



UT Coach Garrido impressed with Nebraska pitching

BY ADAM KLINKER
Senior staff writer

Texas Baseball Coach Augie Garrido had a long talk with his team following the ninth-ranked Longhorns' 12-8 loss to No. 30 Nebraska on Saturday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field.

The UT squad stood in right field surrounding Garrido, some players looked down, others looked at their coach and still others caught fleeting glimpses of what was happening on the other side of the field, where a small mob of reporters and NU fans were gathered around the dugout.

There was a new kid on the block in Big 12 Conference baseball and in a three-game

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MATT MILLER/DN
HUSKER FIRST BASEMAN Ken Harvey is congratulated by his teammates after he hit a two-run homer in the third inning. Harvey scored six runs in the three-game homestand.

Nebraska women claim 6th straight Big 12 title

BY JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Nebraska Women's Gymnastics Coach Dan Kendig was feeling a little nervous before the Big 12 Championships on Saturday night.

One would wonder why. His team was going into the championships on a nine-meet winning streak. And his gymnasts even had a stellar warm-up session.

That was exactly Kendig's concern.

"I was scared after they had such a great warm-up," Kendig said. "For some reason, you get worried that they'll not follow that up in the real thing."

But Kendig had nothing to worry

about. Indeed, plenty of drama did unfold for Kendig's team, but none of it had to do with whether or not the No. 8 Huskers would win.

The real drama would be if NU set the school and Big 12 record for best performance ever and win its ninth straight meet, in which a Husker gymnast would become the 10th straight to win the all-around.

And in the final act, NU hit clutch routines in the uneven bars to set the school record at 196.75. The Huskers captured their sixth consecutive Big 12 title, their seventh in the 1990s.

No. 16 Iowa State fell second at 195.65. No. 18 Oklahoma finished third at

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MATT MILLER/DN
LONGHORN CATCHER Sam Anderson tags out Jamal Strong at home early in the game Sunday at Buck Beltzer Stadium. The 30th-ranked Huskers swept the ninth ranked Longhorns, including a 12-8 win Sunday.

NU sweeps UT for 1st in Big 12

■ Husker pitcher Jay Sirianni redeems himself Sunday with complete-game victory.

BY DAVID WILSON
Staff writer

The name scribbled in black at the bottom of the primarily red-inked lineup card in the Cornhusker dugout Sunday may have looked like a mistake.

It wasn't. Making his second start in as many days, Nebraska left-hander Jay Sirianni worked a complete game Sunday as the 30th-ranked Huskers completed a three-game sweep of No. 9 Texas.

Sirianni's fourth win of the season and second career complete game followed a short outing Saturday, in which he was yanked in the first inning after surrendering a grand slam.

But he had no trouble getting started Sunday, throwing four scoreless innings en route to a 12-8 victory before a Buck Beltzer Field record crowd of 3,387 fans. With the win, the Huskers maintained their hold on first place in the Big 12 Conference at 8-1 and 20-6 overall.

"It's easier to forget about a bad outing when you win as a team," Sirianni said. "I was just fortunate enough to get the ball again."

Nebraska Coach Dave Van Horn said he made the decision to start Sirianni again Sunday just hours after the Huskers' come-from-behind 9-8 victory Saturday afternoon.

From there, Van Horn said, it was up to

Sirianni.

"It was Jay's call," Van Horn said. "We talked to Jay at breakfast and he said, 'Coach, I want to go.' I knew mentally he could do it. When he's on, he's one of our best pitchers."

NU Pitching Coach Rob Childress inked Sirianni's name into the empty hole at the bottom of the lineup during batting practice.

The decision, first baseman Ken Harvey said, was fully backed by the players.

"I knew he was going to come out with everything he had because he doesn't want to let us down, like we don't want to let him down," Harvey said. "It was huge for him to battle through nine innings and get a 'W.'"

With the help of a Harvey homer — his 12th of the season — the Huskers broke a scoreless game with three runs in the third, and then added another three in the fourth to take a 6-0 lead.

Texas battled back, scoring in each of the final five innings, but the Longhorn's effort couldn't outmatch the Huskers' offensive output.

UT did manage to close the gap to 10-6 in the top of the seventh — when Childress suggested Van Horn pull Sirianni for right-hander Chad Wiles.

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