

Huskers' Riley On Expectations, Osborne, 'Nice Guy' Persona

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Mike Riley is a month away from opening practice for his first season as the Nebraska head coach.

Riley, who turns 62 on Monday, originally planned to retire at Oregon State. But when athletic director Shawn Eichorst called after he fired Bo Pelini, Riley couldn't pass up the opportunity to see what he could accomplish leading one of the winningest programs in college football history.

"There was the intrigue of

Nebraska and the intrigue of a new league. My wife and I said we have time for one more great adventure, so we said, 'Let's do this,'" Riley said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Riley discussed the high expectations at Nebraska, his limited contact with Tom Osborne, his reputation for being the "nicest guy in college football" and how he accepted a ride from a stranger on a cold winter's night in Lincoln.

AP: You're the fourth head coach at Nebraska since Tom Osborne retired after winning the last of his three national titles in 1997.

Frank Solich and Bo Pelini won a lot but were fired. What do you make of the high expectations?

Riley: I've coached in the NFL, and they all want to win the Super Bowl. I've coached in the Pac-12, and they all want to win the Pac-12. I understand it. Expectations actually are a positive to me because when I went to Oregon State in 1997, there were none. Twenty-eight straight losing seasons, really bad facilities. It was kind of scary. It's a better place to be when there are expectations.

AP: Is the run of success Nebraska enjoyed from 1962-97 under Bob

Devaney and Osborne an albatross for the coaches who have followed?

Riley: I don't consider it a negative. There are only so many places in the country like Nebraska. Maybe you could name 10 that have that tradition and long-standing spot in the college football world. Instead of thinking of it as an albatross, you think of it as a positive and really embrace it. It's pretty special to be at a place where there is so much pride, so much history, and now you see what you can do with it.

AP: Other than one lunch you had with Osborne shortly after you arrived, have you spoken much

with him?
Riley: He spoke at an FCA function with Tim Tebow in Grand Island and my daughter and I went out there. They took us backstage with Tim and coach Osborne beforehand. We spent 15 minutes talking. My daughter talked to him more than I did.

AP: There's a perception Osborne has been slow to embrace you, based on the fact he was the athletic director who hired the coach you replaced. Do you feel that way?

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Suing Shines In New Role

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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After being one of the younger players on the Yankton Spitfire, Liz Suing has adjusted to a new role with a new team: veteran.

Suing, who played above her age group with the now-defunct 18-under Spitfire last season, is a leading hitter for the 16-under Fury Xtreme this season.

"It was kinda different at first," she said. "It's the first time I've ever been one of the older players on a team. It's nice to have that leadership role."

Suing has responded, leading the Fury Xtreme in batting average (.409), runs scored (37), doubles (13) and RBI (35), and tying for team honors in triples (4) and home runs (3) entering Thursday's scheduled doubleheader at Norfolk.

"Liz has become a consistent hitter," said Fury Xtreme coach Kim Velk. "She leads us in batting average, and she's also improved her defense."

One thing that has helped Suing become the Fury Xtreme's cleanup hitter and starting shortstop is her willingness to take and apply criticism.

"She has a really good work ethic," Velk said. "She wants critiques. She wants to apply them and do the best she can."

The senior-to-be at Yankton High School has also worked to be more confident in her play.

"I've worked more on a leadership role, tried to be more confident," she said. "That's what I've worked on most of the year."

Besides being a hard worker, Suing has been a good teammate, according to Velk.

"She gets along with the team very well," Velk said. "All the coaches enjoy her. All the players enjoy her. I don't think I've had a bad day with her."

With her final year of high school looming, Suing is hoping to extend her career past the next 12 months.

"I've contacted a couple of schools, looked at a couple of options," she said. "Right now I'm riding it out. I'll get more involved in fall ball."

And Velk, who played college softball at Mount Marty College, feels Suing will be ready.

"I think she's going to do very well," she said.

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Yankton Fury Xtreme shortstop Liz Suing prepares to fire the ball across the diamond during a home game earlier this season. Suing leads the Fury Xtreme in several offensive categories this season.

P&D FILE PHOTO

Baseball: Post 12 Splits At S.F. East

SIOUX FALLS — Yankton Post 12 split with Sioux Falls East in American Legion baseball action on Thursday at Harmodon Park.

In the opener, Yankton jumped out to an 8-2 lead after three innings and coasted to a 12-4 victory. Post 12 improved to 6-0 in region play with the victory.

