

# NU softball finishes 3-1

BY SEAN CALLAHAN  
Staff writer

The Nebraska softball team did not come out the way it wanted to in the Creighton Fall Softball Classic, but Head Coach Rhonda Revelle said her team played well.

The Cornhuskers finished the tournament 3-1. Nebraska's final game against Missouri Valley Conference Champion Creighton was called in the bottom of the fourth inning due to the rain. There was no

score in this game.

On Saturday, NU opened the tournament by defeating Hastings 13-0. The Huskers then lost to Division II runner-up Kearney 4-1. Nebraska finished the day by defeating Iowa Western Community College 11-0.

In the loss to Kearney, Revelle said Kearney came in really high.

"Kearney is an excellent hitting team," Revelle said. "I think they can win the national championship in Division II this year."

Revelle also said that in the Kearney game, senior Husker pitcher

Jenny Voss struggled with her control on the ball.

"As any pitcher knows, some days aren't your best days," Revelle said. "Jenny was over-throwing a little bit, so the ball didn't have much movement on it."

In their only completed game on Sunday, NU defeated Augustana (S.D.) 10-1.

The tournament was originally supposed to have a championship game on Sunday, but due to some teams dropping out, the championship game was eliminated.

# NU holds 20-13 lead to win against USM

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tell ourselves to get after it because we were starting to get winded. We had to suck it up and keep going."

The lack of production by the offense also motivated the defense to suck it up and try to score.

"Every time we get in the huddle, Carlos (Polk) is saying we got to score," Vanden Bosch said. "The sign of a good defense is not only getting done what needs to be done, but also making the big plays - getting interceptions and fumble recoveries - and scoring yourself."

After Craver tipped a Kelly pass in the third quarter, Jackson intercepted the ball and rumbled 28 yards for his second touchdown.

"He has great hands," defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said sarcastically. "If you look at them real close, they look like the bottoms of skillets. I think the ball must have

bounced off his face mask about four times before he really did catch it.

"But I will tell you one thing, the world's sprint champion couldn't have caught him from behind when he caught that thing. He was rolling."

Jackson's score gave NU an 18-12 lead. Dan Alexander, who rushed 16 times for 57 yards, scored the two-point conversion to give the Huskers the seven-point lead.

After the game, Crouch and the rest of the offense was apologetic of its performance and vowed to not rely so heavily on the defense next week in Missouri. The Huskers took 41 carries for 119 yards and recorded just eight first downs - their fewest since 1968.

"I already talked to some of the defensive guys," Crouch said, "and I told them, 'next week we are going to try to make it easier on you.'"

# USM's loss due to own mistakes

USM from page 8

five of those turnovers, throwing four interceptions and fumbling once. The fumble led to Julius Jackson's 16-yard return for the Cornhuskers' first score. Then Jackson intercepted a Kelly pass, which he also returned for a touchdown and the final 20-13 margin.

Kelly then threw two interceptions inside NU territory in the fourth quarter. The final interception - made by NU's Keyuo Craver - came as USM was at the Nebraska's 14-yard line.

"It was just a bad pass," said Kelly, who completed 23-of-45 passes for 268 yards and two touchdowns. "I had (Josh Gulley) over the middle. The pass just sailed on me."

It also put an end to a game that saw USM out-perform the Huskers in nearly every statistical aspect.

The Golden Eagles outgained the Huskers 293-185. They had more first downs. They had 28 more offensive plays, fewer penalties, a better third-down conversion rate, more time of possession and a better yard per play average. And still lost.

But it wasn't for a lack of trying or strategy. USM, with its ever-changing defensive scheme, plugged up holes for the Nebraska offense, holding it to 119 rushing yards and forcing four turnovers. The Huskers never had a larger gain than 14 yards

"We turned it over to them. You can't do that against good football teams."

JEFF BOWER  
USM head coach

on the ground.

"The main thing in all our practice was having responsibilities," linebacker T.J. Slaughter said. "Some of us had dive, some of us had quarterback, some of us had the pitch. The whole defense played as a unit the whole game. It became an emotional game."

"I think we pretty much handled them. We ran everything well."

Offensively, Southern Mississippi tried to keep the Blackshirts' defense off balance with a mix of run and pass. All the running came the way of H-back Derrick Nix, who carried the ball 29 times for 70 yards.

"We just wanted to get 2, 3, 4 yards per run," Bower said. "We did that. We didn't have any long runs, but we had like three 8- or 9-yard runs in the game."

Most of the passes went to receivers Todd Pinkston and Sherrod Gideon, both All-America candidates. Facing what Gideon called "the best secondary we've played,"

the two receivers combined for 19 receptions and 244 yards.

Gideon dropped what could have been a touchdown at the end of the first half. Kelly lofted a pass that went through Gideon's hands at the NU six-yard line.

"Ralph Brown tipped it just a little bit," Gideon said. "I couldn't quite get it."

The statement sort of summed up the day for the Golden Eagles but didn't leave the team wholly discouraged. Southern Miss can't be discouraged as it visits No. 7 Texas A&M next Saturday.

But this Saturday was one big missed opportunity, Bower said, although he did impart a message about the strength of his team.

"We probably should have won the football game," Bower said when asked if his team should be ranked. "Everybody says, 'Well, what's wrong with Nebraska?' Well, give us some credit."

"Don't take anything from our kids. They played hard."

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