

NU baseball starts to believe

BY ADAM KLINKER
Senior staff writer

There's something about the human brain that makes it very susceptible to believing in just about everything.

And with that belief, the brain cannot discern an imagined act and one that is real.

For a long time, the Nebraska baseball team thought it could be a contender. Thus far into the 1999 season, it's convinced itself, its brain and much of the nation, that it is.

No. 19 NU (20-6 overall, 8-1 in the Big 12 Conference) now sits atop the Big 12, sweeps teams like Texas in a three-game series, is nationally ranked in three polls and breaks NCAA records.

"It's always in the back of your mind that you could be up there," Cornhusker first baseman Ken Harvey said. "But until you really hear it and see it for yourself ... once you see the team getting that kind of recognition, it's a real eye-opener."

It's all a matter of what you choose to believe, Harvey said. And once NU Coach Dave Van Horn got the Husker squad to believe in winning, the victories followed.

"Sometimes that takes awhile," Van

Horn said of establishing a winning spirit. "But this team has learned how to win, and they like it. Once you've learned to win, you just keep winning."

That learning process came easy for the Huskers, especially after having to forget the less-than-stellar moments that have preceded the rise to the top.

With a mix of the old guard, remnants from the John Sanders era and new blood mixed together by new coaching leadership, Nebraska baseball is winning at a clip that has not been reached in over 10 years.

"I love to win," NU freshman second baseman Will Bolt said. "That's a big thing. I knew it would happen here; that's one of the main reasons I came here. The program is on the rise; people are starting to get excited. I just knew."

And it seems as if they all knew, Harvey said.

From the beginning of the season, the goals have been the same, only the belief in those goals has grown stronger as new words start creeping into the Husker baseball vocabulary: words like "Big 12 Tournament" and "regional."

"Just like anyone else, we want to get to the Big 12 Tournament," Harvey said. "We want to win the Big 12. We want a regional spot. We want the World Series. Our goal is the same - make it to Omaha."

"We want the World Series. Our goal is the same - make it to Omaha."

KEN HARVEY
Husker first baseman

Still, NU remembers what it has taken to get this far, and the squad knows it will only take more if those goals are to be truly realized.

"We're just starting to get the respect," Bolt said. "We've just got to keep the focus and remember what's ahead of us. But there's never a doubt in Coach's mind. They've instilled in us that we're going to win."

There is a lot of baseball left, Van Horn admits, but there's no time like the present, and no state of mind like the one that NU is grabbing onto.

Harvey said the attitude remained high, and seeing the tangible element of what were previously only dreams had been a definitive moment in history.

Said Harvey, without hesitation: "Nebraska baseball is for real."

Huskers lose three to draft, injuries

From staff reports

Three Nebraska basketball players have said their good-byes to NU, all on different terms with different directions for the future.

Former Cornhusker center and Big 12 player of the year Venson Hamilton left school two weeks ago to begin workouts at a camp in Indiana run by ex-Husker Tyrone Lue's agent, Andy Miller.

Hamilton will be appearing in an NBA prospect camp this weekend in Portsmouth, Va., in hopes of going on to the NBA's pre-draft camp in June and making himself available for the June 30 two-round NBA draft.

Hamilton rounded out his four-year playing career at Nebraska atop the all-time Husker rebounding charts and also was a member of the 1,000 point/1,000 rebound club.

Also making decisions to leave the NU program this week were Husker guards Todd Smith and Joe Holmes.

Smith, a redshirt freshman from

Milledgeville, Ga., appeared in eight games and scored one point in the 1998-99 season. He played six games in 1997-98 and scored 10 points.

After stress fractures in his lower legs that required the surgical implanting of steel rods, Smith missed most of the 1997 season and was granted a medical hardship.

Smith will depart NU in search of more playing time at a different school.

Holmes, who has been plagued by recurring back problems that stem from a car crash a few years ago, has also finished his playing career at NU.

A junior-college transfer from Tyler (Texas) Junior College, Holmes started 24 of 33 games at point guard this season for the Huskers, averaging 1.7 points per game and dishing out 41 assists.

With NCAA approval of a medical hardship, Holmes will finish out the semester in school under scholarship. Because of his injuries, he is not expected to continue his basketball career.

Warren anticipates tackling fourth season as a leader

BY DARREN IVY
Senior staff writer

It's hard to picture Steve Warren being thrown around by anyone.

