

Sports

Men's and women's cross-country teams Regional bound

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's men's and women's cross-country teams will travel to Peoria, Ill., this weekend for the NCAA Region Five cross-country meet with hopes of qualifying for the NCAA Cross-Country Championships Nov. 24 in Tucson, Ariz.

After finishing second in the Big Eight Championships, the men's team will be looking to qualify for its first NCAA championship trip in Nebraska history, while the women's team will hope to return to the championships after narrowly missing the opportunity last year.

Coach Jay Dirksen said the meet will be tough for both teams because the five teams in the women's division are ranked in the top 20. In the men's division, three teams are ranked.

In the women's division, 1986 Big Eight Champion Oklahoma State is ranked No. 3 in the nation. Kansas State is ranked No. 6, Colorado is No. 14, and the Cornhuskers are No. 17.

Dirksen said Oklahoma State is the favorite to win the meet because of the combination of Veronica Haberl and Christine McMiken. McMiken has won the Big Eight individual championship the last two years and has finished third in the NCAA Championships two years in a row.

Nebraska finished No. 4 in the Big Eight conference meet because Mary Amen is out for the season with mononucleosis, Dirksen said.

On the men's side, Dirksen said, Colorado is the team to beat because of Big Eight individual champion Chuck Trujillo and Todd Wienke, who finished in the top 10 at the Big Eight Championship.

Dirksen said Jean Verster, who finished second in the Big Eight for Nebraska, could challenge Trujillo for the title.

Colorado is ranked No. 4 in the nation while the Huskers are ranked No. 11. Iowa State is No. 13.

Coach experts tough meet Saturday

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

A possible national ranking will be on the line when the Nebraska women's swimming team faces Louisiana State Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert said, because the Bengal Tigers are currently ranked No. 9, a Cornhusker victory in the dual meet would likely give the Huskers their first national ranking of the 1986 season.

"I've said all along we are a top 20 team," Huppert said. "Now people just have to start taking notice."

Huppert said the primary reason Nebraska hasn't been rated yet this season is because the Huskers lost five seniors from last year's Big Eight champion team. Included in those losses were All-Americans Cindy Hampel, Emily Ricketts and Linda Sebesta. Nebraska also lost veterans Julie Lammel and Sharill Prey to graduation.

"We did lose a lot of talent," Huppert said. "So now everyone says, 'Let's see what they can do now.' This is a big test."

Huppert said Louisiana State displayed enough talent during its 10th-place finish in last year's NCAA meet and during its 79-34 victory over Nebraska in 1985 that he ranked the Tigers No. 6 in the latest coaches'

swimming poll.

With everyone returning from a squad that won every event during last year's Louisiana State-Nebraska dual meet, Huppert said, the Huskers are expecting an extremely tough meet.

"Unless they hit flu or illness, they're a great team," Huppert said. "We just hope our athletes will be able to rise to their caliber."

Louisiana State women's swimming coach Sam Freas said despite the Tigers top-10 ranking, he isn't ready to claim an early victory over the 2-0 Huskers.

In fact, Freas said he expects Nebraska to defeat the Tigers.

"Our squad isn't deserving of its national ranking," Freas said. "We have a lot of talent, but we just haven't jelled yet as a team."

Freas said he has been frustrated so far this season by his squad's performance.

Although the Tigers have registered victories in the Battle of the Bayou relays and against Rice, Freas said Louisiana State's times have not been good enough to beat Nebraska.

He said many of the Tigers have not been swimming to their abilities because several members of the Louisiana State women's swimming team chose easy training schedules over the summer.

