

# Sports

## Huskers need more than just a victory

By Kevin Warneke

A win is a win. But Nebraska's men's basketball team needs more than just a victory over Oklahoma State Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Should Nebraska defeat Oklahoma State, it will also need Kansas State to defeat Oklahoma in order to get the third-place slot in the final conference standing.

According to Assistant Coach Tom Baack, even though Nebraska would have the same 9-5 record as Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, the Huskers would get the bid for third place because of the tie-breaker system, which compares the records involved in the tie.

"Our main concern is playing Oklahoma State and doing the best we can," Baack said.

Nebraska snapped a two-game losing streak Wednesday when it defeated Kansas 60-58, while Oklahoma State squeaked by Colorado, 75-73.

Both Baack and Oklahoma State Assistant Coach John Gray said their teams are peaking at the right time.

"Any time you lose a couple of games, you need to come back and play well," Baack said. "In the second

half of the Kansas game our players did very well.

"Hopefully this will carry over into the Oklahoma State game."

"Our last two games have been hard wins," Gray said. "But they are W's in the column and that's all that counts."

The win over Colorado, Gray said, has taken some of the pressure off the Cowboy team.

"Any game is important, but Wednesday's game was a must win," he said. "It relieved the pressure of Saturday's game. It's not a must-win situation."

Nebraska's traditionally boisterous crowd will not be a factor in the outcome of the game, Gray said.

"We've played before 17,000 against Louisville and 12,000 against Toledo and we're a good road team," he said.

One thing that Gray said his team is worried about is Nebraska's outside shooting.

"We're going to have to do more than just stop Dave Hoppen," he said. "They have excellent shooters in Stan Cloudy, Claude Renfro and Dave Ponce.

"They can shoot the eyes out of the basket."

Gray said Oklahoma State has to be ready to play at tipoff and not let Nebraska get off to a fast start. "We can't fall behind and expect to come back," he said. "We have to play our own game."

"Nebraska's a well-coached team and they should get a post-season tournament bid."

Experience and quickness are two of Oklahoma State's strengths, Baack said.

"Their players have been in the league a long time," he said.

Oklahoma State boasts two players who average more than 16 points a game in center Leroy Combs and guard Lorenza Andrews.

"Combs is a good jumper and he's quick," Baack said. According to Baack, Nebraska guard Greg Downing is still questionable for Saturday's game because of an ankle injury.

"It's on a day-by-day basis," he said. "He couldn't even warm up against Kansas."

Tipoff time for the regionally televised game is 2:10 p.m.



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

The UNL Boxing Club takes a break from their workouts in the Schramm Hall basement. First row from left are Felix Konat and Carl Von Rein. Back row from left are Coach Randy Nelson, Marc Grimminger, John Krolkowski and Art Schier.

## A force to be reckoned with-- UNL boxers in Golden Gloves

By Chris Welsch

The UNL boxing team spends a lot of time in the ill-lit basement of Schramm Hall.

They pound two heavy bags and spar in a ring made of garden hose.

Aside from the basement space, the UNL Boxing Club gets nothing from the university except its name. However, Budweiser beer now sponsors the team. Budweiser is providing \$100 a year and equipment worth more than \$400 for the team, Coach Randy Nelson said.

Despite the primitive equipment and lack of funds, UNL's boxers have proven themselves a force to be reckoned with.

Four team members will travel to Omaha today and Saturday for the Midwest Golden Gloves Championship. The four qualified by claiming titles in the Southeast District Championships last month. One title was uncontested because no one could be found to fight super heavyweight contender Carl Von Rein.

The other three boxers won their fights by knockout.

According to Nelson, his boxers are ready to fight.

"Carl is chomping on the bit," Nelson said. "He's frothing at the mouth."

Von Rein hasn't been able to find an opponent this boxing season, and this may give him a disadvantage at the champion-

ships.

"I'm in better shape this year than last year," Von Rein said. "I haven't been in front of a crowd, though. You get worked up in front of a crowd. Hopefully it won't affect me."

