

## NU blasts UWM, extends streak

By Matthew Hansen

Staff writer

Since April 2, the Nebraska baseball team has done nothing but win. On Monday, the string of wins reached record proportions.

HUSKERS	11	8
PANTHERS	0	5

By taking both games of a day-night doubleheader against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, NU tied and then set a Big 12 record for consecutive victories.

The wins couldn't have been more different. Jamie Rodrigue shut down the Panthers in Game 1 as the Huskers coasted 11-0. In the finale, NU had to come from behind in the late innings to eke out an 8-5 victory.

While the wins were opposite, the result was the same — a record-breaking 15-game winning streak.

Husker designated hitter Matt Hopper said the team would take as many notches in the win column as they could. However, the goal wasn't to set records.

"We're extremely happy right now," Hopper said. "We really couldn't be happier with the way we are playing. But it's not about 15, or 18 or 20 wins in a row. We just have to keep coming out and keep playing baseball."

"We have to do the small things right. We did that tonight."

Rodrigue did everything right on the mound in the first game of the doubleheader.

The freshman hurler had been knocked around in recent outings and had lost his spot in the rotation. Rodrigue redeemed himself, though, allowing only three hits and striking out five in a complete game shutout.

NU Coach Dave Van Horn said he was impressed enough with his pitcher's performance to think about giving him a start in a weekend Big 12 series.

"He really bounced back nice for us tonight," Van Horn said. "He hit his spots, kept their batters off balance and allowed us to relax a little in the first game."

The Huskers couldn't relax at all in the second game, as the Panthers led for much of the contest.

But NU, behind some clutch slugging by Hopper, prevailed to extend the winning streak to 15.

Hopper hit two home runs in the contest. His first was a three-run shot that flew over the scoreboard in left field, tying the game at 4.

Hopper's second may have been even bigger. With the Huskers clinging to a 6-5 lead in the eighth inning, the designated hitter blasted a shot down the left-field line that landed across Avery Avenue and put the Huskers up 8-5.

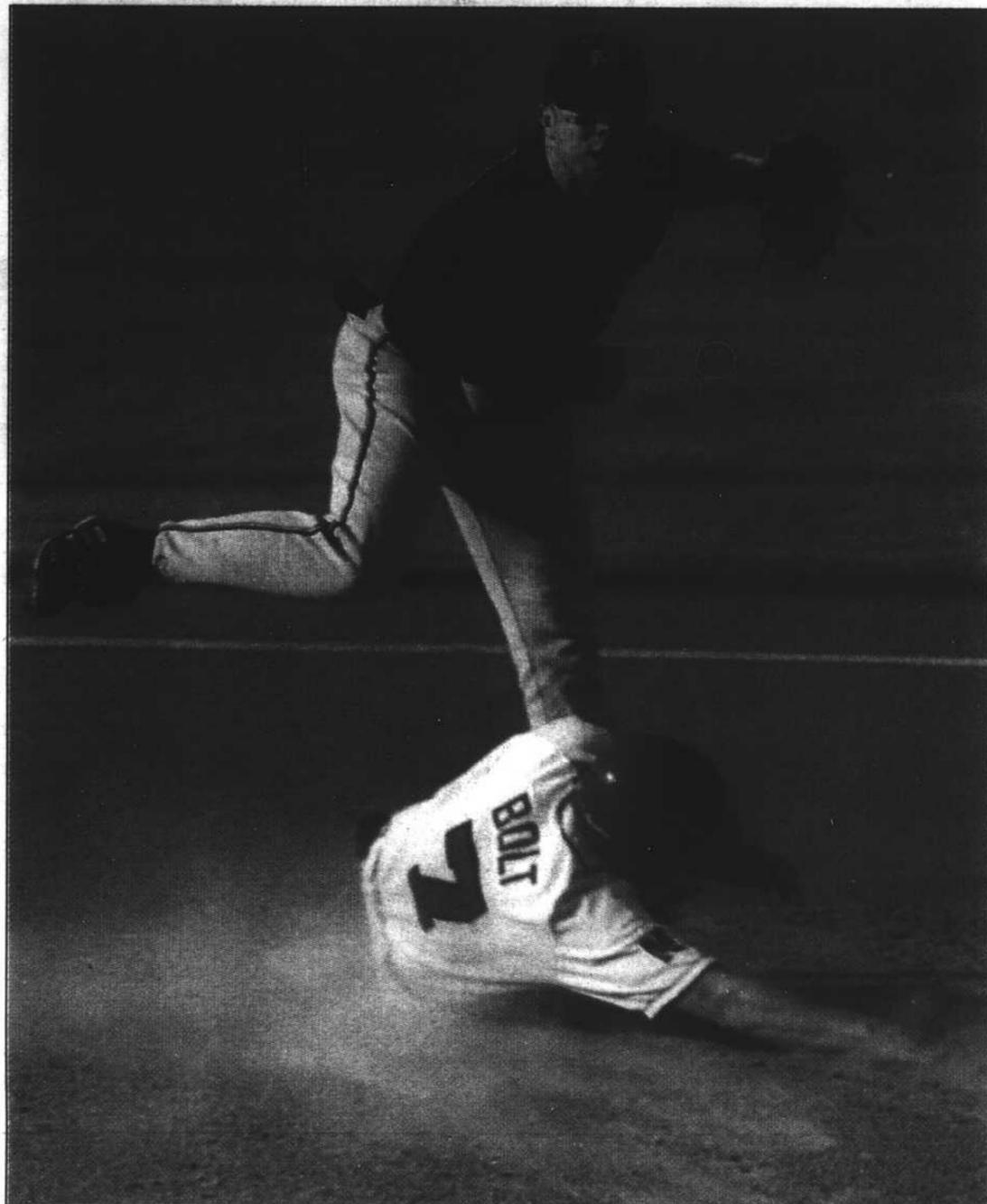
Hopper said that, in terms of distance and of importance, the homers were among the biggest.

