

SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1999

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Nebraska maintains focus in sweep

■ Despite playing the lowly Cyclones, the Huskers resist complacency and cruise to easiest win of the season so far.

By **DARREN IVY**
Senior staff writer

AMES, Iowa — Despite losing its second conference game of the young season Saturday against Texas A&M, Nebraska Head Coach Terry Pettit had a good feeling about his No. 12 team going into Wednesday's match with Iowa State.

"We had a good practice Monday, a good practice Tuesday and a good practice this afternoon before the match," Pettit said.

Pettit's reading of his team was accurate as

a very focused and determined Cornhusker squad showed up at the Hilton Coliseum. It took just 15 minutes for NU to claim game one 15-0. The next two games took 15 and 14 minutes respectively as NU won 15-2 and 15-0.



Pettit

Afterward, Pettit expressed approval of the way the Huskers, 11-4 and 3-2 in the Big 12 Conference, maintained their intensity through the entire match.

"It's hard to maintain focus when the other team is overmatched," said Pettit, who improved to 55-0 all-time versus Iowa State. "I was pleased with what they did. We really needed to do that. We needed the mental exercise out there as much as the physical. The issue wasn't so much whether we

would win or lose as it was if we could go out there for three games and maintain our focus."

NU definitely maintained its focus, and it didn't show any mercy on the hapless Cyclones, who dropped to 2-10 and 0-5. Pettit kept his starting rotation, which included freshmen Greichaly Cepero and Amber Holmquist on the floor for the duration of the match.

"I wanted to develop a rhythm," Pettit said. "We have played a lot of people throughout the year, and now it's time to develop a rhythm, and that's what we did."

Junior outside hitter Nancy Meendering, who led the Huskers with 15 kills, said in lopsided matches, such as Wednesday night, players have to focus on their own play rather than the opponents.

Along those lines, Nebraska wanted to make sure it finished the match strongly, she said.

"That has been one of the main things — we

Volleyball

Nebraska	15	15	15
Iowa State	0	2	0



get up and then don't finish," Meendering said. "In both our losses, we got up but didn't finish. Tonight, I felt that for the most part when we got up, we were able to put the ball away and finish the game."

We are learning to pick up the intensity and get it done."

Pettit agreed that his team was improving and said it needs to continue to be self-motivated.

"They came out and did what they needed to do," he said. "I didn't have to make a challenge."

They know what they need to do. This is just one small step toward being as good of a team as we can be at the end of the year. The next step is Saturday afternoon."

Sports Opinion



Darren Ivy

Dubose's woes bad for Tide

It is always nice to see the underdog win, especially if the favored team is Florida.

However, after Alabama's 40-39 upset in the swamp Saturday, I soon learned there was a dark side to Alabama Coach Mike Dubose. Prior to the game, I have to admit I was vaguely familiar with his situation.

After doing some research on Dubose, I became greatly troubled about some post-game comments. After the game, Dubose had the nerve to say, "We have made mistakes here but feel the team is going in the right direction." Excuse me Mike, you made the mistake, not anyone else on your team.

In May, Dubose lied to school administrators about a personal relationship with his secretary. In August, this same woman filed sexual harassment charges against Dubose, and the school settled the case with the woman.

Uh oh! Explain this little screw-up to the higher-ups at Alabama. Dubose did, and University of Alabama President Andrew Sorenson and Athletic Director Bob Bockrath basically put Dubose on probation and kept him as coach.

Alabama cut two years and \$360,000 from his newly signed five-year contract.

If any more negative reports about his private life were brought forward, he would then be asked to resign.

I think they dropped the ball on this decision. I think it's a case of that

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Fall important for Van Horn, NU

■ The Huskers hope to reload after a record season that saw them win the Big 12 Tournament.

By **MATTHEW HANSEN**
Staff writer

After a season that saw the Nebraska baseball team win the Big 12 Conference Tournament, receive its first NCAA Tournament bid in 14 years and gain a large amount of fan support, the Cornhuskers soldier on, this time unnoticed.

While Husker fans focus their attention on football and volleyball, the baseball team is busy preparing for the upcoming season without much fanfare. Fall baseball may be a season invisible to fans, but according to Coach Dave Van Horn, it is an extremely important time for the baseball program.

"It's nice to get any coverage during the football season," Van Horn said. "What is really important to us, though, is improving and preparing for the spring."

The Huskers didn't waste any time getting started. For the first three weeks of school, the coaching staff conducted skills instruction with small groups of players. The team also lifted weights and concentrated on conditioning.

Full squad practices began Sept. 17, with 25 workouts scheduled. Fall practice culminates with the Red-White World Series later this month.

