

DN FILE PHOTO

THE NEBRASKA BASEBALL TEAM faces a three-game set against the Iowa State Cyclones this weekend in Ames, Iowa.

Huskers trounce Cyclones

By JAKE BLEED
Staff writer

As a sudden rain squall pounded against the bubbles at the Woods Tennis Complex, the Nebraska women's tennis team picked up its fourth conference victory of the season against **Nebraska 8 Iowa State 1** on Thursday.

The 8-1 victory will help NU's regional and Big 12 Conference rankings although the greatest tests of the weekend are still in store.

"This is when we had to win," Coach Scott Jacobson said. "We had to win in order to have a chance (at making the regional tournament). What's really going to affect it is this weekend."

Iowa State fell to 5-14 overall and 0-10 in the Big 12.

The No. 66 (16-6 overall, 4-5 Big 12 conference) Huskers dominated the match from the start. All six singles matches were decided in NU's favor in straight sets. No. 1 singles Sandra Noetzel's victory over Noortje Cronelissen was her 75th career victory, tying her with Iidiko Guba for the all-time Husker record.

The new No. 1 doubles team picked up its second victory 8-2. Gina Pelazini was added to the No. 1 team in last week's victory over Oklahoma. She replaced the injured Ndali Ijomah, who was moved to the No. 3 doubles team.

The No. 2 doubles team of Katarina Balan and Danica Hardy won their match 8-1.

Amy Frisch and Ndali Ijomah defaulted their match at No. 3 doubles, giving Iowa State its only point and Ijomah a needed rest.

Ijomah has suffered from tendinitis in her left knee for several weeks. But with only six active players, Jacobson has been forced to play her.

Ijomah said she suffered from the same injury last year.

"It just gets worse as the season goes on," Ijomah said.

But tendinitis of the knee hasn't stopped Ijomah. A tough competitor, she has retained her No. 3 singles position all season and, despite her injury, racked up a 15-7 season record.

Assistant Coach Lisa Hiscock-Hart said deciding to sideline Ijomah wasn't always easy.

"She's never going to come up to you and say 'I don't want to play,'" Hiscock-Hart said. "Ever."

NU plays hosts Baylor on Saturday and Colorado on Sunday. Ranked 41st and 36th respectively, Baylor and Colorado are two Big 12 teams NU will need to beat to make the regional tournament.

Sunday's match is the last of NU's regular season. The Big 12 Tournament starts May 29.

Noetzel's attempt to break the NU all-time-win record will face a major obstacle Saturday with Baylor's Katja Kovak, ranked 57th nationally.

Jacobson said he was very happy with how the team played today.

"The girls looked really, really confident today," Jacobson said.

Also this weekend, the Nebraska men's tennis team will meet Big 12 rivals Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. The Sooners arrive in Lincoln Friday for a 2 p.m. date with NU. The match with the Cowboys is Saturday, also at 2 p.m.

The men and the women will be competing for court space Saturday. All matches are scheduled to be played outside at the Cather-Pound courts if the weather permits.

Huskers battle Cyclones in three-game set over weekend

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behind us for a little breathing room going into the last two weeks of the season."

The Huskers are led into this weekend offensively by Ken Harvey, who has been consistent throughout the year. He is batting .525 with 13

homers and 45 RBI's. Justin Cowan is also coming off a big game Tuesday, in which he was 2 for 2 with two home runs and seven RBI's.

The NU pitching corps is led by Shane Komine with a 6-1 record and 3.46 ERA. Scott Fries is 5-3 with a 4.89 ERA and Jay Sirianni is 4-2 with a 7.53 ERA. They all hope to contain

the Cyclones, who have been scoring runs in bunches lately.

The Cyclones, led by Aaron Runk, with a .424 average, have four others with batting averages above .300.

The pitching staff is led by Josh Twedt and Charly Bigwood with 3-1 records. They are the only two pitch-

ers with winning records on the staff. Brian Curtin is the team workhorse with a 2-4 record and 53.1 innings pitched this season.

NU's steady play lately can mostly be attributed to a "great team effort," Van Horn said. "As long as we keep playing the way we have been, being aggressive, I will be sat-

Softball gears for big games

By BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

With a No. 4 regional ranking and standing at fourth place in Big 12 Conference, NU's softball team faces a watershed weekend of doubleheaders.

The fact Nebraska plays intra-region and conference foes Baylor (24-16 overall and 3-3 in the Big 12) and Texas Tech (28-23, 3-3) makes this weekend's contests that much more important.

This will also be the Huskers' last homestand of the season barring the reschedule of Thursday's rain-out games with Drake.

After a disappointing weekend, Coach Rhonda Revelle said the team had a talk.

"We talked about the changes we have to make mentally and emotionally," Revelle said. "We can't get caught up and start pressing though. We must focus on what we can control."

Their first line of business will be to get the bats fired up. After four weeks of conference play, the team is hitting a dismal .194 (36-186), which has been good enough for four splits.

The Red Raiders come to town Saturday tied for fifth in conference. They have won three of four.

Paula Workman and Kim

"We can't get caught up and start pressing, though. We must focus on what we can control."

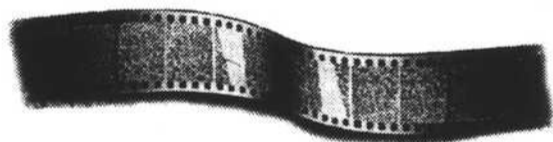
RHONDA REVELLE
NU softball coach

Martinez lead the offensive attack. During this season, they're hitting .311 and .303, respectively, and have combined for 14 homers. Pitcher Amanda Renfro brings a 1.68 earned run average and an 18-12 record to the mound.

The Bears started strong in conference play but that momentum has abated recently, as they have lost their last three conference contests. They are tied with Tech at fifth place in the Big 12 Conference.

Mary Hess, with a .406 average, leads a veteran ballclub on offense, while Stacey Allison is the No. 1 pitcher with 11 wins and a 2.27 ERA. Nebraska has won the last 10 meetings between the schools.

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