Brad Ulmer went 5-5 with a triple, a double, five run scored and three RBI to lead Yankton. Sheldon Gant went 4-5 with a triple, a double and three RBI. Mason Townsend had two hits and four RBI. Ben Cameron had a double and two runs scored. Adam Walter and Levi Schmidt each had a hit and a run scored, with Schmidt also driving in a run in the victory.

Josh Nevin, Aaron Nesbitt and Logan Mueller each doubled for East.

Colin Muth allowed two runs in five innings, striking out five, to pick up the victory. Matt Graham, who allowed eight runs (one earned) in 2 2/3 innings, taking the loss.

East used six extra-base hits to beat Yankton 11-1 in the nightcap.

Evan Kuhnert had two doubles and four RBI, and Andrew White went 2-2 with a triple and two RBI to lead East. Lucas Wylie doubled and singled, driving in two. Mueller tripled and Tim Wood doubled in the victory.

Landon Withrow had two hits to lead Yankton. Ben Cameron had a hit and a RBI. Jordan Kathol had a hit and a run scored.

Matt White picked up the win. Kathol took the loss. Yankton, 21-8, hosts Sioux Falls West on Tuesday. Start time for the twinbill is 5 p.m.

Platte-Geddes 7, Alexandria 3

ALEXANDRIA — Mount Marty College standout Hunter Hallock drove in two runs and picked up a three-inning save as Platte-Geddes downed Alexandria 7-3 in American Legion baseball action on Wednesday.

Hallock doubled and singled for Platte-Geddes. Seth Kirsch and Coby Johnson each had a RBI hit.

Aaron Wenande had two hits and Mason Meyer doubled for Alexandria.

Allen Muilenburg picked up the win, striking out four in six innings of work. Hallock struck out five in three shutout innings of work for the save. Tucker Kingsbury took the loss, striking out five in seven innings of work.

Platte-Geddes improved to 5-3 on the season.

VFW Teener

Reds 18-11, S.F. East 10-3

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Reds pounded out 29 runs in a doubleheader sweep of Sioux Falls East in VFW Teener baseball action on Thursday.

Matthew Mors went 4-4 with two doubles and three RBI as Yankton won the opener 18-10. Will Pease had two hits and three RBI. Cayden Peterson and Andy Knapp each had two hits and two RBI. Bradley Howe had two hits and a RBI. Gavin Raabe had a hit and two RBI. Ryan Eihacker and Grant Nelson each had a hit in the victory.

Knapp picked up the win in relief.

In the nightcap, Pease had three hits and three RBI as Yankton rolled to an 11-3 victory.

Mors had two hits and two RBI, and Princeton Vollmer and Christian Curran each had two hits and a RBI. Chris Steffen and Peterson each had a hit in the victory.

Steffen went the distance in the win.

The Reds travel to Mitchell on Monday.

Amateur

Freeman 7, Wynot 3

FREEMAN — Freeman jumped out to a 5-0 lead after two innings and held on for a 7-3 victory over Wynot in South Central League amateur baseball action on Wednesday.

Brett Scherschligt had a home run and two RBI, and Jake Weier and Derek Waltner each had two hits and a RBI to lead Freeman. Allan Scherschligt also had two hits in the victory.

Lance Heine had two hits, including a home run, for Wynot. Lee Heimes and Matt Hames also had two hits each.

Eric Hortness went the distance in the victory.

Devon Lammers took the loss.

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Devon Lammers, Brett Wiebelhaus (5), Jackson Sudbeck (7) and Kyle Wiepen; Eric Hortness and Brett Scherschligt

WORLD CUP | PAGE 6A

World Cup Field Puts Haves, Have-Nots On Display

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — One of the benefits of an expanded field of 24 teams at the Women's World Cup this year was that there were lots of fresh faces playing in Canada, teams like Ivory Coast, Ecuador and Cameroon.

While that was good for the women's game globally, the expansion showed the stark contrast between the haves and have-nots. Case in point was Ivory Coast, which arrived in Canada and 72 hours later opened the tournament

with a 10-0 loss to top-ranked Germany.

Ivory Coast went on to lose to Thailand and Norway before exiting the tournament. Afterward, coach Clementine Toure made an impassioned plea.

