

Husker crew rowing toward distinction

By Pete Wegman

While sports such as gymnastics and football have brought national recognition to Nebraska in recent years, another UNL sport has quietly developed the makings of a Big 8 Conference and possibly future national powerhouse.

The sport is crew, and coach Bob Spousta and UNL crew members are favored to defend their Big 8 title Saturday at Branched Oak Lake northwest of Lincoln.

At last year's inaugural conference championships, the Huskers won the Ben Stott Challenge Cup, symbolic of Big 8 crew supremacy.

The eleven events at Saturday's regatta and their approximate starting times include: 9 a.m.—novice men's eight; 9:30 a.m.—junior varsity women's eight; 10 a.m.—varsity men's eight; 10:15 a.m.—varsity women's eight; 10:30 a.m.—varsity men's four; 10:45 a.m.—single's sculls; 11 a.m.—novice men's four; 11:15 a.m.—double's sculls; 11:30 a.m.—varsity women's eight; noon—varsity mixed eight and 12:30 p.m.—novice mixed eight.

Competing against UNL will be Kansas State (KSU) and Oklahoma State (OSU) Universities, the only Big

8 schools with crew programs.

"I think there'll be some close races Saturday," Spousta said. "Kansas State wants to do better with us than they did against Yale" in a regatta three weeks ago in Omaha involving KSU, UNL and Yale, he said.

Men's races will be 2,000 meters (about one and one-fourth miles), women's will be 1,000 and the mixed (men and women rowing together) will be 2,000.

"I'd like to put the mixed races in a serious vein," he said. "They're meant to be fun, but we're going out to win."

Spousta said a small wind could have an important effect on the races, which will be run parallel to the lake's east shore.

"The water out there Saturday will be a real challenge of oarsmanship," he said. "The crew that wins will be the crew that handles the water."

Two weeks ago, in a dual against UNL, Wichita State completed only two of six scheduled races and then refused to continue because of rough water.

The decision of whether to race Saturday mainly rests with Spousta.

"I'll never force a coach to send his crew on the water. But if we think the conditions are raceable and one coach doesn't want to race, we'll still run the race," he said.

If winds and rough water cause the races to be postponed, they will be rescheduled for 6 a.m. Sunday.

Spousta, in his first year at UNL after coaching women's teams at the University of Massachusetts for three years, said the main problem UNL's crew faces is a shortage in the number of participants.

"We need to get more people out and keep them out," he said. "We didn't have enough experienced depth this year. Consequently, there wasn't as much pressure to gain seats" in the shells, he said.

Spousta and Mark Stormberg, senior architecture major from Kimball who coaches women's crew, both agreed that one key to the crew program's future is developing a strong crew tradition.

"We have a five-year tradition," Stormberg said. "Some Eastern schools have 100-year traditions. We're pushing, probably faster than anybody. We're the ones everybody's following."

Saturday's regatta is sponsored by Inland Shores Marina on Branched Oak. The marina donated 65 medals, the Lincoln Sunrise Optimist Club donated a trophy, the Coast Guard is providing four powerboats and the National Guard is donating radio communications.

UNL, KSU each take one in twin bill

By Susie Reitz

Sunshine and 70-degree weather set the stage for a doubleheader split between the UNL and Kansas State University (KSU) softball teams Thursday in Lincoln.

UNL won the first game 5-3 but lost the second 9-8.

Senior Sue Hansen and freshman Sue Luedtke starred in the first game, hitting 3-3 for the Huskers.

Hansen hit the first of two doubles to lead off UNL's three-run second inning. She scored when KSU pitcher Kay Beatty walked Husker freshman Pam Leeper with

bases loaded. UNL scored twice more in the inning on a single by junior Jean Vrbka and a sacrifice fly by sophomore Peg Conradt.

Hansen socked another double the next inning, then scored on a triple by Luedtke. UNL's final score came in the fifth inning.

KSU scored runs in the third, fourth and fifth stanzas.

In the second game, KSU scored first with a run in the second but the Huskers answered with five runs in the next inning.

Sophomore Husker catcher Christy Oswald socked a triple late in the third to drive in three of the runs. Earlier in the inning, starting junior pitcher Kris Schell scored on a ground out by junior right fielder Sandy Stewart and second baseman Van Teten scored on a single by senior centerfielder Betsy Anderson. UNL added another run in the fourth.

