

NU baseball team shows promise in coach's first year

BY ADAM KLINKER
Staff Reporter

A new coach for the first time in 20 years, 19 returning lettermen and nine returning starters helped the Nebraska baseball team post a winning record for the 1998 season.

Under new coach Dave Van Horn, the Cornhuskers finished 24-20, including a 10-13 record in Big 12 conference play. The Huskers also compiled a 13-4 home record at Buck Beltzer Field.

"It's not a great record," Van Horn said, "but I think (players and coaches) can be proud of what they've accomplished. We competed well."

Van Horn, who took over for Coach John Sanders on January 8, came in just 39 days before the season opener at Minnesota. Van Horn came to NU from Northwestern Louisiana State, where he was 106-65 as the Demon's skipper from 1995-97.

"It was a long-awaited change," shortstop Bryan Schmidt said. "We were all anxious to get someone new to the program."

Senior catcher Andy Sawyers

echoed Schmidt's sentiments.

"I think the transition went really well," said Sawyers, who started in 17 games. "With the new coaches coming in, we could tell the program was going to turn right around."

Both Sawyers and Schmidt agreed that Van Horn put more stress on pitching, defense and fundamentals.

"We did the little things everyday," Schmidt said. "It got boring at times, but it won us some games."

The turnaround was evident in several key Husker wins this season. For the first time since 1987, the Huskers swept conference rival and perennial powerhouse Oklahoma, in a three game series at Buck Beltzer Stadium. It was also the first conference sweep by NU since 1994.

The NU squad also swept Wisconsin-Milwaukee in a three game series at the beginning of the season for Van Horn's first victories as Husker head coach.

Another high for the Huskers was winning the championship at the Hawaii Rainbow Easter Tournament in Honolulu. NU went 5-2 in tournament play and beat host team Hawaii 2-1 for the champi-

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onship.

"We played flat out better baseball than we have in the past," Sawyers said. "We were light years ahead of last year's team."

The 10 wins in conference play were a school record and helped NU earn a seventh-place finish in the Big 12, six games away from making the conference tournament.

Looking ahead to the 1999 season, Van Horn said he expects to see a great deal more out of his ballclub after the turnaround in 1998.

"We've got to make a run at it," Van Horn said. "I think we can be a better team in 1999."

Ten small ways to stop one big problem.

The next time everyday pressures build up to the point where you feel like lashing out - STOP!

Here's what to do instead:

1. Take a deep breath. And another. Then remember you are the adult . . .
2. Close your eyes and imagine you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
3. Press your lips together and count to 10. Or, better yet, to 20.
4. Put your child in a time-out chair. (Remember the rule: one time-out minute for each year of age.)
5. Phone a friend.
6. If someone can watch the children, go outside and take a walk.
7. Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
8. Turn on some music. Maybe even sing a song.
9. Pick up a pencil and write down as many helpful words as you can think of. Save the list.
10. For more information on the prevention of child abuse, contact your local office of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.



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