

1981

Baseball 1981

University of Northern Iowa

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University of
Northern Iowa

Baseball 1981





**Head Coach
J.D. Anderson**

Head Coach J.D. Anderson, beginning his 16th season as the Northern Iowa diamond boss, is looking for overall improvement in the 1981 spring campaign and leads the Panthers into what will be their first season at the Division I level.

"The transition will take time and is something we must work very hard at this year for any future success," predicts the two-time NCAA District Five Coach of the Year.

In his first nine years at UNI, Anderson directed eight winning seasons and a pair of North Central Conference crowns in 1968 and 1972. Anderson's 1968 and 1974 squads collected 18 wins, the most ever for any Panther baseball team in a single season.

Anderson's teams have compiled a 212-200 record the past 15 seasons. His success at UNI ranks behind only that of L.W. Whitford who piloted the Panther baseball squads for 37 years, accumulating an impressive 302-211 mark. The two skippers have accounted for 514 of Northern Iowa's 567 victories it has garnered since organized baseball began in 1893.

A native of Collinsville, IL, Anderson starred as a prep in football, basketball and track, winning 12 letters. He continued his talents at Eastern Illinois, lettering in football, basketball and baseball; earning all-conference honors in football twice and baseball three times. He was voted team MVP in baseball his senior year.

After graduating in 1953 with a B.S. degree in physical education, Anderson played professional baseball in the Philadelphia Phillies' organization three years after a two-year stint in the U.S. Army.

From 1956-60 he was head baseball coach at Key West (FL) High School and won the Florida State Championship twice and lost in semifinal action one other year.

In 1960 he returned to Eastern Illinois and received an M.S. degree in physical education in 1961. Between 1961-65 he served as intramural director and freshman baseball coach at Northern Illinois prior to coming to UNI in 1965.

His other duties at UNI have included stints as freshman basketball coach and athletic business manager. He served as the women's basketball coach this past season and led them to a school-record 18 wins, along with a third-place finish in the AIAW Division II State Tournament.



1981 Northern Iowa Panthers

Row 1 Bill Hadaway, Mike Schmitt, Marc Davis, Gene Wiltgen, Brian Bernard, Rich Christensen, Brian Wilson; **Row 2** Head Coach J.D. Anderson, Steve Miller, Kevin Seichter, Jay Dinnebie, Larry Berry, Jim Kriener, Kim Ruddick, Jim Carney, John Sheahan, Joe Starceovich; **Row 3** Mark Hamm, Loran Hackman, Nick Leinen, Randy Ramlo, Terry Bahlmann, Randy Richards, Jim Korte, Ted Vaughn, Jay Norton, Ken Nurse. Not Pictured were Scot Palmer and Rick Fleener.

1981 Roster



| Name | Class | Ht. | Wt. | Pos. | Bat | Throw | Hometown |
|----------------------|-------|------|-----|----------|-----|-------|-------------------|
| Bahlmann, Terry | Jr. | 6-1 | 190 | 3B | R | R | Cedar Falls, IA |
| Bernard, Brian | So. | 5-10 | 150 | 2B | R | R | Eagle Grove, IA |
| Berry, Larry | Sr. | 6-0 | 170 | 1B | R | R | Des Moines, IA |
| Carney, James | So. | 6-0 | 175 | SS | R | R | Marengo, IA |
| Christensen, Richard | Jr. | 5-9 | 160 | Of. | L | R | Fort Dodge, IA |
| Davis, Marc | Jr. | 5-8 | 175 | C | R | R | Waterloo, IA |
| Dinnebie, Jay | So. | 5-10 | 170 | C | R | R | Waterloo, IA |
| Fleener, Rick | So. | 5-11 | 160 | 3B | R | R | Grinnell, IA |
| Hackman, Loran | Fr. | 6-3 | 185 | Of./Inf. | R | R | West Union, IA |
| Hadaway, William | Jr. | 6-0 | 190 | P | R | R | Ames, IA |
| Hamm, Mark | Jr. | 6-1 | 170 | P | R | R | Hudson, IA |
| Korte, James | Sr. | 6-2 | 196 | 1B | R | R | Cedar Falls, IA |
| Kriener, James | Jr. | 6-0 | 165 | P | R | L | Fort Atkinson, IA |
| Leinen, Nick | Jr. | 6-1 | 190 | P | L | L | Portsmouth, IA |
| Levenhagen, Mike | Jr. | 5-10 | 160 | C | R | R | State Center, IA |
| Miller, Steven | Sr. | 5-11 | 185 | Of. | SW | R | Cedar Falls, IA |
| Norton, Jay | Fr. | 6-2 | 165 | P | R | R | Anamosa, IA |
| Nurse, Ken | Sr. | 6-2 | 182 | P | R | R | Carroll, IA |
| Palmer, Scot | Jr. | 5-10 | 150 | P | R | L | Urbandale, IA |
| Ramlo, Randy | So. | 6-2 | 178 | 3B | R | R | Decorah, IA |
| Richards, Randy | Sr. | 6-2 | 185 | Of./Inf. | R | R | Waterloo, IA |
| Ruddick, Kim | Sr. | 5-10 | 175 | Of./Inf. | SW | R | Marshalltown, IA |
| Schmitt, Mike | So. | 5-10 | 160 | Of./2B | R | R | Independence, IA |
| Seichter, Kevin | Sr. | 6-1 | 180 | SS | R | R | Cedar Falls, IA |
| Sheahan, John | So. | 5-10 | 165 | 2B | R | R | Sheffield, IA |
| Vaughn, Ted | Jr. | 6-2 | 185 | Inf./P | L | L | Fort Dodge, IA |
| Wilson, Brian | Jr. | 5-10 | 165 | SS | R | R | Fort Dodge, IA |
| Wiltgen, Gene | Sr. | 5-10 | 160 | 2B/Of. | R | R | Calmar, IA |

