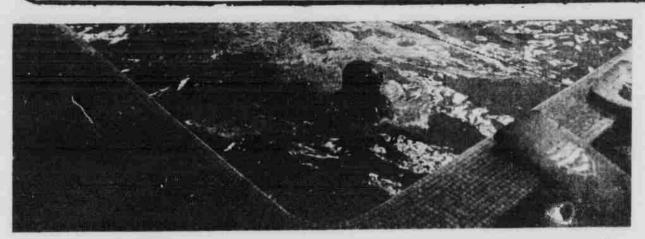
daily nebraskan sports



Goggles and paddle boards help prepare the swimmers for their opening meet Nov.

Recuiting success brightens UNL winter sports prospects

The autumn sports are drawing to a less then awesome close. The football season is more than half over, and the Huskers are struggling. Cross country closes its campaign this weekend with the Big 8 meet, and the Huskers are floundering there, too.

But the winter sports season is near, and from preseason outlooks, the prospects for Nebraska winter sports are the brightest they've been in several years.



Husker basketball, gymnastics, swimming and wrestling coaches have enjoyed outstanding recruiting success since last year, and all four are optimistic.

Basketball coach Joe Cipriano had his best recruiting year ever. He will have perhaps the youngest team in Nebraska cage history, with seven freshmen listed on the 15-man preseason varsity roster, and has more height than in most of his 10 previous years at the Nebraska helm.

They may not produce as much this year as they might after a year or so of experience-fans must be patient for that year or so. But the potential is there for Nebraska basketball to be the exciting, winning brand the fans want. The successful recruiting coupled with the benefits the new fieldhouse will offer after this year indicate that Nebraska basketball is on the upswing...

Gymnastics coach Francis Allen has his best freshman crop ever at Nebraska, and the Huskers, who closed strongly last year to finish second in the conference behind national champ Iowa State, should be better than ever this year. Allen goes so far as to say his squad has the potential to be the second best team in the nation this winter.

John Reta, who gradually has been rebuilding the Nebraska swimming program despite the handicap of the Coliseum facilities, also is looking for a big improvement in his

Reta said this could be his strongest team ever at Nebraska. Recruiting has resulted in a substantial increase in the size of the suppl, and here again, the new fieldhouse will offer a tremendous boost to the program when it is completed.

Orval Borgialli, beginning his ninth season as Husker wrestling coach, has put together his best group of recruits, too. He said the Huskers will have more depth than in past years, plus 10 returning lettermen.

Despite facing perhaps the most challenging schedule in recent years, Borgialli said Nebraska easily should be a first division team in the Big

With football dominating Nebraska's athletic funds, the recruiting success of the winter sports and the improving programs in basketball, gymnastics, swimming and wrestling become even more of a tribute to the dedication and hard work of these coaches.

Time will provide the final test for these sports, and obviously preseason predictions are not a perfect assessment of a team's performance.

But things are looking up for winter sports, and it should be an interesting season for Husker sports fans.

Coach: swim squad largest in 15 years

Nebraska swimming coach John Reta labels this year's team "inexperienced, but enthusiastic" and predicts that this could be the best of his seven years at the Husker helm.

The squad numbers 29, the largest in the last 15 years, Reta said. It includes five returning lettermen, none of them seniors.

He calls his freshmen swimmers "the best group of freshmen collectively since I've been here."

"We're a very young team," he said, "but up to this point, I'm

very satisfied with our progress and attitude." The team is in its third week of water workouts. The swimmers spent six weeks in a running and weight training program and swam individually every day, Reta said.

He said the Huskers should be more balanced than in any of his past six seasons.

'We should be in pretty good shape in the distance races and the freestyle sprints," he said. "Right now we have some questions about the backstroke and the butterfly because we have some untested people there. We have some good individuals, but some of them have never swam a varsity meet, and you can never be sure how they'll do."

According to Reta, team leaders should be sophomore Stuart Waterbury, who set a varsity record in the 100-yard breaststroke last year, and junior Terry Seymour, record-holder in the 200-yard breaststroke.

He said the Husker schedule should be challenging again, but added he is looking forward to a more attractive schedule beginning next year.

"There are some Big 8 schools who simply will not come here to swim because they feel our pool is not very good," he said.

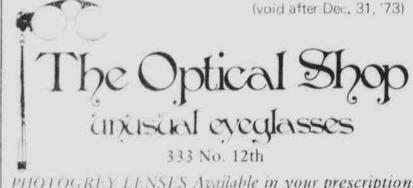
The new fieldhouse, which includes a pool, should be finished by the middle of next season, he said, and it will enable him to add several teams to the Husker schedule.

The Huskers, seventh in the Big 8 last year, open their season Nov. 31 with the Big 8 Relays.

will play three games.

For more information about the tournament, contact Judy Albert, 466-5989.

The UNL women's swimming and diving team has UNL women's field begun its first semester practice. hockey team will travel to sessions. Any undergraduate Dekalb, III., this weekend to woman interested in joining play in the Midwest Field the team should call Liz Gross, Hockey Tournament Nebraska 477-3871, or Pat Sullivan, 472-2561.



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