Marc Grimminger, a 178-pound contender, is fighting Dan Murphy at the championships. He fought Murphy in the first fight of the season and lost. However, he said, he hopes to make amends.

"He's (Murphy) tall and a good counter-puncher, the two qualities I have a hard time going up against," Grimminger said.

Felix Konat, fighting at 165 pounds, floored former Midwest champion Carlose "the fly" Santistevan to win the Southeast Championship.

"He's (Konat) got power, and he's got the credentials and a good mental attitude," Nelson said.

Konat said he hopes the other boxers will be aggressive because he feels more confident counter-punching.

John Krolkowski, heavyweight contender, said he is looking forward to the championships. Krolkowski has had only one fight for UNL. At the Southeast championships, he knocked out Steve Sackett of Suite 9, 59 seconds into the first round.

The Golden Gloves are scheduled tonight and Saturday night at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

## OSU height advantage challenges Husker cagers

By Jack Denker

Even though Nebraska women's basketball coach Colleen Matsuhara probably hasn't lost any sleep worrying about the Huskers' regular season finale against Oklahoma State Saturday, she did say she is concerned enough to warn her team that the Cowgirls are a much better team than their record indicates.

Oklahoma State will enter the game, which starts after the men's game at 4:30 p.m., with a dismal 1-11 Big Eight record and a 4-20 overall mark.

"I think Oklahoma State's record is really deceiving," Matsuhara said. "I think they have a good ball club with some talent. It will be a dangerous game for us."

One area of concern for Matsuhara is in the height department, where the Huskers are once again at a disadvantage. Matsuhara said her players must be aggressive and prohibit the strong Cowgirl front line from getting a second shot.

"Charmaine Johnson and Linda Tisdell are quick for their size and could give us a lot of problems," Matsuhara said. "They are big enough to get the ball and just shoot over us."

Tisdell is Oklahoma State's 6-3 center, who is averaging 13 points and 8 rebounds per game; Johnson is a 6-foot forward with identical statistical averages. Rounding out the Cowgirl starting line-up will be Rae Rippetoe at forward, plus Colleen Bergin and Bridget Nixon filling the guard spots.

Matsuhara said the Huskers intend to overcome the height problem with pressure defense and a running game.

"We can't let them get their game going or they will get on a roll," Matsuhara said. "We're going to have to get some results off our press. We can't afford to use a lot of energy and not get results."

Nebraska ran the ball well early-on against Kansas Tuesday, scoring six unanswered points to take a 15-8 lead with 15:33 to play in the first half. Kansas took control of the game during the second half, however, and beat the Huskers 100-84.

"If we can play the whole game against Oklahoma State like we did the first half against Kansas, then we'll be all right," Matsuhara said.

In the game against Kansas, Matsuhara made one line-up change when she started Crystal Coleman instead of Deb Powell, who is the Huskers' leading scorer with a

17-point average. Coleman will start again Saturday, Matsuhara said, despite the fact that Powell led the team with 23 points and 13 rebounds against the Lady Jayhawks.

"We thought we'd give it a try," Matsuhara said of the line-up change. "Crystal gives us more ball handling and gives us better defense."

Coleman paced the Huskers with a record-setting 41 points against the Cowgirls in the first meeting between the two schools, Feb. 19, in Stillwater. Nebraska went on to score an impressive 101-89 victory over OSU.

The rest of the Nebraska line-up will stay the same; Terri Parriot will fill the other forward spot, Kathy Hagerstrom will be at center, while Cathy Owen and Kelli Benson will be the guards.

For the only two seniors on the team this season, Hagerstrom and reserve Chris Leigh, Saturday's game will be the last in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Matsuhara said it would be nice if they could go out as winners.

"I told the team that we could really use a victory over Oklahoma State to get us in a positive sort of mood and get us ready for the post-season tournament in Norman," Matsuhara said. "Now is the time to get lucky."