

Shane Komine breaks the Nebraska strikeout record Saturday by striking out five batters during the first half of Saturday's doubleheader with Missouri. The Huskers lost two of three games to the Tigers on the weekend.



David Clasen/DN

Mizzou steals two from NU

■ The Husker baseball team, after winning its first game, loses to Missouri 3-2 in a close, windswept rubbermatch on Sunday.

BY SAMUEL MCKEWON

There were more bats bounding off the Buck Beltzer turf in disgust than there were hits on the scoreboard. In a deviation from the norm, the No. 5 Nebraska baseball team's hitting machine went cold in the weekend north wind against Missouri.

As a result, the Tigers, a second-division team in the Big 12 Conference that's suddenly gotten hot, stole two games away from the Cornhuskers, winning the rubbermatch on Sunday after a split doubleheader on Saturday.

NU won the first game, as pitcher Shane Komine captured the school strikeout recording, getting five Ks to run his career total to 293. Komine was far from sharp but had run support in a 14-4 win.

The final two games were a different tale. After NU was handcuffed on Saturday night 6-2, two freshmen dueling for their respective teams on Sunday. One went the distance. One went off the mound in

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Running backs stand in spotlight of first spring scrimmage

BY JEFF SHELDON

Nebraska got its first look at some new faces in simulated game situations during its first controlled scrimmage of the spring Saturday afternoon at Memorial Stadium.

As usual, it was the Cornhuskers' running game that provided the most highlights in the first heavy action of the spring.

The I-back position was the major source of big plays of the day. Dahrran Diedrick, expected as the No. 1 I-back this fall, set the tone with a 22-yard cutback run on the scrimmage's first play on his way to finishing with 25 yards on three carries.

Sophomore DeAntae Grixby put in some time with the first string backfield, logging four carries

with the top unit and finishing with just eight yards.

But perhaps the highlight of the scrimmage came on a 29-yard, reverse field scoring run turned in by junior Thunder Collins, the scrimmage's leading ball-carrier with 59 yards on 10 carries.

Collins' touchdown run, covering the entire width of the field, prompted a post-scrimmage chuckle when a reporter asked Nebraska Coach Frank Solich which was more impressive: Collins' reversal of direction on the field or reversal of direction in the classroom. Collins recently returned to practice following an academic suspension.

"If you don't do the work in the classroom," Solich said, "you're not going to get a chance to do

the reverses."

Overall, Solich said he was pleased with what the ground game showed him Saturday.

"I thought a lot of the running backs showed the ability to make big plays, and that's good to see," Solich said.

The scrimmage was the first of three that NU is allowed to partake in during its 15 spring practices. The last of the three will be April 14 in the annual Red-White game.

Solich said it was good to finally get some contact in and let players mix it up a little more than in usual practices.

"We were glad to get some contact in today. I think it went about like we expected," Solich said.

Quarterback Jammal Lord, the top signal-caller this spring in place of injured Eric Crouch,

led the top offensive unit to two scoring drives in five chances against the first-string defense, including a 19-yard touchdown pass to John Klem on the second play of the scrimmage.

Lord also tossed a 38-yard TD strike to an uncovered Ben Cornelsen during the first team's fourth drive, en route to completing four of eight passes for 68 yards.

Solich stated that overall the scrimmage was a little ragged but did not produce any surprises.

"It (the scrimmage) was about like we, as coaches, expected. There were some things we certainly need to get a lot better at, but our effort was good," Solich said. "Our timing was a little off on both sides of the ball, but then, that's expect-

Please see **SCRIMMAGE** on 9

Done deal: Knight officially new general at Tech

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Bob Knight, the oft-condemned basketball coach who has as many fanatical supporters as he does equally enthused critics, was officially named Texas Tech's new basketball coach on Friday night.

The press conference, which drew more than 7,000 Red Raider fans to Tech's United Spirit Arena, ended more than a week of speculation that the former Indiana coach would return to coaching and join the Big 12 Conference.

Knight was hired to take over a Texas Tech program that finished last in the Big 12 and won only nine of 28 games this past season. Former Coach James Dickey was fired the day after Tech's first-round loss at the Big 12 Tournament to Oklahoma State. It was only back in 1996 that Dickey had guided Tech to a 30-2 record and a Sweet Sixteen appearance.

But hard times and NCAA violations contributed to a 47-66 record in Dickey's final four years.

Knight promised Tech fans a team that will make them proud and gave his word to the students that his players would be held to an equal standard.

"I expect them to be students, in every sense of the word, just like you are expected to be students," he said.

Knight, who is 117 wins from breaking former North Carolina Coach Dean Smith's all-time coaching victory mark, has won 763 games

in his career at Indiana and Army. His Indiana stint included three national titles but the latest came back in 1987.

Before being fired from Indiana last season for conduct detrimental to the university, it was clear Knight's glory days had been gone for some time. "The General," despite having at least 20 wins a year in his last four years as a Hoosier, failed to guide his team past the second round since IU's Sweet Sixteen appearance in 1994.