The fate of this season's squad depends largely on its ability to hit the ball — one aspect of the game which last season's 12-16 team found to be difficult at times. Coach Anderson feels that his squad's performance at the plate will be directly related to the numbers appearing in the won-lost column.

"I feel that we are solid everywhere except at the plate. I hope that we've worked on our overall physical strength enough that when we do hit the ball, we'll do it effectively enough to score some runs," quoted Anderson.

This year's team promises to surpass the 1980 squad's lean performance in the batter's box which accounted for a team batting average of .200 and only 21 extra-base hits. Although UNI is still minus an outstanding slugger, several athletes have the potential to make contact with the ball consistently and get on base.

Sophomore first baseman Larry Berry, who led the Panther offensive attack last year with a .333 average, is expected to help bolster the hitting attack, as is transfer third baseman Terry Bahlmann. If Berry and Bahlmann can ignite some fire into the batting order, it will be a fine complement to what already is a talented and experienced pitching staff.

Pitchers

Last year's moundsmen compiled a respectable 3.42 ERA and allowed only 182 hits in 195 innings. With no overpowering arms on the staff, control and good defense will be essential for its continued success. A better offensive production at the plate could also, in turn, beef up what has been a shaky winning percentage for the pitchers.

Junior left-hander Scot Palmer was 3-5 last year, but salvaged a fine 2.70 ERA from some tough assignments. Palmer led the staff with 58 strikeouts and tossed a three-hitter in a 1-0 loss to Iowa.

Senior Ken Nurse, a veteran of three UNI baseball campaigns, was 3-3 in 1980 with a 3.21 ERA, along with teammate Nick Leinen (2-3, 3.03 ERA) who figures to spend plenty of time again this year on the mound.

Junior Jim Kriener (3-2, 3.30 ERA) is expected to fill one of spots on the starting rotation. Kriener thumped defending Big Ten champion Michigan State in the 1980 season-opener with a seven-hit shutout en route to a 2-0 win.

Infield

Catcher Marc Davis, a J.C. transfer from Ellsworth, is expected to assume some of the chores behind the plate, along with sophomore Jay Dinnebier. Anderson labelled Davis as "a talented player who had a good year both offensively and defensively at Ellsworth."

Kevin Seichter is returning at shortstop and will team with converted outfielder Gene Wiltgen, now at second base, for what should be a good double play combination. Wiltgen is the team speedster stealing 12 out of 14 bases last season.

Berry probably will see action at both first base and designated hitter. Bahlmann had an outstanding summer season at third base and may be the closest thing to a slugger the Panthers have.

A large part of the pitching staff's luck will tie in to what happens between the first and third base paths. If the infielders can play consistently and turn over the double play, it will be a big step toward a winning record.

Outfield

Other than hitting, the biggest question mark concerning this year's squad. Senior Kim Ruddick leads a young, untested corp which has the potential to do well with some experience. Ruddick owned the second highest batting average on the club (.278) and stole seven of 11 bases. Senior Steve Miller transferred back to Northern Iowa this year and is a likely candidate for an outfield spot. Sophomore Mike Schmitt and freshman Loran Hackman also are battling for playing time. Wiltgen may draw some outfield assignments, but is expected to see most of his action this year at second base. Anderson expects to try different combinations in the lineup early and find what he hopes will be a productive trio in the outfield.

Opponents

The Panthers' move to Division I will be a gradual one. Iowa and Iowa State are prominent foes and will be important games. Division II power Western Illinois is also on the slate and figures to be a good indication, along with the Iowa and Iowa State results, of the UNI progress. Talented Division III foes like Wartburg College and Loras also shouldn't be overlooked. Northwest Missouri State, a newcomer to the schedule, finished 34-12 in 1980 and won the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship.

