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having a ball

CWS a unique experience for fans, players alike

OMAHA — A kid in red mesh shorts and baseball cleats opened a gate and confidently walked up to Stanford senior Josh Hochgesang behind the batting cage Sunday afternoon.

The kid looked up through his oversized sunglasses and extended a ball and pen to the Cardinal leading hitter.

Unshocked, Hochgesang signed the ball, and the two

shared a quick smile before Hochgesang jumped into the cage to hit.

A block away, the interstate was congested with traffic hurrying to catch the action at Rosenblatt Stadium during this, the one week of the year in which the Midwestern city transforms into a baseball town.

Though the little league field — which doubles as a College World Series practice field — was a good five miles away from college

baseball's center stage, a similar atmosphere still lingered. It's an atmosphere that's only present during the second week in June, when people from every walk of life are brought together by a game.

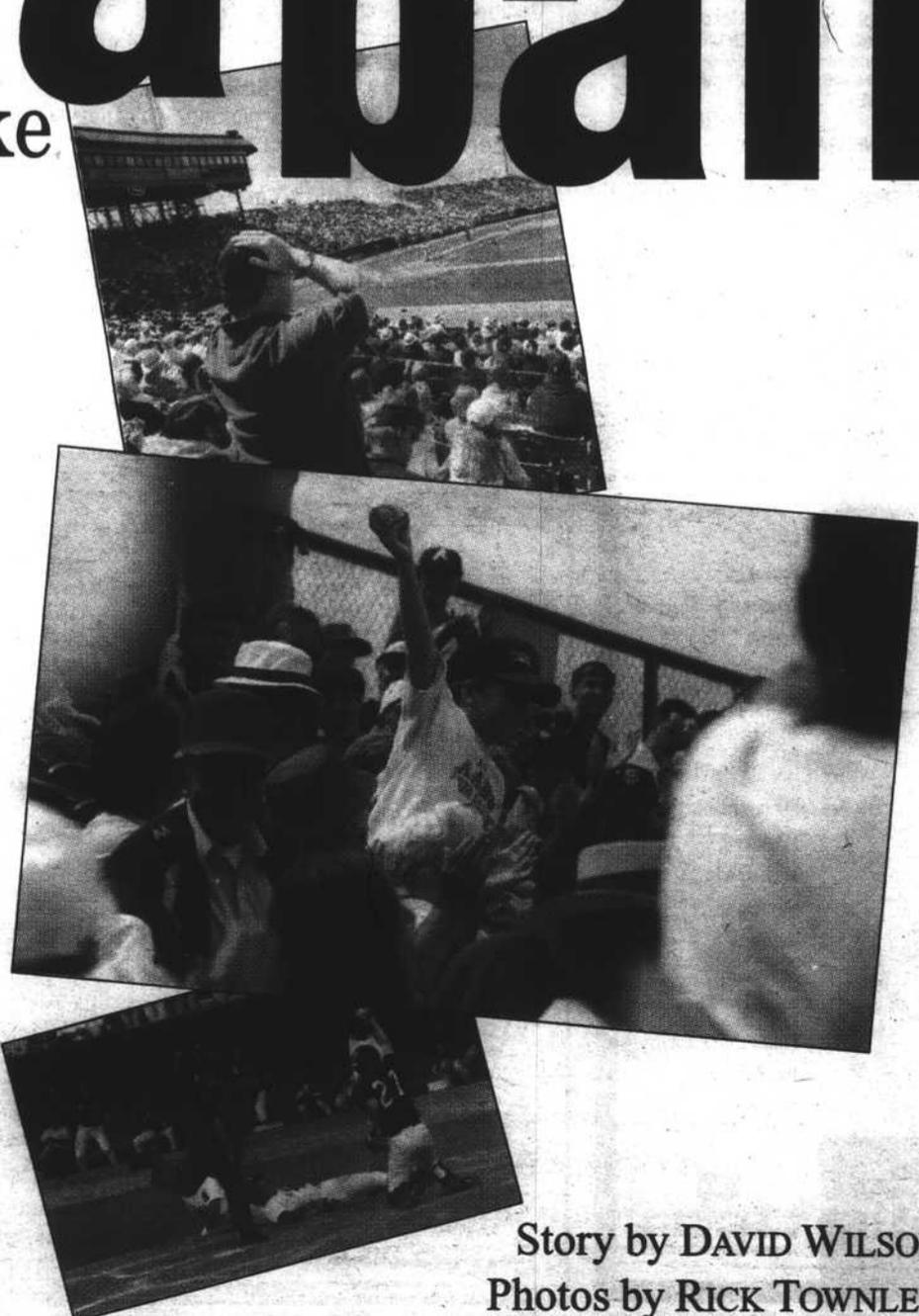
"I can't think of a couple adjectives in particular that could do justice to what the feeling is here in Omaha," Stanford senior reliever Tony Cogan said. "It's pretty much all of your dreams coming true at once. You grow up watching the College World Series and imagining that one day maybe you'd get the chance to play there. Then, actually coming here, it's more than you ever imagined."

Hochgesang, swarmed by children on a field they now shared, didn't seem to have as much difficulty finding the

“
*It hasn't changed.
It's just gotten
bigger. It's the
same old situation
— with a few more
home runs.*”

ED VESCIO
Omaha native

Please see CWS on 6



INSIDE:



So long, and thanks for all the birdies

Five of the players who helped turn NU's golf program into a nationally recognized force are hanging up their collegiate spikes this year. **PAGE 8**



Yeah, baby!

"The Spy Who Shagged Me" is a worthwhile follow-up to the hilarious "Austin Powers," in many ways proving itself better than its predecessor. **PAGE 4**

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