

Ambassadors work behind scenes at College World Series

BY AMY MISCHO
Staff Reporter

The pink jacket, red dress and high heels of the Sweethearts of the College World Series have been replaced with the shorts and T-shirts that the men would be more inclined to wear.

Five students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who all happen to be from Chi Omega sorority, were part of the eight-member team of College World Series Ambassadors. The other three were two students from University of Nebraska at Omaha and one from University of Nebraska Medical Center. These eight were chosen out of the 50 to 60 who applied.

Andrea Grant, a senior business administration major who has been a CWS Ambassador the last three years, was the veteran of the group and encouraged her sorority sisters to apply.

She got involved because she likes baseball. Her father coached baseball and she has two brothers who played. But a previous interest in baseball is not necessarily required, however it may help, she said.

Brenda Passmore, a senior communication studies major and one of Grant's sorority sisters, said she wished she knew more about baseball, though.

"I wish I knew more when I talked

to the players," Passmore said. "But I learned more every day."

Grant also encouraged Natalie Brown to apply. Brown, a junior advertising major, said her first year had been the "best experience of her life."

Students from Chi Omega have been involved with the Ambassadors from near the beginning, Grant said.

"It's great knowing our sorority is so involved," Brown said.

The students selected, including the UNL students, were the first faces the CWS teams saw when they got off their planes May 27-28. The Ambassadors made sure the fans and the players enjoyed their stays in Omaha, and they attended all of the games and worked at the booths set up by the service organizations. They also worked as runners for the NCAA.

The Sweethearts were disbanded in 1991 and replaced with the CWS Ambassadors. The Sweethearts were each assigned to their own teams and were all women. Men can now apply to be Ambassadors.

"They decided to change the image," Grant said.

Every student who applies has an interview, and 16 are chosen. Those 16 take part in modeling Younker's clothing and answering three questions from three judges. Younker's is a sponsor of the Ambassador program.

Each team playing in the CWS

was assigned a service organization, such as the Kiwanas, that made sure the team made its charter bus after getting off the plane, arrived at the motel, ate and had everything it needed. The Ambassadors aided those service organizations.

"We help in any way that we can," Grant said.

The program is voluntary, but there are benefits. This year, one student won a scholarship. Robert Green of UNO received \$1500 from Younker's based on his participation in the program, the number of tickets he sold and other factors. The students also attended the games and received one extra ticket each day.

The Ambassadors attended events planned by the service clubs for the players. One team toured Offutt Air Force Base, and Mississippi State players visited the children in Methodist Children's Hospital.

"That just made the kids' day," Grant said. "And the players didn't want to leave."

Another Ambassador duty was to help with promoting the College World Series. They went on radio shows, such as Gary Java's Sports Talk on the Sports Pinnacle Network, and were on Lite 96 and Sweet 98.

Brown said she enjoyed her radio debut.

"I was on KFAB," Brown said. "I didn't think I'd like it because I was new, and this was before the Series started, but it was really great."

Friesen finishes 2nd at regionals

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proved they could compete. We're a legitimate team."

Rogers, who was named to the Golf Coaches Association of America honorable-mention All-America team, came back from a first-round 73 to shoot a second-round 65, a score that tied the school record of 65 held by former Husker standout Knox Jones.

"It was great," Rogers said. "What better place to do it than at Regionals?" Romjue said he knew his top player

was capable of big things, it was just a matter of time.

"Jamie is a good player," Romjue said. "I've been expecting it all along. He is probably the best player we've had at our school."

Rogers wrapped up the tournament with a third-round 69, good enough for second place, making him the highest NU finisher at a Regional tournament with a six-under-par 207.

Friesen, also turned in a career showing, placing 15th, his highest at a regional tournament.

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Tressa Thompson wins 3rd title at track nationals

BY ADAM KLINKER
Staff Reporter

For Nebraska senior shot-putter Tressa Thompson, the third time wasn't just a charm, it was the gem.

Thompson took home her third national title from the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Buffalo, N.Y., June 3-6, capping off a senior season that also included Big 12 championships in shot and discus.

"I came out of my career with three national championships, and I couldn't be happier," Thompson said after beating out rival Teri Tunks of Southern Methodist University with a throw of 61 feet-2 1/4 inches — good enough to break her own NCAA Championship meet record of 60-8 1/2, set in 1997.

Led by Thompson's shot put win and eighth-place discus throw, the Nebraska women's track team finished eighth place at nationals with 26 points. Big 12 champion Texas also won the NCAA Championship, finishing with 60 points.

Competing with Tunks, a two-time national champion from Crete, Thompson said she was eager to see who would come out on top for a third title.

"After I won, I was feeling a great relief," she said.

Also scoring was sophomore Kim Stewart, who finished second in the first-ever women's pole vaulting com-

petition at the national championships.

With a vault of 12 feet-5 1/2 inches, Stewart matched the mark of champion Bianca Maran of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and third-place Leslie Henley of Tennessee. However, due to fewer misses, Maran was crowned champion.

NU's other scorers were senior Meka Rembert, who finished eighth in the 400 meter hurdles, sophomore Dahlia Ingram, who claimed seventh in the triple jump, and the 4 x 400 relay of Rembert, Leslie Owusu, La'Tisha Croom and Stella Klassen.

The Husker men were paced by Shane Lavy in the high jump and Chris Wright in the long jump. They scored 12.5, well behind Arkansas's 58 points, to help NU to an 18th place finish.

Lavy, a junior, jumped 7-3 1/4 to finish in a tie for fourth place with Kenny Evans of Arkansas. Nathan Leeper of Kansas State won the event.

Wright, in his final national championship meet, placed second in the long jump with a bound of 26-10 1/2, shattering his personal best of 26-0. Robert Howard of Arkansas won the title with a jump of 27-5 1/4 inches.

Wright said that after his first jump of 26-0, he prayed for an increase of three to four inches in his next jumps, which he got, and then some.

"It was just incredible," Wright said. "I have nothing to be ashamed of. I came back and I competed."

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