far better defensive player than Gabe Garcia," Sanders said.

Mumm started in right field in place of Garcia on Friday and Saturday but moved to left for Sunday's game, a 25-15 Husker win. Mumm has a fielding percentage of .964 in 28 opportunities, and in 71 chances, Garcia has a .972 fielding percentage.

"He quit because he wasn't in the lineup," Sanders said.

Garcia, who wants a release from his scholarship, said Sanders informed him Friday that he wouldn't play in the Huskers' six remaining games.

"I will never play here again," he said.



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

NEBRASKA THIRD BASEMAN Clifton Durham attempts a tag on a Texas runner. The Longhorns won Saturday's game 4-3 but the Huskers rebounded to win Sunday 25-15.

## NU hammers Texas

By DAVID WILSON  
Senior Reporter

A battle for pride turned into a home run derby Sunday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Nebraska baseball team pounded 23 hits en route to a 25-15 romp of Texas before 665 fans. Despite being eliminated from the Big 12 Conference Tournament, both teams combined to knock out 11 home runs.

The Longhorns defeated the Cornhuskers 4-3 on Friday and 4-3 on Saturday.

"It was great to see our team — after the number of close games we've been in all year — come back and pound Texas," NU Coach John Sanders said. "Not win, but pound."

After scoring two runs in the bottom of the first, the Huskers padded their lead with a four-run second, sparked by a leadoff home run from junior catcher Andrew Sawyers — the first dinger of the game.

Though Sanders said the warm weather helped provide for an explosive offensive game, Sawyers said superstition may have played a role in the Huskers' win.

"We sacrificed a live chicken yesterday and we fed it to our pet snake," Sawyers said, "but that didn't work. We still lost. So today, we killed a snake. Bryan Schmidt severed its head with a Bowie knife."

Junior first baseman Todd Sears continued the second-inning rally, knocking a three-run shot over the backdrop in center field. Sears, who leads NU with 15 homers, improved his team-high average to .429.

Senior right-hander Steve Fish, who improved to 9-5, held the Longhorns to four runs on six hits through the first six innings. NU improved to 26-33 overall and 6-21 in the Big 12 Conference.

Trailing 19-4 entering the top of the seventh, the Longhorns sent 11 batters to the plate and scored seven runs on five hits, including two

home runs.

"It's hard to think that you had 15 runs and lost by 10," Texas Coach Augie Garrido said. "I was disappointed with the non-competitive attitude of the pitchers. But we have to give credit to Nebraska. They did a great job at the plate."

NU senior center fielder Francis Collins broke Darin Erstad's team record for hits in a season when he knocked a two-run shot to center in the ninth inning — his 104th hit.

"I knew I was close," said Collins, who went 4-for-7, "but I didn't think I would get it today."

Junior second baseman Kevin Harrington also knocked four hits on Sunday, snapping an 11-for-63 slump.

"I don't want to jinx myself by saying I broke the slump," Harrington said, "but it was nice to have a multiple-hit game."

Harrington said the win will give the Huskers momentum when they finish their season in Ames, Iowa, next weekend in a three-game series against Iowa State.

## NU softball must wait for invite

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Assignment Reporter

For the first time this season, the Nebraska softball team does not control its own destiny.

With regular season play completed, all the Cornhuskers can do is sit and wait to see if a 27-22 record and an average performance in the Big 12 Tournament this weekend will be enough to qualify for the NCAA Tournament May 16.

"It's suspenseful," said Nebraska Coach Rhonda Revelle. "I think we deserve a look, but so do a lot of other people. Thirty-two teams are in, and I don't know if we're going to be one of those 32 teams or not."

One team that appears to be bound for the NCAA Tournament is Oklahoma (53-16), which eliminated the Huskers with a 1-0 win Saturday.

Seventh-ranked Oklahoma's only run came in the fourth inning on a NU error. With one runner on base and two outs, OU's Jenny Lopez hit a fly foul ball to left field that if caught, could have ended the inning.

