

Softball team starts practice this week

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against reputed conference powers like last year's national champion Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, which defeated NU in a game last year that would have given the Huskers a split for the Big 12 championship, and Texas.

But looking ahead to a tough conference schedule could be dangerous.

"Our main focus right now is to improve on last year's slow start," Revelle said.

The team started the 2000 season 5-3, being shut out twice by Arizona and defeated once by Oklahoma.



Danelle Arnold practices with the Nebraska softball team Tuesday afternoon. Practice was held in Cook Pavilion because of the cold weather.

Jennifer Lund/DN

Puckett, Winfield elected to Hall

The former teammates both easily gained acceptance to the Hall of Fame on their first tries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK -- Kirby Puckett already knows which hat he'll wear on his Hall of Fame plaque. Dave Winfield still must choose his cap for Cooperstown.

Winfield and Puckett were elected Tuesday to the shrine on their first try, becoming the seventh pair of teammates voted in by baseball writers in the same year.

"This is really, really an elite group of guys," Puckett said from the Metrodome. "From Babe Ruth to Hank Aaron, you name it. It's just unbelievable being in the company of those guys."

Winfield, who had 3,110 hits and 465 home runs, and Puckett, whose All-Star career was cut short by glaucoma, played together on the Minnesota Twins in 1993-94.

The personable Puckett spent his entire career with the Twins and now is an executive vice president with the team.

Winfield became a star with the San Diego Padres, gained national recognition with the New York Yankees and delivered the game-winning hit in the 1992 World Series with the Toronto Blue Jays. He got his 3,000th hit with his hometown Twins, a single that drove in Puckett.

So, which cap will Winfield pick?

"I can't tell you because I haven't thought about it yet," he said from his home in the Los Angeles area. "I didn't want to be presumptuous."

"The hat I'm wearing is the Hall of Fame hat today," he said. "My hat's off to all the teams that gave me the opportunity to do my thing."

Actually, Winfield is not required to choose. Catfish Hunter, who achieved success with the Yankees and Oakland, decided not to have any emblem on his Hall plaque when he was inducted in 1987.

Induction ceremonies will be held Aug. 5 at Cooperstown, N.Y. The festivities will include anyone selected by the Veterans Committee on March 6 at Tampa, Fla.

Winfield was listed on 84.5 percent of the ballots, and Puckett was chosen on 82.1 percent in voting by 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of

America. It takes 75 percent for election.

The outfielders brought to 36 the players elected in their first year of eligibility. There are 251 overall members in the Hall.

Winfield was listed on 435 of 515 ballots, with 387 necessary for election, and Puckett was picked on 423.

Gary Carter finished third with 64.9 percent after getting under 50 percent last year, followed by Jim Rice (57.9).

Next were Bruce Sutter (47.6) and Goose Gosage (44.3)—the closers also moved upward in their bids to join Hoyt Wilhelm and Rollie Fingers as the only relievers in the Hall.

Don Mattingly received 28.2 percent as a first-year candidate. Pete Rose, off the ballot because of his permanent ban from baseball, got 15 write-in votes.

Of the 32 candidates, 13 received under 5 percent and were dropped from further consideration. Among them: Detroit teammates Lou Whitaker, Kirk Gibson and Lance Parrish, along with Tom Henke and Dave Righetti.

Next year, Ozzie Smith, Andre Dawson and Alan Trammell become rookie candidates.

Winfield and Puckett joined Carlton Fisk and Tony Perez (2000), Ferguson Jenkins and Gaylord Perry (1991), Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford (1974), Lefty Grove and Mickey Cochrane (1947) as sets of teammates chosen in the same year by the BBWAA.

Also, Cy Young played with both Tris Speaker and Nap Lajoie, with all of them elected in 1937.

Puckett was an All-Star in 10 of his 12 seasons and led the Twins to unlikely World Series titles in 1987 and 1991.

A career .318 hitter, he got 2,040 hits from his major league debut on May 8, 1984, through May 7, 1994—the most for any 20th-century player in his first 10 calendar years.

At 40, Puckett became the third-youngest player to be elected while still alive. Only Lou Gehrig (36) and Sandy Koufax (37) made it sooner.

"I was at the top of my game when I was forced to retire," he said. "I think you could put my numbers over 12 years up with anybody and they'd be comparable," he said.

At 6-foot-6, Winfield stood nearly a foot taller than Puckett.

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"The best thing I can say about him ... was that he's the most positive person I played with on a daily basis."

Dave Winfield
Hall of Fame outfielder

lot of guys — was that he's the most positive person I played with on a daily basis," Winfield said. "He did something for every teammate."

Winfield was born on Oct. 3, 1951, the afternoon when Bobby Thomson hit one of the most famous home runs ever, and became a multi-sport standout at the University of Minnesota.

Winfield was drafted by the Padres, the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL, the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA and the Utah Stars of the ABA. He picked baseball and, without spending a single day in the minor leagues, went on to become a 12-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove winner.

Overall, he batted .283 with 1,833 RBIs. He played from 1973-95, and returned from back surgery that sidelined for the entire 1989 season.

Winfield, who also played for the Angels and Indians, spent his longest time with the Yankees. Over the years, he patched up his long-running feud with owner George Steinbrenner, the man who labeled him "Mr. May."

Much of the criticism Winfield heard in New York, he said, "doesn't really reflect the kind of player I was, the kind of person I was."

Winfield's two-out, two-run double in the top of the 11th inning in Game 6 of the 1992 World Series clinched Toronto's championship over Atlanta.