1980 Northern Iowa Baseball Statistics

| Name | G | AB | R | H | RBI | AVG. | 2B | 3B | HR | BB | SO | SAC | SB | SBA | HBP | E |
|----------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| Larry Berry | 26 | 72 | 10 | 24 | 13 | .333 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Kim Ruddick | 26 | 54 | 11 | 15 | 4 | .278 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 18 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Kevin Seichter | 28 | 90 | 10 | 22 | 7 | .244 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 21 |
| Jay Dinnebier | 12 | 26 | 2 | 6 | 4 | .231 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Pat Lyons | 24 | 64 | 5 | 13 | 11 | .203 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Tim Lincoln | 26 | 72 | 15 | 14 | 4 | .194 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 7 |
| Joe Starcevich | 16 | 45 | 4 | 8 | 5 | .178 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Gene Wiltgen | 24 | 57 | 18 | 10 | 5 | .175 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 16 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 0 | 2 |
| Bill Henry | 25 | 71 | 5 | 9 | 5 | .127 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| Neal Miller | 19 | 36 | 6 | 4 | 1 | .111 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Kelly Weiss | 22 | 38 | 3 | 3 | 0 | .080 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Dave McCaulley | 9 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 3 | .050 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bob Fouche | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | .400 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rick Fleener | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Chris Malone | 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | .222 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Steve Morrow | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Dean Eggers | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scott Yearling | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PITCHERS | 28 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| TOTALS | 28 | 674 | 92 | 135 | 64 | .200 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 135 | 123 | 41 | 47 | 62 | 13 | 66 |

1981 Schedule

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Mar 21-28 | Spring Trip — Orlando, FL | |
| Mar 31 | University of Dubuque (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 3 | Iowa State University (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 4 | at Iowa State University (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 5 | at Grandview College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 6 | at Northwest Missouri St. (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 8 | Wartburg College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 12 | Loras College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 17 | at Western Illinois (1) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 18 | at Western Illinois (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 21 | Northwest Missouri St. (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 24 | Grandview College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 25 | at Loras College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| Apr 29 | University of Iowa (2) | 1 p.m. |
| May 1 | Central College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| May 4 | at Wartburg College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| May 5 | at Dubuque College (2) | 1 p.m. |
| May 7 | Luther College (2) | 1 p.m. |

Home games in bold

1980 Results (12-16)

| Name | G | IP | W | L | PCT. | Pitching | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|----|----|------|----------|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|----|----|--|
| | | | | | | H | R | ER | ERA | BB | SO | WP | BK | HB | |
| Scot Palmer | 8 | 50 | 3 | 5 | .375 | 46 | 24 | 15 | 2.70 | 11 | 58 | 5 | 0 | 1 | |
| Career: | 16 | 88 | 6 | 7 | .462 | 94 | 65 | 38 | 3.89 | 28 | 100 | 7 | 0 | 3 | |
| Nick Leinen | 6 | 32 2/3 | 2 | 3 | .400 | 27 | 18 | 11 | 3.03 | 16 | 30 | 2 | 0 | 1 | |
| Career: | 10 | 39 1/3 | 2 | 3 | .400 | 34 | 26 | 19 | 4.35 | 25 | 35 | 3 | 0 | 1 | |
| Ken Nurse | 7 | 42 | 3 | 3 | .500 | 32 | 21 | 15 | 3.21 | 17 | 32 | 3 | 0 | 1 | |
| Career: | 19 | 98 1/3 | 6 | 11 | .353 | 118 | 102 | 74 | 6.77 | 42 | 59 | 6 | 0 | 2 | |
| Jim Kriener | 8 | 43 2/3 | 3 | 2 | .600 | 50 | 28 | 16 | 3.30 | 24 | 17 | 5 | 0 | 0 | |
| Career: | 16 | 81 1/3 | 4 | 4 | .500 | 93 | 55 | 38 | 4.21 | 32 | 33 | 6 | 0 | 0 | |
| Dale Scott | 4 | 11 | 0 | 1 | .000 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 5.73 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Career: | Same as above | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scott Lewis | 7 | 11 | 1 | 2 | .333 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 7.36 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| Career: | 17 | 36 | 3 | 6 | .333 | 40 | 32 | 25 | 6.25 | 25 | 35 | 4 | 0 | 2 | |
| Pete Fronczak | 1 | 1 2/3 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Career: | Same as above | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ross Thompson | 1 | 1 1/3 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | |
| Career: | Same as above | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bryan Christiansen | 1 | 1 2/3 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5.40 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Career: | Same as above | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1980 TOTALS | 28 | 195 | 12 | 16 | .429 | 182 | 117 | 74 | 3.42 | 89 | 152 | 21 | 0 | 6 | |

