

# Huskers pound UT pitching for sweep

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time he made a mistake, they hammered it. But we wanted to fight through it and give him an opportunity.

"He was out there and his adrenaline was going. Bringing in a new pitcher that hadn't pitched a whole lot, it might have taken him three or four batters to get it going. We didn't feel like, with the way Texas was swinging, that we could do that."

And Sirianni had the run support. With the exception of two innings, Nebraska matched or bettered the run totals put up by the Longhorns in the top half of the inning. The Huskers, who upped their team average to .371, have now scored in double figures in 11 of their last 12 games.

"We're a great hitting team," said center fielder Jamal Strong, who knocked three hits in five at bats

Sunday. "We're always going to put up these runs. We knew we had it in us."

The Longhorns, too, had entered the series with hot bats, hitting .317 as a team. But the Husker pitching staff—backed by complete-game efforts from Sirianni and Scott Fries on Friday—combined to hold Texas to 26 hits in 105 at bats (.248).

Pitching had been Van Horn's main concern entering the weekend series. Injuries prevented starters Steve Hale and Shane Komine from making starts against UT, and NU's bullpen didn't possess much conference experience. But that didn't prove to be a problem.

Fries (5-1) tossed a complete-game five hitter Friday, as Nebraska upset the Longhorns 11-4.

Saturday, four Husker pitchers combined to surrender eight runs on 11 hits. The last two pitchers, Brandon Penas and Komine, worked 5 2/3

innings of scoreless relief and Komine earned his fifth win of the season.

"I am very impressed with their pitching plan," Texas Coach Augie Garrido said. "Childress has them moving the ball in and out really well, changing speeds. I thought it was very impressive."

The Longhorns, who had sat atop the Big 12 Conference until Friday, fell to 22-11 overall and 8-4 in the league. Nebraska, on the other hand, jumped from third to first in the conference with Friday's win.

"I think it's just a big boost of our confidence and it's great for our baseball program here at Nebraska," Van Horn said. "It's going to help us in recruiting, and naturally it's going to help us in the standings. We feel like we can play with anybody."

The Huskers moved into the Collegiate Baseball Poll for the first time in 11 years last Sunday after

defeating Chicago State 50-3 on March 16.

Sweeping a Top 10 team, Harvey said, will no doubt help the Huskers earn even more national respect.

"The Chicago State game got us a little notoriety—as far as getting us into the rankings," Harvey said. "But now, I think they can see that we're for real by sweeping Texas."

"We came into this series thinking that we can sweep anybody. You have to have confidence in this league. If you don't, you're going to lose every game."

## Garrido impressed with NU pitching

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Husker sweep, Garrido and the Longhorns, the old neighborhood toughs, had just received a taste of their own medicine.

"The real story is in the level at which Nebraska played this weekend," Garrido said. "It was a very high level. They handled the fundamentals of the game offensively and defensively very well."

It was the fundamentals that Garrido discussed with his team: what the Longhorns may have lacked, what Nebraska most certainly had.

But what Garrido was most impressed with was NU's uncanny

knack for baffling the Longhorn hitters with solid pitching and putting up more runs.

No matter what happened in the three game series, the Huskers were always cutting away at a Longhorn lead or building up one of their own.

"We were outplayed," Garrido said. "But it wasn't on the negative side of things. They just kept putting runs up on the board, so they took the game away from us offensively."

But UT still had some bright spots in the batting order. Catcher Sam Anderson was 3-4 with two home runs, a double and three runs batted in. Right fielder Steve Woodward was 2-3 with a triple, a solo home run.

But Anderson, too, credited the Husker pitching staff with craftily disrupting the Texas hitters' timing. "Like Coach said, they mix pitches well; they kept us off-balance, they worked us away then busted us inside," Anderson said. "They've just got a really good pitching staff."

And with the fundamentals, the pitching, the hitting and the ability to put them all together, Garrido and Anderson agreed NU is for real.

"(Nebraska is) a very impressive college baseball team," Garrido said. "They're well-schooled, well-coached and they're very disciplined and very committed to the team effort."

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