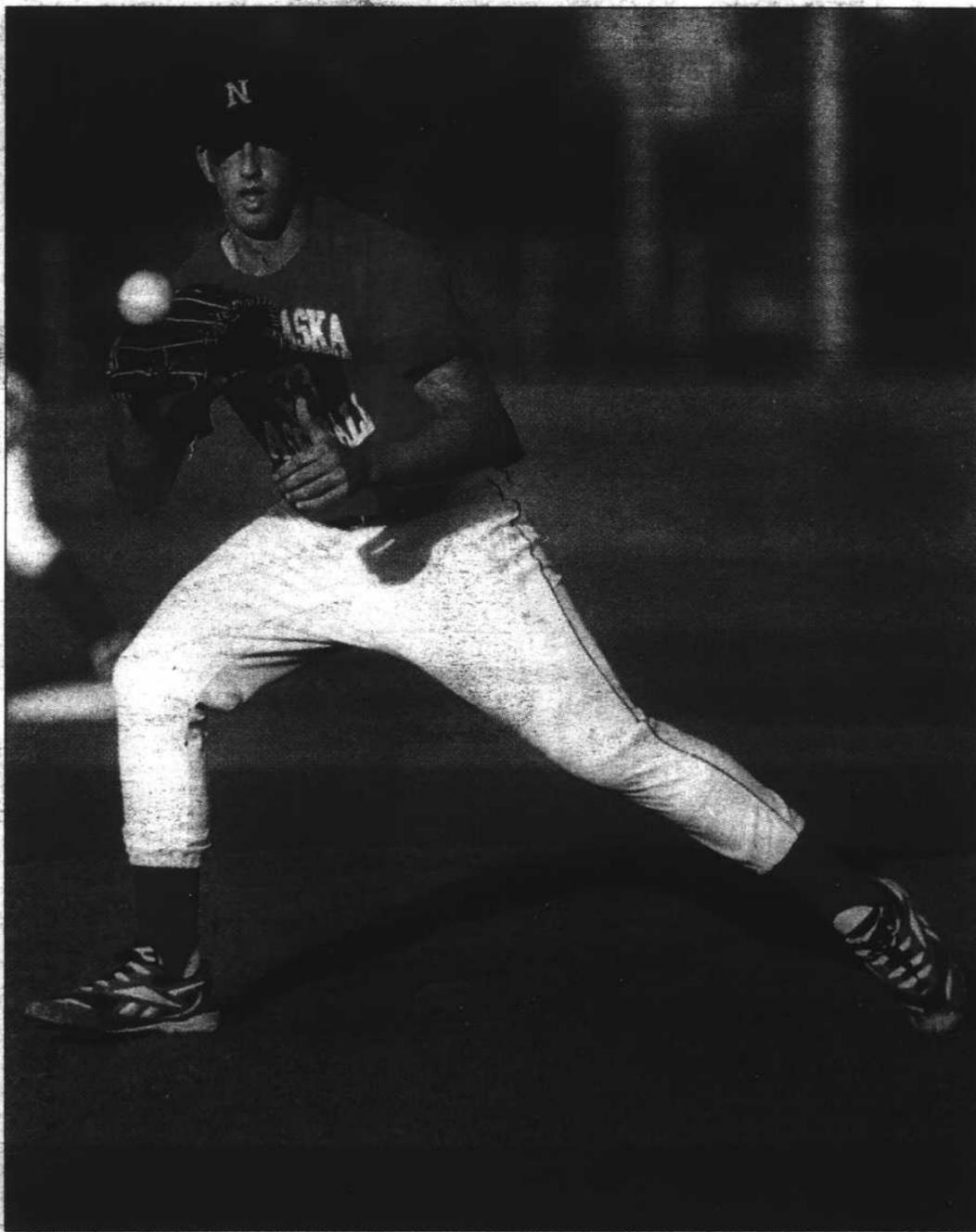
With fewer than 10 practices left before the conclusion of fall camp, Van Horn said he is pleased with the team's performance.

"It has been a good fall for us so far," Van Horn said. "It seems like we are developing good depth. Also, we have good competition for positions right now. These are both building blocks for a successful season."

Sophomore shortstop Will Bolt took his assessment of the team one step further.

"At this point, we're definitely ahead of where we were at this time last fall," Bolt said. "I feel like we have more talent than last year. Now it's just a matter of developing the team chemistry we had in the spring. I think we are doing that right now."

A key component of fall camp is the orientation of new Huskers. Freshman and junior college transfers need to have an opportunity to adjust to Division I baseball. The coaching staff and veteran players are also able to teach the newcomers the Nebraska system.



MIKE WARREN/DN

JAMIE RODRIGUE, a freshman left-handed pitcher for the Huskers, comes off the pitching mound to field a ball during infield drills Wednesday night at Buck Beltzer Field. The Nebraska baseball team will finish fall practice next week with the Red-White World Series.

"Freshmen are usually shocked when they get here and realize that, for the first time, they aren't the best player on the team," Van Horn said. "(The coaching staff and older players) help them adjust and also teach them the philosophy we like around here. The fall is a great time for that."

Bolt smiled as he remembered last year's fall camp, his first.

"I basically didn't know what to

expect," said Bolt, who played extensively as a freshman. "The level of pitching and the speed of the game surprised me at first, but I adjusted pretty quick."

Bolt said that fall camp is still very valuable to him this year. The extra batting practice before and after class as well as the emphasis on fundamentals in fall camp will give him increased confidence in the spring.

Of course, fall baseball can get a little boring. Van Horn explained that with almost two months of practice without a game, waning intensity can be a problem.

"While our players do a good job of motivating themselves, there are still going to be times when they get a little bored," Van Horn said. "We try to

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