

## Thinclads could conquer NCAA

by Kent Seacrest

Undeclared in dual meet competition this year and winners of the Big Eight championship last weekend, what could possibly be left for the Nebraska indoor track team to conquer? Maybe the NCAA.

Friday and Saturday Nebraska will compete against the nation's best college teams and individuals in the ninth annual NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Detroit. Can Nebraska put it all together again this weekend and win the NCAA?

"It's hard to say," Nebraska Track Coach Frank Sevine said. "The fact is you don't have to score that many points to win because there are so many schools represented. If Nebraska can get 20 points, we'll be in the running for the title." The scoring for the meet will be 6-4-3-2-1.

Since the first NCAA indoor meet in 1964, the Big Eight has dominated the competition by winning four titles (three by Kansas and one by Missouri). Nebraska's best previous showing was a third place in 1966.

"It is hard to compare performances and times because the tracks in the country vary

so much in speed," Sevine said. "But I'll say we do have the capability of scoring in every event and even winning quite a few first places. We'll just have to wait and see what happens this weekend."

For Nebraska to win the team title this weekend, it will be necessary for the Huskers to have a strong showing in the middle distance events and the two relay events.

The mile relay team of Leighton Priestly, Ruben Givens, Wes Leonard and Garth Case has already won one national mile relay title this year at the Astrodome Meet in Houston. The Husker mile relay team is considered one of the finest in the country.

The two-mile relay team of Jeff Wisemiller, Dan Speck, Larry Cimato and Roger Chadwick will be running against the same Illinois team which beat the Huskers for first place in the Astrodome Meet. "I think we can beat Illinois this time," Wisemiller said. "We've improved a lot since the last time we ran against them in Houston."

Cimato, who anchored the Husker two-mile relay team last year in the NCAA, is out for revenge. "Last year in the NCAA, a photo finish was necessary to determine the winner between Nebraska and Texas-El Paso," Cimato said. "The photograph showed that they (Texas-El Paso) nudged us out of first place. But this year we are stronger and better. Let's hope we can move from second to first this year."

## Huskers face final meet

Nebraska Wrestling Coach Orval Borgialli hopes history repeats itself for his Husker wrestlers in this week's NCAA meet.

"We have a good chance to finish in the top 20," Borgialli said. "We won nine duals this year and the last time Nebraska won nine duals (1961-62) they finished ninth in the NCAA."

Four Huskers placed in the top four in the recent Big Eight tournament and thereby qualified for the NCAA championships at the University of Maryland Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Bob Orta (21-6) at 118 pounds, Tom Lotko (23-7-2) at 142, Steve Ravenscroft (16-11) at 158 and Joe George (27-6) at 167 are the Husker qualifiers.

"It's not unrealistic to think Joe George has a chance for the national title," Borgialli said. "On a given day, he could be the best in the country."

George finished second in the Big Eight at 167 in 1971, then went on to place sixth at the NCAA meet for the Huskers' first NCAA medal since Mike Nissen won the 123-pound title in 1963. This year, George lost by one point in the Big Eight semi-finals to the eventual champion, but came back to take third place and earn his third trip to the nationals.

"Any time you're capable of making the Big Eight finals, you should have a good chance in the NCAA," Borgialli noted. "So Tom Lotko should be right in there." The junior from Kansas City, Kan., finished second in the Big Eight at 142, making him the only wrestler not from Oklahoma, Oklahoma State or Iowa State to make the finals.

Orta finished fourth in the Big Eight for the fourth straight year and will be going to the nationals for the fourth time, while Ravenscroft, a freshman from Valentine, will be making his first trip after a fourth-place finish in the Big Eight.

Big Eight champion Oklahoma State is the defending NCAA champion, but Borgialli predicts Iowa State will make a strong run to dethrone the Cowboys.

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