Knight's short temper finally caught up to him as incident after incident was revealed about his past involving physical contact with players. After an Indiana student accused Knight of grabbing him on campus, IU President Myles Brand fired the state icon.

But Knight, who has been less than apologetic of his past behavior, said he was thankful for getting a chance to coach again.

Knight was also happy with the reception he received at the gathering after 100 Texas Tech faculty signed a petition trying to block his hiring.

"This is, without question, the most comfortable red sweater I have had on in six years," said Knight after putting on a Tech sweater vest presented to him at the rally, marked with a circus atmosphere as those in attendance showered boos upon reporters asking questions that related to Knight's troubled dismissal.



Texas Tech Courtesy Photo

New Texas Tech basketball Coach Bob Knight addresses an enthusiastic crowd at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock, Texas, on Friday. Knight last coached at Indiana where he was removed for behavior.

At one point, Knight dismissed a reporter from asking a second question after the crowd responded with boos when Knight asked the audience if the reporter should continue.

Knight showed in other ways that his ego hasn't taken a hit in his time away from the game.

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Winning streak hits 14 as Huskers sweep past Missouri

■ Peaches James pulls through for NU in an 11-inning victory.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It took nearly the equivalent of three games for Nebraska's softball team to extend its season-high winning streak by two to 14 consecutive wins.

With an 11-inning victory in the opener, Nebraska (24-9, 2-0) took two games from Missouri (18-17, 0-2) during the weekend. The 18th-ranked Huskers won a marathon on Saturday, 4-1 in 11 innings, and added a 5-1 win

on Sunday to sweep the conference-opening doubleheader.

Junior pitcher Leigh Ann Walker dominated the Tigers in game one, throwing a complete game and allowing only six hits. Out of the 36 batters, she struck out a career-high 17. The win leaves Walker with a 10-4 record.

"Leigh Ann came out and dominated early, and in the later innings, she dominated at the right moments," Nebraska Pitching Coach Lori Sippel said. "She won the key situations and gave our team opportunities."

Missouri ace Stephanie Falk was just as dominant, however, shutting the

Huskers out through nine innings and finishing the game with 12 strikeouts.

Each team scored its first run of the game in the 10th, and the longest game of the season for NU continued.

In the 11th, Nebraska started with Jamie Fuente on second (as per the international tiebreaker rule). Freshman Nicole Trimboli advanced Fuente to third with a single to center, and Falk hit Leigh Suhr to load the bases. After two straight outs and the bases still loaded, Coach Rhonda Revelle sent freshman pitcher Peaches James to pinch hit for Lori Tschannen.

James belted a double to score

three and gave Nebraska the lead.

"I felt like Peaches was ready for that at bat," Revelle said. "She had time to prepare, and when her number came up she was ready."

In the second game Nebraska had an easier go of it, scoring three runs in the second and added one in each of the next two innings.

Suhr paced Nebraska in the second game, leading the Huskers with two hits and an RBI.

Freshman pitcher Katie Decker shut the Tigers out through four innings, struck out five and scattered just six hits in her complete game win.

Gymnasts take Big 12s in record fashion

■ With a perfect 10 from Bree Dority O'Callaghan, Nebraska wins the Big 12 title with a school record score.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Fuming from a disappointing showing in last year's Big 12 Championship Tournament, the fourth-ranked Nebraska women's gymnastic team scorched through the competition to earn this year's team title.

And it did so in record fashion. The Cornhuskers' winning score of 197.650 broke the school and conference record and marked the fifth time this season NU has broken the school record.

Last year's champion, ninth-ranked Iowa State, finished second with a 197.050. Oklahoma came in third with a 196.70, while Missouri rounded out the field with a 193.675.

"Iowa State and Oklahoma had great meets and really pushed us to win," NU Coach Dan Kendig said. "It was a total team effort, and our only goal was a team championship. Everything else is just icing on the cake."

Junior Bree Dority O'Callaghan became the first gymnast in Big 12 history to hit a perfect 10 on the uneven bars. O'Callaghan also took home a share of the balance beam title, tying teammate A.J. Lamb and Iowa State's Stephanie Sweitzer with a 9.950.

"It really feels good because sometimes you can have good and bad practices, but it feels great when you can go out and hit a routine when the team needs it," O'Callaghan said.

Sophomore Jess Wertz shared the vault title with ISU's Shelly Kringen, scoring 9.875 on the apparatus.

After the meet, freshman Alecia Ingram was named Big 12 newcomer and gymnast of the year. Ingram is the first gymnast in conference history to be awarded both honors in the same season.

"Alecia has fit in well at Nebraska and is extremely gifted and follows our motto 'Totally Dedicated to Excellence,'" Kendig said. "She wants the team to do its best, and when she gets on the floor, it is all business."

In all, eight Nebraska gymnasts combined for 11 All-Big 12 honors. O'Callaghan (bars, beam), Ingram (bars, vault) and Lamb (beam, floor) walked away with two honors apiece, while Julie Houk (bars), Tami Harris (bars), Jen French (beam) and Libby Landgraf (floor) also earned honors.