

Softball team drops two games at Fiesta Bowl Tournament

BY VAN JENSEN

The Huskers traveled to Tempe, Ariz., looking for a fast start to the season this weekend but were slowed by tough competition at the Fiesta Bowl Tournament.

NU emerged with a 2-2 record, including losses to No. 3 Arizona, 11-4, on Saturday and 18th-ranked South Carolina, 2-1, in its opener on Friday.

Nebraska did get a win over

a ranked opponent, beating No. 20 Oregon, 2-1, on Saturday, and defeated unranked UNLV, 3-0, on Friday.

Nebraska was scheduled to play five games in the tournament, but the Sunday finale against Washington started far later than planned and was canceled after three innings because both teams needed to catch plane flights.

In what turned out to be NU's final game of the weekend, Arizona rudely welcomed former Papillion-Lavista star

Peaches James to college softball.

In her college debut a day earlier, James had shut down UNLV with a complete game, two-hit performance. But the third-ranked Wildcats pounded James for seven runs and 10 hits before the freshman was pulled after four and two-third innings.

A lone bright spot in the 11-4 loss was senior Jamie Fuente's two-run home run in the third inning.

In the early game on

Saturday, another NU freshman hurler fared far better.

Freshman Katie Decker started the first game of her college career and allowed only one run on five hits through six innings, striking out five.

Nebraska's offense provided just enough run support in the 2-1 win. Third baseman Amanda Buchholz led the offense with three hits, and Leigh Ann Walker shut out Oregon in the seventh inning to record her first save.

On Friday, James dominat-

ed, striking out nine in the 3-0 win. James had a no-hitter going through five and two-third innings.

In the early game against South Carolina, NU wasted a quality outing from Walker in a 2-1, eight inning loss.

Walker gave up only three hits, one of which was a solo home run in the first inning. Nebraska did not score until the top of the sixth, when Kim Ogee scored from second on a Nicole Trimboli single. Trimboli led the team from the plate, going 2-3

in the game.

After a scoreless seventh, the game went into extra innings. Nebraska was shut out in the top of the inning, and the Gamecocks seized the opportunity. South Carolina started the inning out with a base runner at second, a rule for extra innings in softball.

Walker intentionally walked the next two batters to load the bases. She then gave her sixth free pass of the game to Debralee Troesh, walking in the winning run for South Carolina.

Going East no problem for gymnastics team

BY JASON MERRIHEW

Although the NCAA Championships are still a couple of months away, the sixth-ranked Nebraska women's gymnastics team is looking like a contender.

Just a couple weeks after breaking the 197-point barrier for the first time in school history, the Huskers improved their school record with a 197.050 point victory, winning the quadrangular held in Morgantown, W.V.

West Virginia, ranked 17th in the country, placed second with a 196.6, while 10th-ranked Penn State finished third and James Madison rounded out the field.

NU freshman Alecia Ingram captured her fourth all-around title of the season, posting a 39.6

score. Ingram tallied career highs on the balance beam (9.925) and floor exercise (9.925).

Freshman Tami Harris, NU's other all-arounder, finished fifth with a 39.3.

Nebraska showed its dominance on the uneven bars. The Huskers placed six gymnasts in the top eight in the event.

Harris and sophomore Bree Dority O'Callaghan both set career highs on bars, tying for first with a 9.95.

Sophomore Julie Houk (9.925), Ingram (9.90), Jess Wertz (9.875) and Libby Landgraf (9.825) were among the six gymnasts to place in the top eight in bars.

Nebraska was able to hit all 24 routines, scoring 49 points or better on each event.

Kelley said she was forced off team

KELLEY from page 12

dipped slightly to 11 minutes per game during Big 12 play. She averaged 1.4 points, 1.1 rebounds and 2.9 assists in 22 games this season.

The separation was a shock to her teammates, senior guard Amanda Went said.

"I think the whole team was (surprised). ... We are a close team and we feel each others' pain. When we lose one another, it's tough," she said.

It's been a tough season for Sanderford and NU. The Cornhuskers have a 10-14 record and have only a handful of games left, including the Big 12 Conference Tournament.

Kelley questioned the timing of what she considered a forced departure.

"There was only five or six

games left; it could have waited considering all that was going on with the team," she said.

Kelley said she would transfer next year and continue to play basketball, but did not specify which schools she was looking at.

"I have looked at a lot of schools," she said. "It will be a hard transition."

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