Returning players in bold type

| Date | Opponent | Score | Panther Pitcher |
|--------|-----------------|-------|------------------|
| Mar 24 | *Michigan State | 2-0 | Kriener (W, 1-0) |
| Mar 25 | *Northwestern | 2-6 | Palmer (L, 0-1) |
| Mar 25 | *Pan American | 1-5 | Leinen (L, 0-1) |
| Mar 27 | *Northwestern | 2-3 | Nurse (L, 0-1) |
| Mar 27 | *Pan American | 1-16 | Lewis (L, 0-1) |
| Mar 29 | *Pan American | 2-5 | Palmer (L, 0-2) |
| Mar 29 | *Northwestern | 6-7 | Nurse (L, 0-2) |
| Apr 13 | Iowa | 0-1 | Palmer (L, 0-3) |
| Apr 13 | Iowa | 0-6 | Kriener (L, 1-1) |
| Apr 15 | Dubuque | 7-6 | Lewis (W, 1-1) |
| Apr 15 | Dubuque | 2-5 | Scott (L, 0-1) |
| Apr 17 | Upper Iowa | 5-7 | Kriener (L, 1-2) |
| Apr 17 | Upper Iowa | 5-1 | Palmer (W, 1-3) |
| Apr 21 | at William Penn | 7-5 | Nurse (W, 1-2) |
| Apr 21 | at William Penn | 2-1 | Leinen (W, 1-1) |
| Apr 22 | at Central | 3-7 | Palmer (L, 1-4) |
| Apr 22 | at Central | 3-1 | Kriener (W, 2-2) |
| Apr 26 | at Loras | 0-4 | Nurse (L, 1-3) |
| Apr 26 | at Loras | 7-1 | Leinen (W, 2-1) |
| Apr 28 | Wartburg | 3-4 | Palmer (L, 1-5) |
| May 2 | Briar Cliff | 0-4 | Leinen (L, 2-2) |
| May 2 | Briar Cliff | 7-4 | Kriener (W, 3-2) |
| May 3 | Briar Cliff | 2-1 | Nurse (W, 2-3) |
| May 3 | Briar Cliff | 6-1 | Palmer (W, 2-5) |
| May 6 | at Coe | 6-5 | Lewis (L, 1-2) |
| May 6 | at Coe | 3-8 | Leinen (L, 2-3) |
| May 8 | at Wartburg | 4-0 | Nurse (W, 3-3) |
| May 8 | at Wartburg | 5-2 | Palmer (W, 3-5) |

*Game was played at Edinburg, TX, on the Northern Iowa spring trip

A Brief Look at UNI

The University of Northern Iowa, one of the nation's leading institutions of higher learning, is the outgrowth of the Iowa State Normal School established by the General Assembly in 1876. From a single building on a 40-acre campus, the University has grown to include over 40 major buildings, a 23-acre campus, over 600 faculty members and more than 11,000 on-campus students.

Although teacher education remains an important program, the University offers degrees to students majoring in a wide variety of subjects. Thus, UNI has two Bachelor of Arts degrees, one with certification to teach and one without certification. Also, a Bachelor of Technology degree can be earned with or without certification and since 1969, the Bachelor of Music degree has been offered. A Bachelor of Fine Arts degree was approved in 1976. An Individual Studies major enables a student to pursue a wide assortment of study areas. The Bachelor of Liberal Studies, the fifth baccalaureate degree, is an external degree made available through the cooperative efforts of the three Regents universities.

On the graduate level, courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Education and a sixth-year program leading to the Specialist in Education degree are available. A sixth-year Specialist degree with a program in science education was inaugurated in 1970. Of course, Master of Arts degrees are available and the Master of Business Administration degree was approved in 1975 and the Master of Music in 1976. The program was further extended in 1978 with the addition of UNI's first doctoral degree, the Doctor of Industrial Technology.

Quick Facts

Location: Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Founded: 1876

Enrollment: 11,020

President: Dr. John J. Kamerick

Athletic Director: Stanley B. Sheriff (319-273-2143)

Associate Athletic Director: John "Jersey" Jermier
(319-273-2143)

Associate Athletic Director: Sandra Williamson
(319-273-6033)

Head Coach: J.D. Anderson (319-273-2025)

Head Trainer: Dave Burton (319-273-6369)

National Affiliation: NCAA Division I

Team Nickname: Panthers

School Colors: Purple and Old Gold

Home Diamond: UNI Diamond

1980 Record: 12-16

Sports Information Director: Nancy Justis (319-273-6354)

Asst. Sports Information Director: Dave Starr (319-273-6354)