

Wrestler: Hard to follow the money

By David Diehl
Staff writer

As far back as 1995, allege several former Cornhuskers, payments were made from former Coach Tim Neumann to Nebraska wrestlers in order to free up scholarship room.

Neumann resigned Tuesday "in accordance to university personnel policy," Athletic Director Bill Byrne said.

Kalin Makaiwi, who wrestled under Neumann from 1994-1996, said he was one of the wrestlers who was taken off scholarship to clear room for recruits.

Makaiwi said his roommate in college, Chris Steele, was receiving the same illegal benefits.

Steele could not be reached by the Daily Nebraskan but admitted in Thursday's Lincoln Journal-Star that he had been given money while at

NU from 1994-1996.

Neumann declined comment on the allegations Wednesday night, saying he was no longer coach.

Makaiwi said he was given a monthly payment from Neumann during his second year at NU after he was taken off scholarship. The money was used to cover things, such as his rent and bills.

"I don't know how he worked it out with everyone else," Makaiwi said from his home in Allensburg, Wash. "But I wasn't the only one getting money."

But after Neumann became unreliable with the payments and the wrestler's living conditions were threatened from the money crunch, Makaiwi said he asked to be put back on a legitimate scholarship. When he wasn't, Makaiwi quit the team and has since moved back to his home state of Washington.

"The main reason I decided to stop was because it became such a hassle," Makaiwi said.

Another of Neumann's former athletes, who wished to remain anonymous, confirmed that while he was wrestling at NU, several wrestlers were receiving money under the table.

Former NU Assistant Coach Brad Penrith, who was with Nebraska from 1992-97, said he had no knowledge of any benefits that might have been passed to wrestlers.

"I didn't know about it if anything like that was going on," said Penrith, who coaches at Northern Iowa. "I wasn't aware of it."

The mystery that remains with the payments is their source. Neumann makes a little more than \$64,000 a year.

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Kalin Makaiwi
former NU wrestler

origin.

"(Steele) and I used to think that he has to have a whole bunch of bank accounts that even his wife doesn't know about," he said. "There was a lot of money and a lot of players."

Nebraska Wrestling Booster Club President Bob Houser adamantly denied that the booster club ever supplied Neumann with extra money.

"Absolutely not," Houser said. "We wouldn't do that. Ever."

