

TV SPORTS

College World Series should be bigger star

BY SARA BENNETT

"All you have to do," professes Greg Gumbel, "is look at the list of stars who have played in the College World Series and have gone on to play Major League Baseball, like the Dave Winfields and the Roger Clemenses and the Freddie Lynns. All these people have passed through Omaha at one point in their college careers."

Gumbel serves as the play-by-play announcer of CBS' coverage of the NCAA Baseball World Series championship game, Saturday, June 11.

Although numerous notables have left their mark on Omaha, Nebraska's Rosenblatt Stadium, the collegiate World Series has yet to become a household phrase.

"It's an event that doesn't get nearly the notoriety that it should ... the way college football and college basketball do because it's not the money-maker that both those sports are," Gumbel says. "But it is every bit as competitive."

"There are kids who, when they look to play baseball, they will look naturally to Miami, Wichita State, Texas, Arizona State," he adds. "I would say that out of the eight teams that make it to Omaha, there will be at least three, four, five familiar names."

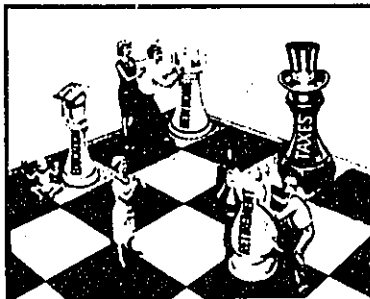
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