

daily nebraskan sports

Wrestlers aim for repeat finish

by Gary Seacrest

A fourth place finish may not seem like a very high goal, but that is exactly what Orval Borgialli, Nebraska wrestling coach, would like to accomplish in this weekend's Big Eight wrestling tournament at Oklahoma State.

Borgialli's goal isn't as modest as it sounds since the Big Eight is the country's toughest wrestling conference. Iowa State, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma are all ranked in the top ten in the nation.

The Huskers finished fourth in the Big Eight last year and this season recorded their best dual season in a decade with a 9-5-1 record.

"We hope to finish in the upper division," Borgialli said. "It is going to be tough to get third, but we have a good chance to get fourth. It will be a dog-fight for fourth and we might even slip to seventh."

Iowa State and Oklahoma State, currently ranked first and second in the country respectively, will battle for first place, according to Borgialli. "I feel Oklahoma State will win the Big Eight just because the meet is at Stillwater," the Husker coach predicted. "But I think Iowa State has a better chance to win the NCAA."

Despite a rash of sickness and injury, Borgialli plans to take a full squad to Stillwater for the meet, which also serves as a NCAA qualifying meet. "If we get healed up we feel that everybody we take has a good chance to place," he said.

The Husker wrestlers with the best chance to win first places, according to Borgialli, are 118-pound Bob Orta and 167-pound Joe George. Both are seniors who have wrestled on the varsity for four years.

George, who has a 24-5 record in duals and tournaments

this season, finished second in the Big Eight and sixth in the NCAA at 167 last year. "If I wrestle as well as I'm capable, I think I can win," George remarked. "But I have to keep my confidence up."

Borgialli labels George, a graduate of Omaha Creighton Prep, as "strong and unorthodox." "He does some moves that most guys wouldn't even think of trying," the wrestling coach noted. "He's probably one of the most consistent wrestlers we've had."

Borgialli is equally high on Orta, who graduated from Lincoln High. "He has a tremendous knowledge of the sport and has been exposed to all aspects of wrestling—college, national and international competition," Borgialli noted. Orta, who packs his 110-pounds into a 5 feet 1 frame, won a national AAU championship in 1970 and competed in the World Games in Canada the same year.

Orta has finished fourth in the Big Eight competition three straight years and has a 17-4 record this year. "This is my best chance in four years to win the title," he said. Oklahoma's Gary Breece, Orta's chief competition, finished second in the conference and third in the nationals at 118 last year, but has been slowed by illness recently.

Besides George and Orta, Borgialli predicted that 126-pound Monty Halstead, 142-pound Tom Lotko and 158-pound Steve Ravenscroft should place high in the conference meet, which features three national champion wrestlers.

Iowa State will take two of the national titlists into the Stillwater meet—190-pound king Ben Peterson and 158-pound champion Carl Adams. Oklahoma State has perhaps the most heralded performer in Yoshiro Fujita, the reigning 126-pound titlist. Fujita is undefeated and scarcely challenged in 40 straight matches over the past two seasons.

Gallagher Hall, site of the tournament, could literally shake when Chris Taylor, Iowa State's 395-pound heavyweight, takes the mat. The 6-7 Taylor is undefeated in 15 dual matches this season and has scored a quick pin in nine of the matches.

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Bob Duffek, 22-year old UNL tennis player, died Thursday after a two-year battle against cancer. Duffek graduated from

Lincoln Southeast High School where he lettered in tennis before going on to earn a varsity letter at Nebraska. He was a member of Delta Sigma Pi fraternity and served as a tennis instructor at the Lincoln Country Club.

Nebraska's freshman basketball team overcame a five-point deficit in the last 30 seconds of play to defeat the Kansas State freshman, 67-66, Monday night at Manhattan.

The Husker freshmen used four straight free throws and a lay-up by Steve Erwin in the last half-minute to register their ninth win of the season against two losses. Kent Reckewey led Nebraska scorers with 21 points.

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