On her next look from Jenny Voss, Lopez hit a grounder to second base. Freshman Alice Brewer bobbled the hit, then overthrew first baseman Rachael Dunham, allowing Christine Benyak to score the winning run.

"It was a tough error," Revelle said, "but it was still an error. It was hard, but by the same token, you have to score to win, and we couldn't score."

Oklahoma's freshman pitcher Lana Moran threw a complete game and held NU to only four hits.

"Their pitcher did a nice job of keeping us off balance," Revelle said. "She hurt us with her change up. We didn't adjust quickly."

NU played two games on Friday, losing to Oklahoma State in an 18-inning marathon, then rebounding to defeat Baylor.

Revelle said the Huskers neither hurt nor helped their chances for a spot in the NCAA Tournament with their play this weekend. Nebraska will have to wait until the middle of next week to see if it earned a regional bid.

"I think we need serious consideration for a regional berth," Revelle said. "Our record hurts us a little, but if you look at the quality of teams we played, then we should definitely be considered."

## Husker women, men like chances to advance

By SAM MCKEOWN  
Staff Reporter

It's simple mathematics for the Nebraska women's golf team.

Twenty teams compete in the NCAA West Regional Tournament. The top 11 continue on to the NCAA Championships, and the rest finish their season.



Krapfl

Cornhusker Coach Robin Krapfl said the Huskers' goal is to be one of the 11 when they compete in the NCAA Regionals, Thursday through Sunday in Tucson, Ariz.

"We're going to do it," Krapfl said. "There isn't any doubt in my mind that we're going to nationals this year,

period."

Last year, NU missed playing for the title by falling one stroke short at The Champions Club in Omaha.

This year, the Huskers enter regionals with an inexperienced but more talented team that Krapfl said is one of her best. She predicted the team would make the trip to Columbus, Ohio, for the NCAA Championships, May 21-24.

Leading the way will be junior Rachelle Tacha, who has been to the NCAA Championships as an individual player.

"Rachelle is capable of playing as good as anyone in the nation," Krapfl said. "She has been in this situation before, and she knows what it's going to take to go to the NCAA Championships."

Adding punch and distance to the lineup is the freshmen duo of Hanne Nyquist and Elizabeth Bahensky.

Nyquist has been a solid player for NU all year, and Bahensky has come on at the end of

the season with a strong finish at the Big 12 Championships.

Krapfl said Bahensky's improvement has helped solidify the Huskers' lineup.

"We knew that she could be good very quick," Krapfl said. "It was just an issue of her adjusting to the collegiate golf scene and becoming mentally ready to play."

Krapfl said top-ranked Arizona will be favored to win the West Regional. Krapfl said NU could finish as high as sixth or seventh.

"We got a good lineup and if we play well the whole tournament, we're going to be in good position to win a spot for nationals," Krapfl said.

Making the NCAA Tournament has been a goal of the Huskers all year, Krapfl said.

"We're really ready for this," Krapfl said. "I know that our lineup is good enough to do it."

The Nebraska men's golf team must wait until Tuesday to learn the fate of its season when the NCAA announces regional qualifiers.

NU Coach Larry Romjue said a berth in the regionals is "likely" despite a sixth place finish at the Big 12 Championships.

"I think our team has performed well enough to get into the regionals," Romjue said. "I wasn't happy with the Big 12 Tournament, but I think we can make a run at the NCAA spot."

"We've beaten a lot of the teams that I think are going to be there. We have to put together the right type of tournament, but it is within the capability of this team."

One member of the men's team who needs to perform well if the Huskers earn an NCAA regional spot is sophomore Josh Madden, a native of Gold Coast, Australia. Madden finished third at the Big 12 Championships and has a chance at All-America honors.

"Josh has really developed into our best golfer on the team," Romjue said. "He has been so consistent in the course of the spring that it has been amazing."