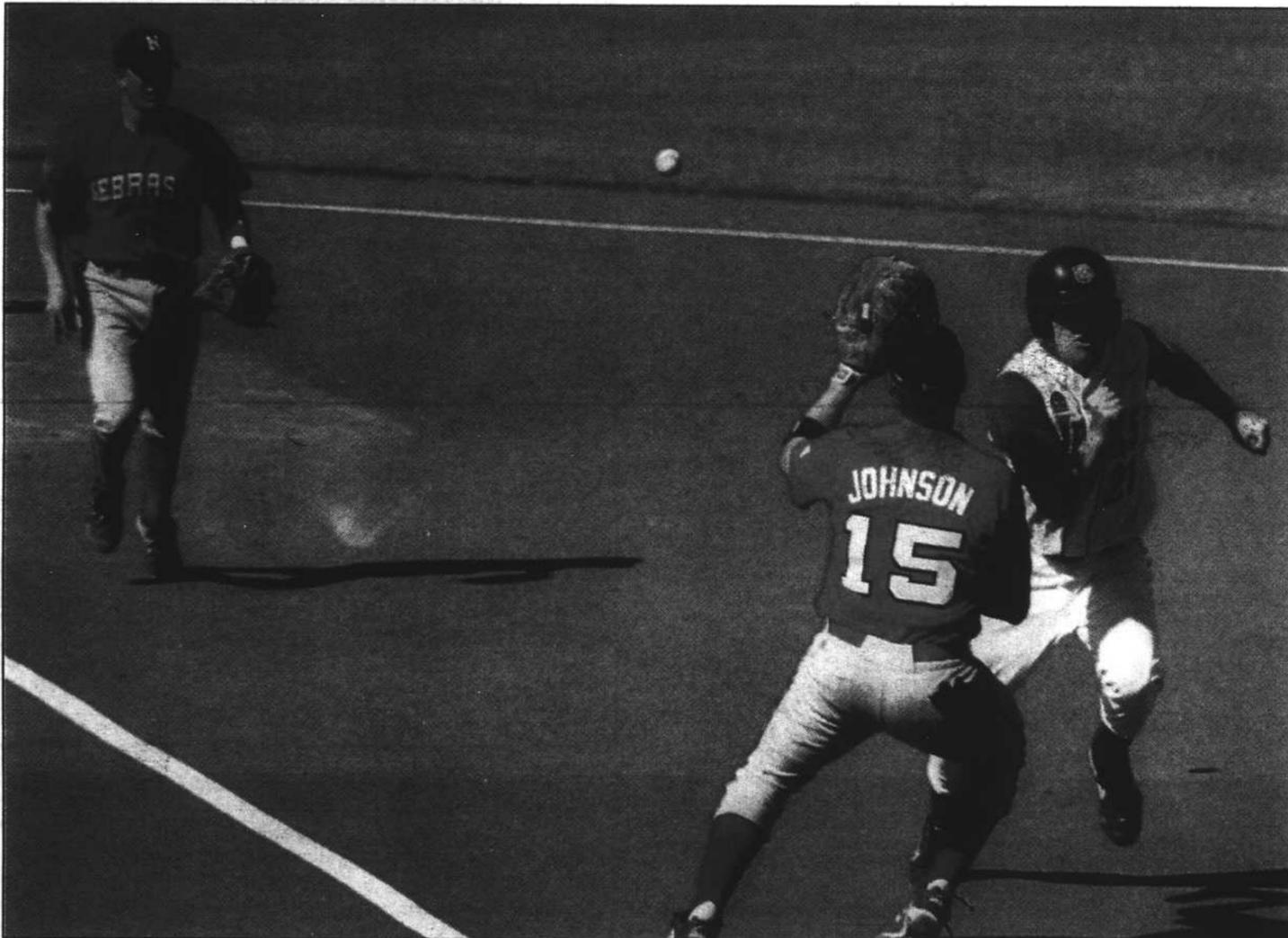
"When I started this booster club,

it was under Bob Devaney, and I would never do anything to hurt that man, and I would never do anything to hurt this program.

"Anyone that wants to see our books is welcome to."

Makaiwi said he thinks the situation isn't just limited to Nebraska, as other schools aren't following the rules either.

"It happens everywhere, I think," he said. "In order to keep top recruits happy, you've got to give them money whether you like it or not."



Josh Wolfe/DN

JUNIOR Josh Hesse throws to first baseman Dan Johnson while Western Illinois's Ryan Langdon tries to avoid being tagged Wednesday at Buck Beltzer Field. The Huskers look to continue their 10-game winning streak this weekend when they face Texas A&M in a doubleheader on Saturday at 2 p.m.

NU looks to beat struggling A&M

By Dane Stickney
Senior editor

The Nebraska baseball team's matchup with Texas A&M this weekend is a tale of opposites.

The Cornhuskers look to extend their 10-game winning streak, which is the second longest in the country behind Georgia Tech's 15.

The Aggies will try to break their nine-game losing streak, the longest in school history.

NU (28-11) is surging after twice demolishing Western Illinois 18-5 and 19-6, while the Aggies lost 7-5 to Rice on Tuesday and look to avoid their third straight Big 12 sweep.

Despite Texas A&M's slump, NU Coach Dave Van Horn said it is still a quality ball club.

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Dave Van Horn
NU baseball coach

years, but right now they've kind of hit a down spell," he said. "They've certainly got good talent, but most of their players are young."

Shane Komine is expected to open the series on the mound in Friday's game, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Stadium.

Komine has struck out 33 hitters in his last two games.

Trevor Bullock and Chad Wiles are scheduled to take the hill in

Saturday's doubleheader, which begins at 2 p.m.

The Aggies are led by outfielder Dylan Holt, whose 14 home runs lead the conference.

But Huskers Dan Johnson, who has 12 home runs, and Matt Hopper, 11, are second and third in the conference.

But Hopper said baseball isn't about individual statistics.

"We do everything as a team," he said. "Right now we're trying to win

the conference as a team."

Van Horn said the team is closing in on some team goals, and a strong showing this weekend would help.

"By the end of the season we hoped to have 38 to 40 wins," he said. "We're on pace to get there if we keep playing well."

In order to reach 40 wins, the Huskers need to win 12 of their last 17 games.

Nebraska is tied for third in the conference with Texas Tech. Both teams have 13-8 conference records.

Hopper said the team is eager to keep its winning streak rolling.

"When you're this hot, all you want to do is come to the park and win some ball games," he said. "I hope we keep it going for a long time, and I think it will if we stay focused."

Huskers prepare for Aggies

By Sean Callahan
Staff writer

The Nebraska softball team has had a memorable week.

It first started in Oklahoma last weekend when the Cornhuskers split series with No. 6 Oklahoma and No. 22 Oklahoma State to keep them only one game out of first place in the Big 12 Conference.

This week the Huskers took care of conference foe Iowa State 6-0, riding sophomore Leigh Ann Walker's 11 strikeouts.

The big moment of the week came on Wednesday night when senior pitcher Jenny Voss reached her 100th career victory with a 3-1 decision over in-state rival Creighton.

Now NU (35-18, 9-2) awaits the challenge of going to College Station, Texas, to take on Texas A&M (25-14, 5-4) in a must-win situation Saturday.

"We're not playing on Easter because it's Easter," NU Coach Rhonda Revelle said. "The nice thing about this trip is we get to charter."

On a normal road trip, NU would play two games in two days or go to a nearby city and play somebody else.

Because it is Easter weekend, Revelle said she thought this would be the best thing for her team, so they can be home with their families Sunday.

"We've got the pitching staff to go to," Revelle said. "That's the nice thing about playing a double header."

In years past, Revelle would have to rely solely on the arm of just one pitcher to get the job done.

This year, Revelle almost has been spoiled to have three different pitchers—Penny Cope, Voss and Walker—that she can go to at any time.

There have been a couple of occasions where Revelle has used all three of her pitchers in one game. Before this year, Revelle said she can't ever remember doing something like that.

Senior Jennifer Lizama, who is still trying to fully recover from a hamstring injury she received on March 22, said she realizes how important it is for NU to win both games against the Aggies.

Lizama said it is important for Nebraska just to treat these final conference games like any normal game.

"We just need to focus on being in our game and to do what we need to do," Lizama said. "We know if we take care of business, we're going to come out on top."