



Helping hands

Newcomers spell relief for pitcher

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Senior Reporter

Jenny Voss carried the Nebraska softball team on her back more than once last year.

The freshman pitcher hurled 81 percent of the Nebraska softball team's innings in 1997. She shattered NU single-season records for complete games (36) and innings pitched (295 1/3).

She threw 17 straight innings against Oklahoma State in the longest game in Big 12 Conference history last May in the league championships.

But she ended the season with the knowledge that she doesn't want to perform miracles for three more years if she doesn't have to. The load

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MATT MILLER/DN
NU PITCHING STAFF ACE Jenny Voss, left, hopes to get some throwing relief this season from first-year Husker pitchers Christie McCoy, center, and Lori Tschannon. Voss tossed Husker records for innings pitched and complete games last year.

NU NCAA hopes looking brighter

BY SAM MCKEOWN
Senior Reporter

Men's Basketball
Nebraska at Iowa St.
Saturday at 6:30 p.m.
Hilton Coliseum at Ames, Iowa

Depending on who you ask, the Nebraska men's basketball team may have already secured a spot in the NCAA Tournament.



Ask Texas Tech Coach James Dickey, whose Red Raider team lost to the Cornhuskers 82-65 Wednesday, and he'll say they're in.

"Nebraska shouldn't even be questioned about being in the NCAA Tournament," Dickey said. "They ought to be there. They're good."

Ask NU point guard Tyrone Lue, and he'll say he'd still like to win the Huskers' last regular season game at Iowa State Saturday - just to be safe.

"We just want to win out," Lue said. "If we won six straight games, we'd be a hot team going into the (NCAA) Tournament."

Nebraska already has some good arguments to be in the tourney going into Saturday's ESPN-televized game with the Cyclones, set for 6:30 p.m. at Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa.

- At 18-10 overall and 9-6 in the Big 12 Conference, NU has a record indicative of a NCAA Tournament-bound team. Last season, Texas made the Big Dance with a 16-11 overall record and a 10-6 record in the Big 12.

NU's Rating Percentage Index is high. The NCAA Tournament Committee uses the RPI - which combines strength of schedule, Division I winning percentage and opponents' strength of schedule - to help determine tourney teams.

While the NCAA doesn't release its official RPI ratings, an independent organization that duplicates its findings showed Nebraska to be 39th in the nation. It showed NU's schedule to be the 23rd toughest out of 306 teams.

Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said any RPI under 40 is good.

But Nee said he isn't looking past ISU (12-16 and 5-10), which is 5-2 vs. Big 12 teams at home this season. And he doesn't think the Huskers have secured a spot in the NCAA Tournament yet.

"We've got to win a couple more games," Nee said. "At least two. I told the guys that we have to stay focused for Iowa State."

A big part of NU's game plan will go back to its defense, Nee said. The Huskers held the Cyclones to 34.6 percent shooting from the field in Nebraska's 63-49 win over ISU on Jan. 24.

"Our defense was sound against Colorado and Texas Tech," Nee said. "We've got to go out and play damn hard on defense for 40 minutes to win on the road."

Huskers settle for split

From Staff Reports

After falling to Eastern Kentucky earlier in the day, the Nebraska baseball team warmed up its bats and defeated Cincinnati 12-7 Thursday in Louisville, Ky.

The Cornhuskers (4-4) knocked a season-high 14 hits against the Bearcats including eight for extra bases.

"We jumped on them early and didn't let up until the end," NU senior Clifton Durham said.

In the bottom of the first, freshman Daniel Kimura ripped a two-run double to right field. NU added another run in the second on a single by shortstop Bryan Schmidt to take a 3-0 lead.

Cincinnati (1-6) scored a run in the top of the third before the Huskers jumped on Bearcat starter Larry Mohs with three runs in the fourth and six in the fifth.

NU designated hitter Craig Moore led the Huskers at the plate going 5 for 9 on the day with six RBIs. The junior upped his season average to .400.

Lefty Jay Siriani (2-1) earned the win for Nebraska tossing seven innings and giving up five earned runs while striking out six.

The Huskers had similar success on the mound in the first game, but didn't get the run support.

First baseman Ken Harvey smacked a 385-foot homer to put Nebraska up 2-0 in the first inning against Eastern Kentucky, but the Huskers scored just twice the rest of the game. Harvey finished the day 4 for 8 keeping his season average at .500 (15 for 30).

Senior right-hander Ken Duebelbeis (1-1) threw seven innings allowing five earned runs and striking out two.

"The pitching was solid," Durham said. "We just didn't score when we had

Baseball Game 1		
Eastern Kentucky		7
Nebraska		4

Baseball Game 2		
Nebraska		12
Cincinnati		7

the opportunities to. We didn't have that killer instinct."

The Huskers will face Louisville at 1 p.m. today and will play two games Saturday and one Sunday before leaving Louisville.

Despite the loss, NU still has a positive attitude, Durham said.

"I still think we're the cream of the crop down here," Durham said. "We should go 5-1."

DeForge up for final home game

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Senior Reporter

Women's Basketball
Iowa St. at Nebraska
Saturday at 7:05 p.m.
Bob Devaney Sports Center

Twenty minutes after the Nebraska women's basketball team finished practicing Thursday, Anna DeForge lingered on the court at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

She circled the 3-point arc, lofting shot after shot until she began to make more than she missed.

DeForge, who leads the Cornhuskers with 18.2 points per game, finished with eight points in Wednesday's loss at Texas Tech - the second time in three games the senior All-American has failed to score in dou-

ble digits.

"I need help, that's for sure," DeForge said.

DeForge is one of five NU seniors who will play at the Devaney Center for the final time in her career Saturday at 7:05 p.m. against Iowa State.

And when DeForge - along with Jami Kubik, Emily Thompson, J.J. Jurgens and Amy Gusso - takes the home court for the last time, she wants to go out in style.

"I've really thought quite a bit about

it," DeForge said. "It will be emotional, but I am also excited for it. I've put in a long four years here. You want to go out with a bang in your last game at home."

ISU Coach Bill Fennelly suspects the Cyclones will receive DeForge's best effort and then some.

The Cyclones own the second-place spot in the league as the Big 12 Conference Tournament approaches, while the Huskers could finish anywhere from third, if they win tomorrow night, to sixth, if they lose.

"(DeForge) has just got to be bouncing off the walls," Fennelly said. "I'm just glad she's a senior and, thank good-

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