"Those two were definitely huge for us tonight," he said. "They both helped us to get the momentum back. It was the difference between being on top and losing."

Hopper was far from the only offensive star in the doubleheader. Will Bolt had four hits and two RBI in the first game and spray hitter Josh Hesse got into the act, belting his first career home run.

It all added up to two more wins for NU (33-11) and kept Van Horn happy.

"We got big hits tonight and found a way to win," he said. "I want to keep this going. We want to play well and find a way. Tonight we found a way."



WILL BOLT takes out University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee infielder Matt Houck to break up a double play in the bottom of the eighth inning. Houck's throw went over the first baseman's head, but the runners did not advance. NU defeated the Panthers 11-0 in the first game of a double header. Mike Warren/DN

## Pole-vaulter looks toward competing against old foe

■ The Huskers' Johnathan Henley quietly works toward being an All American-caliber vaulter.

By Jamie Suhr

Staff writer

Nebraska pole-vaulter Johnathan Henley sits back in the shadows and waits.

He knows it's only a matter of time before people take notice.

"I'm trying to tweak some technical stuff, and after I do that I can be an All American," Henley said.

Henley has had that type of success before. He was the No. 2 high school pole-vaulter in the country last year, behind only Eric Eshbach.

Henley didn't always look up at Eshbach. While in high school, the two were teammates at Orangefield High School in Orange, Texas.

"All through high school we were even," Eshbach said. "We kept beating each other by inches."

Each had cleared 17-3 — the best mark in the country for high school athletes. But as a senior, Eshbach set the national high school pole-vault record of 18-2 ¼.

During the indoor track season, Henley set a personal indoor-best by leaping 17-3 at the NIAC Invitational but was out-done again

*"You have to work hard to be the best. If it wasn't for Eric, I wouldn't work as hard. No matter how I jump, in the back of my head I'm thinking about beating Eric."*

Johnathan Henley  
NU pole vaulter

by Eshbach, who vaulted 17-8 ¾. Earlier in the season, Eshbach set the school-record with a vault of 18-0 ½.

"You have to work hard to be the best," Henley said. "If it wasn't for Eric, I wouldn't work as hard. No matter how I jump, in the back of my head I'm thinking about beating Eric."

Pole-vault Coach Tom Williams said he was happy to see Henley and Eshbach feeding off each other.

"It's real good as an individual to be in a competitive environment," Williams said. "It's positive."

Henley said the biggest transition to the collegiate level was the competition. In high school, he and Eshbach would enter at a height where all other pole-vaulters were eliminated.

Back then, Henley relied mostly on his physical ability and pure talent. Now, Williams said, Henley

needs to refine the rough edges of his technique.

"He has the talent and skills to compete with anyone," Williams said.

Henley said he was pleased with his indoor season but admitted his outdoor season has been a little rough.

He has yet to clear 17-feet in competition, despite consistently reaching heights in the mid-17-foot range in practice.

Williams said this was the time of the season when most freshmen hit a lull because of the transition from the short high school season to the long and rigorous college season.

Henley said he was looking toward next year to break out.

"It gives me something to work at," Henley said. "If I don't work, I won't get any respect."

## Collier lands first in-state commit

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

In fewer than 20 days at his new job, Nebraska Basketball Coach Barry Collier has landed his first recruit, and an in-state player at that.

Omaha Burke's Roy Enright orally committed to the Cornhuskers on Friday, after working out for Collier in Omaha on Monday night.

The 6-foot-9, 240-pounder said many things swayed his decision to stay close to home.

"I visited the campus and really liked the facilities," he said. "I like Collier, and I kind of wanted to stay close to home because I didn't think my parents would be able to see me play a lot otherwise."

But Enright, who is a sophomore, won't be wearing a Nebraska uniform next season or the one after that. He can't even sign a letter of intent until November 2001.

Enright averaged four points and three rebounds per game this season for Burke Coach Gary Graner after transferring from Creighton Prep, also in Omaha, where he averaged 12 points and seven rebounds.

The sophomore said he needs to work on his rebounding and outside shooting in his two years left of high school before coming to Lincoln, where he expects to play the power forward position. His father expects him to grow another one to two inches

*"I visited the campus and really liked the facilities. I like Collier, and I kind of wanted to stay close to home."*

Roy Enright  
NU basketball recruit

before his playing days come at NU.

Graner said Enright came to Burke from Prep at the start of the second semester and played in roughly eight games for the Bulldogs.

"It was a unique situation," said Graner, who stressed that Enright is relieved to have the recruiting process out of the way. "He came in, and our team was playing very well, and we told him that our guys were together, and we weren't going to mess with that and he said he understood."

Big 12 Note: Iowa State received a commitment from Bellevue West point guard Zach Fortune for next season.

Fortune is expected to back up All-Big 12 point guard Jamaal Tinsley next season.