

Seeding snub has Rams hungry

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

The disappointment still exists for Colorado State coach Greg Williams, but it has died down since Sunday.



Williams

Williams said the NCAA selection committee let him down by not giving the Rams a higher seed, even though they finished the season with a 25-4 record.

"We are ready to start playing our hand that was dealt," Williams said. "We were led to believe going into the WAC Tournament that our ratings power index was very high, and our seeding would be good."

"The only worse seed than an eighth or ninth is the 16th seed because nobody is enthralled to play a No. 1 seed on its home court."

The winner of Saturday's 9 p.m. game at Maples Pavilion in Stanford, Calif., between 19-9 Nebraska and Colorado State will play either second-ranked and top-seeded Stanford or 16th-seeded Grambling State on Monday night at 9.

But Williams said an eighth seed

for the Rams was not a sign of disrespect for his team. It shows a lack of respect for the WAC, he said.

Three Big Eight teams received higher seeds in the NCAA Tournament than the Rams. Big Eight conference champion Kansas and league tournament champion Colorado both received seedings in the top four and homecourt advantages during the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Oklahoma State received a seventh seed.

"There's only a hairline difference between an eighth and ninth seed," Williams said. "I understand our conference has not done well each season, but each team should be individually evaluated on what they have done that season."

"It's just ironic to me that a few years ago, the Big Eight felt they were getting overlooked in the tournament."

Williams said he was not complaining about being paired against Nebraska. But he is upset about the possibility of playing Stanford in the second game.

Getting to that second game, Williams said, will be difficult because the Rams first have to stop Nebraska's balanced scoring attack.

The Huskers have four players averaging 10 points or more per game in scoring, led by sophomore Anna DeForge, who averages 14.7 points per game.

"They really are a nice basketball team," Williams said. "They have a good inside game with (McClain) and (Pyra) Aarden, and they have some guards who can shoot the ball in (Kate) Galligan and DeForge. Then add an

Basketball Starters

Stanford, Calif.
Saturday, 9:00 p.m.

Nebraska (19-9)	Ht.	Class	PPG	RPG
G Kate Galligan	5-8	Sr.	11.9	3.9
G Lis Brenden	5-6	Sr.	6.6	3.3
F Anna DeForge	5-11	So.	14.7	7.0
F Tina McClain	5-10	Jr.	13.9	6.7
C Pyra Aarden	6-4	Sr.	12.8	5.8
Colorado St. (25-4)				
G Becky Hammon	5-6	Fr.	9.4	1.6
G Dee Dee Dominguez	5-2	Sr.	3.8	2.7
F Katie Cronin	6-0	Fr.	11.1	6.1
F Zenarae Pieters	6-2	So.	5.8	5.3
C Teresa James	6-2	Sr.	15.9	8.3

experienced and a smart point guard and they really are a good team."

But the Rams also have scoring potential.

Freshman Becky Hammon is the nation's highest-scoring freshman, averaging 19.6 points per game. She also averages three 3-point field goals per game and has a 43.9 3-point shooting percentage.

Hammon has received many honors this season. She was the WAC freshman of the year and was named to the WAC all-conference team, all-newcomer team, all-tournament team and was named MVP of the postseason tournament. She also set six new WAC Tournament records, including the record for points scored.

"We just don't know how freshmen are going to react to the distractions of college," Williams said. "Some kids handle all those changes better than others, and that just leads to her credibility."

Freshman Teresa James is the Rams' second-leading scorer, averaging 15.9 points per game.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said she had not seen many teams win in the NCAA Tournament with two freshmen leading them in scoring.

But the lack of experience doesn't worry Williams.

"We're not concerned about lack of NCAA experience," Williams said. "The WAC Tournament was a lot of pressure, and our whole team was able to handle the pressure."

Softball team to spend week on West Coast

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team will spend its spring break in California.

The first stop is in Sunnyvale, Calif., this weekend where the Cornhuskers open play against Purdue and Pacific.

Next Tuesday, the Huskers will take on No. 22 Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo. On March 21-24, the Huskers travel to Sacramento for the AT&T Capital Classic.

Nebraska again will face Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, as well as Pacific, Harvard and Ohio State.

Tobin Echo-Hawk, who plays third base for the Huskers, enters this weekend aiming to break three school records. She needs two doubles, 12 runs batted in and six runs scored to break the three records.

Players shatter records

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

After winning two consecutive national championships, it would be hard to believe that the Nebraska football team could show up to spring practice on March 25 with more raw talent than the past two seasons.

According to the team's testing Wednesday, they will.

"They're 10 pounds heavier than last year's team at this point and their test scores are the best we've ever had in every category in our history," said Boyd Epley, Nebraska's Director of Athletic Performance.

Team records were set in performance index, body weight, 10-yard dash, 40-yard dash, vertical jump and pro-agility run.

James Sims, a junior 1-back next fall, set a performance index record of 3313 — the best score in Nebraska history. He broke Curtis Cotton's mark of 3227, which was set in 1991.

Sims ran a 4.42 40-yard dash, and his 41 inch vertical jump ranks second behind Trev Alberts mark of 41 1/2 inches set in 1994.

"There was more progress made this winter than any other time in our history," Epley said. "And that comes from the players' efforts. It's amazing how every year we sit here and they get bigger and faster."

Sophomore Ahman Green, who had his tonsils removed two weeks ago and had blood drawn for a class Wednesday morning, placed third on the Nebraska all-time performance index chart with a mark of 3028.

Junior quarterback Scott Frost set the all-time performance index record for quarterbacks with a score of 2686. Frost broke his own record of 2597 points set last year.

"There is an inner drive — a force working for us," Epley said. "They want to do their best and they showed that this winter. Nebraska is in the position to do what no team has ever done: win three straight national championships."

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