At 6-foot-1 and 305 pounds, Warren is one of the biggest players on the Nebraska football team. But growing up in the Warren family, he wasn't always the biggest boy. One of his older brothers is 6-foot tall and 280 pounds and the other one is 6-foot tall and 320 pounds.

"They threw me around a lot," said Steve, who weighed 290 pounds when he graduated from Kickapoo High School (Springfield, Mo.) in 1996.

Playing football against his older brothers and their friends helped Warren to become an aggressive defensive player and formed the foundation for his collegiate career. Now a senior, Warren is ready to become the leader of the defensive front. Warren is thankful his brothers were willing to take him along to pick-up games.

"Some older brothers wouldn't take their little brothers along," Warren said. "They liked to take me along because I was big enough that I could go play with them and hold my own. I got used to playing with older people. As I was growing up, I was used to being physical. That helped me a lot."

At NU, Warren has played all three years, recording six tackles and a half



Warren

Spring Report

sack in 1996, 19 tackles and one sack in 1997 and 26 tackles and no sacks in 1998.

Junior lineman Luis Almanzar said statistics only tell part of the tale.

"He's a really strong, powerful guy," Almanzar said. "He's great at stopping the run."

For his size, Warren is remarkably quick and hard to move. Warren said his quickness and power are what enables him to play nose tackle.

Warren was unable to participate during winter conditioning as he recovered from knee surgery. He's now 100 percent and ready to be a leader.

"At practice I try to keep everybody having a positive attitude," Warren said. "I think this year we need to go out and have fun. I think last year, about midway through the season, people stopped having fun. It was beginning to be more of a routine. People were losing hope."

The soft-spoken Warren does his leading mostly by example, but he's not afraid to get after people.

"I'm not a real vocal player," Warren said. "I'm not the rah-rah type, but if I have to, I will say something. If I see something I don't like, I'm going to make it known to the rest of the players."

Despite Warren's soft-spoken attitude Almanzar said Warren is unquestionably the leader of the interior linemen.

"We just follow behind him," Almanzar said. "He ignites the engine, and we just help him push it."

Edward James Olmos

We're All On The Same Team - A Celebration of Cultural Diversity

Tonight
7:30 p.m.
Centennial Ballroom
Nebraska Union
Free

Olmos is an actor, producer, director and community activist. He starred in the Warner Bros. feature film release of *Selena*. He won an Emmy Award and Golden Globe Award for his role in *Alamo*. He received an Oscar nomination for his role in *Marina* and *Deliverance*, which he also directed.

Facility is Wheel Chair accessible. Interpreter will be provided.

Lincoln throws away 270,000 trees worth of paper in a year.

Please recycle your DN.

DANCING THURSDAY
April 1st, 15th & 29th
Doors open at 8 p.m.
Lessons begin at 8:30 p.m.
Lessons by Amy Castro of Dance Sport USA
The PLA MOR
Call 475-4030 for more info.

Advertising Positions

Applications are now being taken for summer and fall sales positions in the advertising department of the Daily Nebraskan. Must be available 15-20 hours per week, be dependable, outgoing, and excited about working with people. Any major is acceptable. We offer commissions based on sales and plenty of sales and creative experience.

Summer positions begin no later than May 17 and fall positions begin no later than August 2. Orientation will be scheduled in April for those hired. Summer staff do not have to be registered for classes, but must be enrolled in at least six hours during this Spring or the fall semester, maintain a 2.0 minimum G.P.A., and not be on academic probation. Applications are available at the Daily Nebraskan advertising office, basement of the Nebraska Union, and must be returned before **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7.**

Strange things are afoot at the DN.

Be part of the madness.

The Daily Nebraskan is now accepting applications for senior positions for the fall semester. Any major field and class standing will be eligible as long as you are taking at least six credit hours and have a 2.0 GPA or higher.

Positions are open for: managing editor, associate news editor, assignment editor, copy desk chief, copy editors, sports editor, A&E editor, opinion editor, night editors, design chief, designers, art director, photo chief, senior artist, senior reporters, senior photographer, web editor and assistant web editor.

Pick up applications at the front desk of the Daily Nebraskan office, 34 Nebraska Union. Applications are due Friday, April 2. Interviews will be held during the week of April 5-10.

Join the Husker Football Recruiters

Students, help the Husker Football team and coaches recruit student-athletes. Call Curt at 472-5055 by April 5th for details and to set up an interview.