

Huskers aiming at new kind of championship

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Jeff Leise's single in the 10th inning drove in the go-ahead run as Nebraska rallied to beat Rice 9-6 Saturday, sweeping an NCAA super regional and putting the Cornhuskers in the College World Series for the first time.

Nebraska, which had to rally in its final at bat last weekend to beat Rutgers in the regionals, improved to 5-0 in the NCAA tournament and will be one of eight teams playing at Rosenblatt Stadium next weekend.

The College World Series has been played in Omaha since 1950, but the Cornhuskers have never been able to make the 50-mile trip.

Nebraska (50-14) clinched the berth when Austin Davis' pop-up landed in the glove of shortstop Will Bolt, who jumped and threw the ball in the air as he was swarmed by teammates.

After shaking hands with the Owls, the Huskers took a victory lap around the field at Buck Beltzer Stadium, where the record crowd of 5,484 chanted "Go Big Red!" and "Omaha!"

A.J. Porfirio had two home runs and Kenny Baugh pitched 8 1/3 solid innings for the Owls (47-20), who were going for their third College World Series appearance.

Adam Stern had three RBIs for the Huskers (50-14), including a two-run single in the ninth that tied it at 5-all.

Thom Ott (5-2) blew a save opportunity in the ninth, then hit a batter and allowed a hit in the 10th, but got three consecutive pop-ups to end it.

Philip Barzilla (0-2) got Rice out of a jam in the ninth, but couldn't hold off the Huskers in the 10th.

The Cornhuskers had trailed since the first inning until finally getting to Baugh in the ninth.

Jeff Blevins drew a one-out walk, Will Bolt followed him with an infield single and Leise loaded the bases with a flare that was just out of reach for second baseman Matt Fox.

Stern hit a single to left that scored

pinch-runner Drew Anderson and Bolt. Philip Tribe relieved Baugh and gave up a single to center by John Cole, driving in Leise and giving Nebraska its first lead.

After Porfirio's leadoff homer in the ninth, Nebraska came right back in the 10th when Philip Barzilla hit Jed Morris with a pitch to start the inning. Brandon Eymann moved pinch runner Willie Jones to second with a bunt and when first baseman Jesse Roman's throw went into center, Jones went to third and Eymann to second.

Will Bolt was walked intentionally to load the bases, and Leise came through with a single to right and Nebraska led 7-6. The Cornhuskers added two more runs as the Owls committed another error.

Baugh struggled with his control and walked seven, but he also held Nebraska to three hits coming into the ninth and finished with 12 strikeouts.

Baugh, who was rested in the opener Friday after throwing 14 innings in two regional appearances last week, opened the game by striking out the first three batters he faced, then walked the first three in the second inning. Nebraska only got one run out of it as Baugh added three more strikeouts.

The Huskers didn't have a hit until Cole's one-out double in the third. Cole went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Dan Johnson's single, which cut Rice's lead to 5-2.

The Owls, who only had three hits in the series opener, had four in the first two innings, including Porfirio's two-run homer to right in the first.

Rice added a run in the second when Jesse Roman, who led off the second with a single, scored on a wild pitch.

Rice added two more runs in the third on a fielder's choice and Billy Jacobson's double to left.

Nebraska cut the lead to 5-3 in the seventh when Blevins singled, stole second, took third on a fielder's choice and scored on a passed ball.

Eyes on the ball



JAYKELLEY/Colby Free Press

Jesse Hawk practiced his catching skills at the Colby Recreation Fields on Friday, getting ready for the games that start tonight. Hawk plays for the Cardinals in the Bambino boys (age 11-14) league.

Brewster graduates get the nod for game

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Two Brewster High School Bulldogs will be playing in the Division II 8-Man All-Star football game at Beloit High School on Saturday.

Clint Horinek and Justin Jamison, both 2001 graduates, were selected to play in the 10 a.m. contest.

Horinek is the son of Tony and Anita Horinek. His football honors include all-league first team and all-state honorable mention in 1999. He rushed for 1193 yards, 19 touchdowns and 18 2-point conversions. He caught 36 passes for 466 yards and 11 touchdowns.

He plans to play football at Benedictine College while studying for elementary and physical education.

He was a member of the choir, band, academic team, honor society and math relays at Brewster.

Jamison is the son of Rex and Joan Jamison. He was All-League First Team and All-Area selection. He had 84 tackles, nine sacks a fumble recovery and an interception.

He was also on the All-League Academic Team, stucco vice-president, senior class president, academic bowl team captain and national honor society.

He plans to go to Kansas State University in the fall.

Brewster was league champions in 1998, league champions and sub-state runner-up in 1999 and league and sub-state runner-up in 2000.



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Devils tie cup race, again

DENVER (AP) — Petr Sykora felt great that his first goal in these Stanley Cup finals tied the series for the New Jersey Devils. He didn't need personal satisfaction to make it better.

Sykora, who plays on the Devils' A-Line with Jason Arnott and Patrik Elias, had been struggling. The pressure had been mounting since he and Elias hadn't scored in the first three games — including two losses — against the Colorado Avalanche.

After Elias broke through in the second period of Saturday's Game 4, Sykora scored the clincher with 2:37 left in the 3-2 victory.

"The only sense of relief was to win

the hockey game," Sykora said Sunday. "I think we put ourselves back in this series."

Sykora had 35 goals and 46 assists in the regular season, and then added eight goals and 10 assists in the first three rounds of the playoffs.

His scoring drought started after he registered a goal and an assist in Game 4 of the conference finals against Pittsburgh and lasted four games.

"I don't have pressure scoring," he said the day before Game 5 against Colorado. "I wasn't thinking about it and I'm not going to do it now."

Elias, who led New Jersey in the regular season with 96 points, also went four games since his last goal.



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