KSU scored two runs in the fourth inning. Then, in the fifth inning, UNL coach Myreen Loveless replaced Schell with Bartels who gave up seven hits and six runs and was tagged with the loss.

Teten and Stewart hit back to back triples in the sixth, then Hansen singled to score Stewart. However, the added runs weren't enough as KSU pitcher Betsy Locke finished with the win.

Carrying a 6-8 record, the Huskers head into the Big 8 Conference tournament today and Saturday at the University of Kansas (KU).

Five teams will compete in the double elimination tournament including UNL, KU, KSU, Iowa State University (ISU) and the University of Missouri (MU).

UNL's first opponent will be host KU and the winner meets ISU Saturday. The loser of that game Saturday plays the loser of the KSU-MU game.

relief pitching. Juniors Paul Haas and Steve McManaman each had a two-run home run, and senior Gary Healey added a two-run double.

UNL is the site of the Region VIII United States Volleyball Association (USVEA) championships Saturday. Matches begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Coliseum and the Women's Physical Education Bldg., with five courts at each site in continuous action.

Finals begin at 5:30 p.m. for the Men's B and Women's B divisions. Women's Open finals are at 7 p.m. in the Coliseum, while the Men's Open finals follow at 8 p.m.

Thirty-five teams from Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri and Kansas will compete along with squads from the Lincoln Volleyball Club, Offutt Air Force Base and R. J. Advertising Specialties of Lincoln.

on record | Controversy will continue to haunt swim coach Reta

By Larry Stunkel

Forgetting a recent controversy concerning his coaching ability will not be easy for UNL swim coach John Reta, despite his efforts to convince people the controversy has ended.

UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney rightly refused to fire Reta, despite a petition signed by swimmers asking for Reta's removal.

Reta said he wants to return to recruiting. Many of the charges were lies, he said, adding that the incident will have a positive effect on his program.

However, one must remember that statewide press coverage produces something any coach fears while recruiting—bad publicity.

If top state high school prospects haven't read about the swim team's action, Reta can be sure another coach after the same prospects will inform them—such is recruiting.

A problem

Devaney's decision and Reta's optimistic comments aside, athletes will detect a problem with the program. Reta has long complained that Nebraska high school swim coaches strongly discourage their swimmers from attending UNL. That isn't about to change.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Pat Garvey (above), independent, won the shot put with a heave of 52 ft. 4 in. at the intramural track and field meet Wednesday at the Ed Weir Track. Other events and winners included: 100-yard dash—Kevin Wetovick, Ag Men; mile run—Steve Allen, Abel 13; 440-yard dash—Steve Loftis, Anthill Gang; two-mile run—Allen; 440-yard relay—Sigma Phi Epsilon; 220-yard dash—Wetovick; mile relay—Alpha Tau Omega; 800-yard run—Allen; 800-yard relay—Sigma Phi Epsilon; high jump—Kelly Hornbacher, 1641; and long jump—Jim Stamen, Tau Kappa Epsilon. Abel 11 won the team title followed by Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

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Sophomore defensive back Budge Porter, injured during Wednesday's football scrimmage, was in serious condition Thursday at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

Husker coach Tom Osborne said Porter underwent surgery Thursday to repair two dislocated vertebrae in his neck. Osborne said Porter had feeling in his arms and legs before the operation.

The Husker men's track team sees action today and Saturday at the Drake Relays in Des Moines.

The Husker men's tennis team downed Wichita State University 5-4 Wednesday to up its record to 12-8. Senior Rick Cohen, sophomore Dan Weaver and freshman Phil Woog won their singles matches. The doubles teams of sophomore Jeff Schmah-Weaver and freshman Russ Wiltse-Cohen also won.

The Husker baseball team, now 14-20-1, hosts the University of Kansas for three weekend games. The single game today starts at 3 p.m., with the Saturday doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m.

The Huskers split their eighth straight doubleheader in Omaha Wednesday, losing to the University of Nebraska at Omaha 3-2 in the opener before taking the second game 6-3.

In the first game, senior pitcher Dave Buehrer had a no-hitter and a 2-0 lead going into the seventh inning. He walked the first batter and had a 2-0 count on the second before giving way to senior Boyd Batenhorst.

After a fly out, Batenhorst gave up three straight singles and then wild-pitched the winning run home. His record dipped to 4-2. The Husker runs scored on a two-run single by sophomore Doug Miller.

In the nightcap, sophomore Jerry Yingling upped his record to 3-0 with four and two-thirds innings of shutout