"I want to make an appeal to not only our federation, but to all of Africa, that women's football has arrived. We believe in our women. We have a good team," she said through a translator following the team's final group match. "The Ivory Coast showed it deserves a

place in the World Cup. But we also deserved to be better prepared. We didn't deserve to be humiliated."

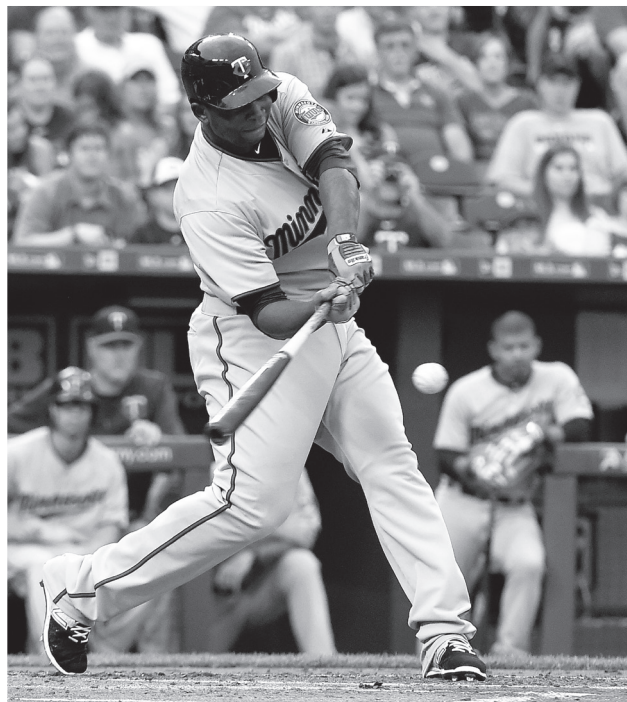
The monthlong tournament has been played across six Canadian cities. It concludes this weekend with the third-place match between Germany and England on Saturday in Edmonton, and the title game between the United States and Japan on Sunday at Vancouver's BC Place.

The global attention on the World Cup could give national

federations incentive to invest more in the women's game. There is evidence it's already happening, said Tatjana Haenni, FIFA's head of women's football.

"We know that Thailand really tried to prepare for the tournament the best they could. They put a really good program in place, they traveled to Europe to play some games, they organized a camp, and they got some consultants to

Twins Win In Sano's MLB Debut



The Minnesota Twins' Miguel Sano flies out in his first major league at bat, against the Kansas City Royals in the second inning on Thursday at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

Gibson Pitches 8 Shutout Innings As Minnesota Blanks Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kyle Gibson threw eight innings of four-hit ball, Danny Santana and Eduardo Escobar had RBI triples, and the Minnesota Twins beat the AL Central-leading Kansas City Royals 2-0 Thursday night.

Gibson (6-6) stranded a pair of runners in the eighth before turning the lead over to Glen Perkins, who remained perfect in 26 save attempts. Perkins is two saves shy of matching Eddie Guardado (116) for third-most in Twins history.

The Royals' Chris Young (7-4) dodged trouble for most of 5 1/3 innings, the only run he allowed coming on a triple by Santana in the fifth. The big, lanky right-hander turned over a 1-0 deficit to the game's best bullpen, but his offense was unable to bail him out.

It was a good way to start the four-game set for the second-

place Twins, who dropped four of their first six on a 10-game road trip.

Kansas City has lost four straight. Two of them have been shutouts.

The fact that the Royals were even in the game was surprising. The Twins collected five extra-base hits — including the run-scoring triples — and had runners advance three times when Young threw a pitch that got away from Royals catcher Salvador Perez.

Then again, all Minnesota needed was a run against the slumping Royals.

Two of Kansas City's four hits were bunts against the shift, and the hardest-hit ball — a single by Lorenzo Cain in the fourth — led to the most frustrating frame of the night: Kansas City went on to load the bases before Perez struck out looking to end the inning.

Smoltz The First Hall Of Famer Following Tommy John Surgery

BY JOHN KEKIS
AP Sports Writer

When John Smoltz is inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in three weeks he'll be the first player enshrined following Tommy John surgery.

"That's pretty doubtful that he would be the last," said renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews, who performed Smoltz's surgery. "You can't believe how many are out there now that are pitching very successfully."

"It's quite an accomplishment to go through that and make the Hall of Fame," Andrews said. "It's not going to be the easiest thing to reproduce, but I'm sure somebody will come along and duplicate that."

There will be plenty of candidates. In a four-

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