Cornhuskers tackle unfavorable odds

by RANDY YORK

Nebraska's gymnasts will tackle three of the country's ten best teams this weekend in the Big Eight Conference championships at Kansas State in Manhattan.

THE CORNHUSKERS will try to avoid a cellar finish as they currently stand last among the six league entries, according to performance charts released by the Big 8 office in Kansas City.

The league champion, which likely will be Iowa State, qualifies as the Big 8 representative for the upcoming NCAA championships.

The Cyclones rate as the country's best team with its 162-point average. Kansas (156.60) and host Kansas State (155.0) are expected to provide ISU's biggest challenges.

Oklahoma, with its 151.95 mark, may surprise while Colorado (138.55) and Nebraska (137.00) are not expected to finish high.

IOWA STATE is the defending champion and is aiming at its fifth league crown in the last six years.

The Cyclones own five of the seven individual top spots in the conference — Rick Simmons in the floor exercise. Dave Butzman in the parallel bars, Russ Hoffman in the side horse, Brent Simmons in the all-around and Mason Buck in the long horse.

Kansas' Kirk Gardner in the still rings and Gerald Carley in the high bar are the other individual leaders.

HOPPY BATTEN is the only Cornhusker

among the conference leaders, and he ranks only seventh in the high bar and ninth in the all-around events.

Otherwise, Nebraska coach Francis Allen's crew is unable to place among the league's top ten.



LSU survives Sooners, 97-94

New York — Oklahoma was eliminated by LSU and Pete Maravich, 97-94, in the National Invitation Tournament Tuesday night, but got maximum exposure for the Big Eight Conference as 19,500 fans watched at Madison Square Garden.

Maravich, who says his performance 'stunk' nevertheless led the Southeastern Conference runner-up Tigers with 37 points, while Garfield Heard (27), Bobby Jack (25), Scott Martin (14) and John Yule (10) paced the Sooners, who had surprised Louisville in the opening round of the tournament.

Oklahoma, which trailed 75-58, rallied to within two, at 94-92 with 48 seconds left.

Classifieds

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