

sports

Paterno: Huskers to be Penn State's first test

By Bob Asmussen

Penn State football Coach Joe Paterno knows this week's game with Nebraska is going to be tough. He knows his third-ranked Nittany Lions will have to scratch and claw to beat the favored Cornhuskers. What he doesn't know is how his 1-0 team will react to playing a team as good as Nebraska.

"We really weren't tested in the season opener, a 52-0 win against Cincinnati," Paterno said. "We got a big lead early so we couldn't try some of the things we wanted

to. That's not going to be the case against Nebraska. We're definitely going to be tested."

Paterno said the strength of the Lions offense will be its running game. The rushing corp is led by all-American candidate Curt Warner. The junior tailback from Wyoming, W.Va., gained 122 yards on 17 carries against the Bearcats.

"Curt Warner is one of the best tailbacks in the country," Paterno said. Other strengths Paterno noted were the offensive line, the linebackers and quarterback Todd Blackledge. The sophomore

from Canton, Ohio, completed four passes against Cincinnati for 94 yards and a touchdown.

"Todd's getting better all the time," Paterno said. "I think he could be a great quarterback."

On defense, Paterno said the Lions have several standouts, but their main strength is against the run.

"Our two linebackers, Chet Parivecchio and Ed Pryts, make it tough to run against us," Paterno said. "Leo Wisniewski has played well at tackle and Rich D'Amico (the only returning defensive line starter) has shown he has great potential."

"This is a big game for us," Paterno said. "We won't have any trouble getting anyone up for this game."

Paterno said the offensive guards have been a tremendous help to the running game. All-American Sean Farrell and Mike Munchak man the guard spots.

"They've played extremely well," Paterno said. "They've also helped in leading the team. Their support has been a great help to the younger players on the team."

Paterno said the Husker he was most concerned with was Roger Craig.

"Craig is superb," Paterno said. "He runs with such power and strength. He's extremely hard to bring down."

One thing that has eluded Paterno in his years at Penn State is a national championship. Could this be Penn State's year?

"We haven't played a good team yet. We'll know better after Saturday's game."

Husker squad sponsors weekend softball tourney

By Tom Golden

The UNL women's softball team will sponsor the Husker Invitational with the preliminaries beginning Friday at Mahoney Field.

The 10 teams entered in the tournament have been divided into two pools, each team playing four games within their respective pools. The winner of each pool will then square off with the runner-up of the opposite pool and the winners of these two games will compete in the finals Sunday at 1 p.m. to decide the champion.

UNL plays Kansas State at 3 p.m. and Oklahoma at 7 p.m. Friday and then takes on Northwestern Illinois at 10 a.m. and Iowa at 7 p.m. Saturday. If the Huskers come in first or second place in their pool, they will play in one of the semi-final games at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Husker softball Coach Nancy Plantz

said although Creighton, Missouri and UNL are probably the top contenders in the tournament, the championship is up for grabs.

"Creighton and Missouri are considered the two top teams in the tournament and we are right in there with them. The problem is Iowa State and Minnesota are real strong and Oklahoma has to be contended with also. It's a kind of tournament where probably any of the teams on a given day could win it. Everybody is real equal."

Although the Huskers lost pitcher-first baseman Rhonda Ravelle with a shoulder separation and will start four freshman, Plantz said the team's hitting and pitching has improved over last season. She lauded the play of pitcher Sandy Walerman, a 30-game winner last season, pitcher Jean Wagner, shortstop Denise Day and third baseman Ann Schroeder.

big eight

Conference Football Standings:

Iowa State	2-0
Kansas	2-0
Missouri	2-0
Oklahoma	1-0
Oklahoma State	1-0
Colorado	1-1
Nebraska	1-1
Kansas State	1-1

Games Saturday:

Brigham Young	at Colorado
Drake	at Kansas State
Kent State	at Iowa State
Kentucky	at Kansas
Louisville	at Missouri
Oklahoma	at USC
Penn State	at Nebraska
San Diego State	at Oklahoma State

Nation's finest at UNL, in eyes of Coach Allen

By Patty Pryor

With five gymnasts who constitute the "most sought after group in the country" on Nebraska's gymnastics team, Coach Francis Allen is predicting one of the best seasons ever.

Senior Jim Hartung, juniors Phil Cahoy and Scott Johnson, sophomore Jim Mikus and freshman Mike Bowers will be virtually unbeatable, provided they stay healthy, Allen said.

"Those five boys are the top all-arounders," he said. "We've got more talent than a college has ever had, but it all pinwheels right now on staying healthy."

Allen is looking forward to an exceptional season partially because this year's team represents a good combination of established, competition-tough veterans and less experienced, up-and-coming young talent, he said.

Bowers, from Omaha Northwest High School, is the top-ranked junior in the nation.

"Bowers is the most talented all-arounder that's ever walked in here," Allen said.

"Now, whether or not he improves is up to him and me," he added, "but that all depends on factors like mental attitude and physical ability."

Allen could not pinpoint any specific weaknesses in Bowers' abilities.

"These younger crews in junior national competition really work on weaknesses, so by the time they're 19, they don't have any," he said.

Much competition

To build upon these strengths, one of Allen's goals this year is to get Bowers and Mikus in as much competition as possible.

"They're two of the top junior competitors in the country," he said, "and it's just a crying shame that they're stuck here with us, where they have to look down the road at teammates like Hartung and Cahoy."

However, Allen hopes to help the younger gymnasts gain added experience and confidence by sending them to regional competitions, such as the up-coming Odessa Open in Texas, and by alternating them as all-arounders in major meets here.

"We've definitely got to be looking to the future," he said.

Junior Derek Blanks, a transfer student from Long Beach City College, will be another major competitor this season, Allen said.

Blanks is a two-time junior college national champion in ring competition.

"We had some transfer problems last year," Allen said, "but he's all ready to go now, and he is awesome, to say the least." A number of the more seasoned gymnasts gained valuable exposure in competition during the summer, Allen said.

Summer schedule soft

"Our schedule is usually pretty lackadaisical in the summer," he said, "but some of our gymnasts didn't get much rest."

Johnson competed in international meets in Romania, along with Cahoy, and in Germany, where he won a gold medal.

Cahoy and Hartung also competed with Chinese gymnasts in Hawaii during the summer, and Hartung won the Caesar's Palace Invitational in Las Vegas the first week of school.

"We've got potentially the best team ever, based on all this experience, and just having one more year's experience, anyway," Allen said.

However, he expects stiff competition from UCLA, the team he picks as the other top national contender this year.

"UCLA will be good this year," he said, "and for third place, I think it'll be real close between Iowa State, Oklahoma and Penn State."

New rules this year enforce a 10-man team limit, Allen said, but do not require that four all-arounders be entered in every meet, as in previous years.

Allen said he probably will enter three all-arounders in most meets, particularly to give Mikus and Bowers exposure.

Nebraska's season opener is the Big Eight Invitational in Lincoln Nov. 6-7.

Allen said he is anticipating a heightened level of competition and some dazzling performances.

"We're not going to just wait and see what happens," he said. "We're really going to push it. We're going to be out trying to set one record after another."

"I guarantee you, if we can keep our top guys in good shape, we're going to be unbeatable," he added.

"It's going to be a thrilling year, for us and the fans."

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