That hit came off Braves reliever Charlie Leibrandt. In 1991, Leibrandt also served up Puckett's most famous hit, an 11th-inning home run that won Game 6 of the World Series.

The Twins won the title the next day.

Puckett won six Gold Gloves in center field and hit 207 home runs.

He exuded boundless energy and enthusiasm, making him a fan favorite at the Metrodome and everywhere else.

"I played every game like it was my last," Puckett said. "I left everything on the field."



Post play important, but key is beating KU press, Bradford says

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and offer unique challenges," Collier said.

But Collier emphasized that stopping the trio will fall on the shoulders of all five Huskers on the floor.

"Our inside play is very important, but we don't want our guys to catch the ball on offense and play one-on-one, nor do we want their team to do that against us," he said. "It is one on five because you have helping defense, so it will be our five defenders against however many of their guys are in the game."

"Only one of the three can shoot at a time, so maybe we can challenge them."

But Ffriend and Bradford showed they could compete with KU last season. Ffriend continuously used his quickness to blow past each of the three and ended the game with 19 free throw attempts as the result of Kansas trying to keep up.

"That has been my game and I have to use my quickness," said Ffriend, who helped foul out both Collison and Chenoweth. "It is harder now because teams know about me, and it is not easy to get shots, so I have to find ways to get involved in games."

Bradford said Nebraska must take advantage of KU in two ways -- be physical and attack its pressure.

"They have some pretty talented guys as far as playing together," he said. "If you are talking about Kansas, you are talking about team unity -- a team that comes out and plays together."

"If you are talking about a team that likes physical play, that isn't Kansas. Kansas doesn't like physical play, and that is why they pressure you from one end to the other."

Nebraska's last conference road win came against KU in 1998 in Allen Fieldhouse, and the 8-7 Huskers are confident

Beware of the Phog

The Kansas Jayhawks are real tough at home

vs. All	148-11
vs. Big 8/Big 12	68-8
vs. Nebraska	9-1

about their chances on the road despite some shortcomings this season.

The Huskers have dropped a one-point decision to Pittsburgh, lost by four in overtime to Minnesota and Mizzou knocked off NU in the conference opener by two points -- all on the road.

"This is the best part of basketball, when the odds are against you and you rise to the occasion," Bradford said. "But it seems that every time we get to the door, we fall short."

Ingram season's first Gymnast of Week

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Nebraska freshman Alecia Ingram was named the first Big 12 Conference Gymnast of the Week this season for her efforts in the Maui Invitational and in NU's dual victory over Oregon State.

Ingram, competing in her first collegiate meet, won the all-around competition in Maui with a score of 39.425, which tied A.J. Lamb's freshman school record set last season.

Ingram won the vault with a 9.90 in Maui, also tying the NU freshman record in that event.

The Knoxville, Tenn., native followed up that performance with a second-place finish against the Beavers. Ingram placed second on the vault with a 9.875, and grabbed runner-up honors on the uneven bars with a 9.90. A score of 9.875 earned Ingram a tie for third-place on the floor exercise.

In the two meets combined, Ingram averaged an all-around score of 39.138.

Camby ready for suspension after swinging at Ferry, accidentally head butting Van Gundy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PURCHASE, N.Y. -- A contrite Marcus Camby awaited word Tuesday on punishment for throwing a punch at an opponent but instead decking his own coach.

"I regret that I lost my cool because that's not me," Camby said at the Knicks' practice facility. "Those who have been around me since I've been here know that I'm an easygoing-type guy."

"I just lost it when I saw that blood, and I was truly, truly in the wrong."

Camby's punch did not strike Danny Ferry of San Antonio because coach Jeff Van Gundy stepped between them at the last moment.

Camby's head collided with Van Gundy's, opening a cut above the coach's left eye that

required 12-15 stitches.

Camby had scrapes above both his eyes Tuesday -- one from being poked by Ferry, one from colliding with his coach. Van Gundy's eye also remained swollen.

While jostling for rebounding position, Ferry struck Camby in the eye late in the fourth quarter of New York's 104-82 victory over the Spurs on Monday. After being restrained by one referee and speaking with another, Camby suddenly bolted toward Ferry near the scorer's table and threw a roundhouse punch.

As Camby left the court, he grabbed a folding chair -- an action he admitted was "ridiculous" -- before a security official took it away from him. He stood outside the Spurs' locker room before being persuaded to leave, then spent another 20 minutes

in a tunnel near where the Spurs' team bus was idling.

"My car was blocked in, so people thought I was down there waiting to start something," Camby said.

Camby met with Van Gundy on Tuesday morning after speaking with several teammates by telephone Monday night.

"We talked about everything, about suspensions and all that, and he (Van Gundy) said, 'Despite all that, you played the best defense on David Robinson of anyone I've ever seen,'" Camby said. "Coming from him, it was great ... and I respect him more today because of the conversations we had."

No announcement was forthcoming Tuesday from NBA vice president of operations Stu Jackson regarding a suspension, a league spokeswoman said.

Talent, crowd make visitors fear Kansas' Phog Allen

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five as it may seem at times with the crowd hovering over the court.

"I don't see any difference in our team and their team besides the jersey," he said.

But the name on the jersey and the site of the game has proven to make a difference in the past.

NU just hopes that last year's experience pays off in a game that nobody expects them to win.

"When those lights turn on, it is going to be a dogfight," Bradford said.

Because if the Huskers show up hesitant or fearful in any way, it may be lights out on this contest way before the Phog rolls into Lawrence.

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