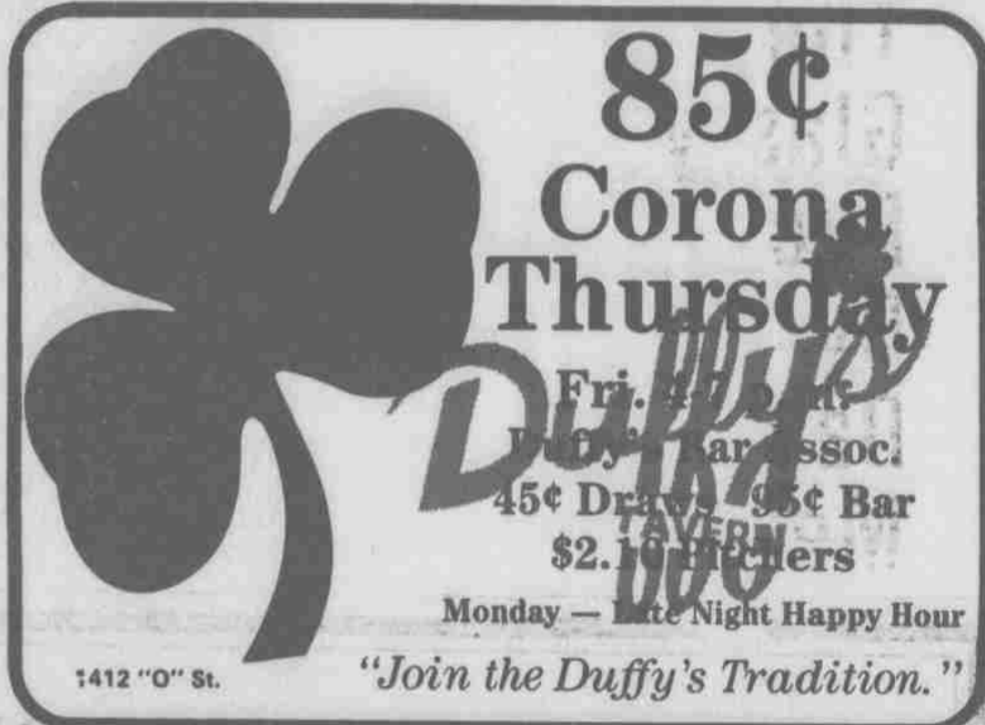
"There are certain things a coach

can control," Freas said. "I try to control our training, but sometimes athletes will train on their own. Many times they just self-destruct."

Freas said he sees Robin Ford, Buffy Krieger and Caroline Foot to be the strength of his squad which includes 10 All-Americans.

Ford captured a diving championship at last year's NCAA meet, and Krueger and Foot always have been steady performers, Freas said.

"I think by the end of the year we could be a good team," he said. "I just hope the experience of facing a team like Nebraska will make us come together."



Husker goes home

By Tim Hartmann
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's football game at Kansas this Saturday will be a homecoming of sorts for middle guard Lawrence Pete.

Pete, a 6-2, 280-pound sophomore, attended Wichita South High School prior to becoming a Cornhusker. He won the Kansas Class 6A shotput title his senior year, throwing the shot 57 feet. In football, he was not named to the all-city team, but he still drew recruiting interest from Nebraska, Arkansas, Tennessee, Minnesota, Kansas and Texas State.

Pete said the fact that Kansas recruited him will not provide him extra incentive this Saturday, but playing against people he played against in high school will.

"The whole (Kansas) staff is different than the one that recruited me," he said. "But as far as going home, it's a different story. I look forward to it. They have a lot of homeboys. I know a lot of guys on the team because I played with them in the Wichita City League."

The game also will give Pete a chance to play in front of his family and friends in Kansas.

"I have a lot of friends from my high school that are coming down and my family will be there," he said.

A week from Saturday, Nebraska will square off against the 4-ranked Oklahoma Sooners. The Sooners are not going to be out of the Big Eight.

"Right now we're thinking about Kansas," Pete said. "Kansas and Colorado are good teams, and Colorado beat us, so we definitely can't overlook Kansas and look to the Oklahoma game."

Pete came to Nebraska in 1984 and started on the junior varsity team. He and Neil Smith shared the team lead in tackles, 16 of them unassisted, and two quarterback sacks this season.

Pete said that backing up Norman has helped him learn the game. "I've learned a lot from Dunny, and hopefully it will pay off next year," he said. "Next year I'm really going to prepare myself."

For a starting role, that is. Pete said that being a backup is difficult and he would prefer to start.

"It's kind of hard coming off the bench," he said. "You have to try to get in there and get a feel for the game real quick, whereas if you started the game you get the tempo real quick and you have control of it throughout the game."

One place at Nebraska where Pete takes a backseat to no one is in the weight room, where he holds the Nebraska bench-press record of 600 pounds. Pete said he is not lifting as seriously now as he does in the off-season.

"Right now I'm just maintaining my strength," he said. "I'm not trying to reach any goals or peak out at this point."

On the field, though, Pete is trying to reach both personal and team goals.

"I have individual goals, but that's something to keep to myself," Pete said. "As far as team goals, I'd like to do as much as I can to help this team go as far as it can and then next year go as far as we can again."

This year Nebraska can go as far as Miami, Pete said.

"We want to go to the Orange Bowl; that's the bottom line," Pete said.

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