

Sevigne optimistic about new season

By Steve Taylor

Frank Sevigne is not an easy man to corner for an interview. Between persistent salesmen and nonstop phone calls it almost appears he is the athletic director instead of the track coach.

When he finally found time to sit down, Sevigne expressed guarded optimism about the chances of success for this year's track squad. Though he didn't boldly predict a Big 8 championship, he gave the impression that the Huskers will leave at least a few opponents picking track cinders out of their eyes.

Sevigne is entering his 19th year as Husker track coach. During his tenure, Nebraska has won four Big 8 championships and has nearly won two national championships.

In early March, the Nebraska track team will try to win its third straight Big 8 indoor meet. Sevigne said he thought the third time might be a charm. "We'll have a pretty good shot at another title," he said.

Sevigne said the key to the season will probably be the performance of the middle distance men, who were the main point-winners last season.

Roger Chadwick appears to be one of the Huskers' more solid runners. Chadwick won both the indoor and outdoor 880-yard runs in the Big 8 last year and appears to be championship material again this year.

Sevigne also said the conference looks balanced this year. He said the years of Kansas' domination are over and that "no one is a complete standout."

The track coach is keeping an impatient eye on the construction of the new fieldhouse. Besides being a boon to recruiting, it will give track fans a better view of what's going on.

Sevigne said Nebraska recruits prospects from coast to coast and, maybe "a few prospects outside the country." He said they try to sign every talented athlete in Nebraska. Three out of the four members of the winning relay team were Nebraskans, he said.

The Huskers will meet the Brigham Young University Cougars Feb. 16 in their first home meet. The Cougars are consistent national powers and supposedly are loaded again this year. Nebraska will compete Saturday in the Oklahoma City Invitational.

Cagers try rebound from KSU loss

By Bob Hill

Basketball Coach Joe Cipriano and his 12-member squad invade Oklahoma this weekend. They square off against Oklahoma State University Saturday at Stillwater and then face the University of Oklahoma Monday evening at Norman.

The Huskers, who must rebound from a 73-65 loss to Kansas State University last Tuesday at the Coliseum, are in hopes of a double victory.

"Once you lose (a conference game) at home it's hard to get back in the race," Cipriano said.

He indicated his plans of starting a fairly experienced team in both games, led by seniors Brendy Lee and Tom Novak. Other Husker starters will be junior Steve Erwin and sophomores Jerry Fort and Larry Cox. Removing some of "the lambs" from the lineup "might make us a more stable road team," Cipriano said.

Oklahoma State, a winless conference team in four tries, is not to be overlooked, the Husker head coach said. They play Kevin Fitzgerald, a 6 ft. 6 in. senior who led the Big 8 in scoring last year with a 21.3 conference game point average and Andy Hopson, the conference's top rebounder from a year ago. Hopson, a 6 ft. 8 in. junior center, pulled down an average of 16.8 rebounds per game. Lafayette Threatt, a 6 ft. 7 in. sophomore forward, rounds out the front line. The starting Cowpoke guards will be K.C. Kincaide and Ronnie Daniels.

The Husker-OSU contest will be a rematch of the consolation semifinals of the Big 8 tournament of earlier this season. That time, paced by Fort's career-high 31 points, Nebraska won 69-62. Hopson paced the Pokes with 20 points and 16 rebounds, while Kincaide added 16 and Fitzgerald 14 points, respectively.

Oklahoma, led by sophomore center Alvin Adams, has a 3-1 conference record and is 12-4 for the season. Adams is averaging more than 19 points and 12 rebounds a game. He will be joined in the front line by 6 ft. 9 in. Tom Holland and 6 ft. 6 in. Bob Pritchard. The Sooner guards will be Lee Gilbert and Mike McCurdy.

Only nine days after downing the Sooners 63-58 at home, the Huskers again find themselves opposing a physical Oklahoma team. Nebraska has not won at Norman in four years and Cipriano said this would be a point in Oklahoma's favor.

His squad will play primarily a man-to-man defense against the Sooners.

"With the Pokes we will switch off between man-to-man and zone, or we may even go man-to-man on Fitzgerald and zone the other four men," Cipriano said. He said if the Huskers can shut off Fitzgerald, they can pretty much contain OSU.

"We really need the double victory, but with two conference games in three days, a split would not be too bad," Cipriano said.

World-favorite sport ignored

Memorial Stadium was overflowing with 76,000 screaming fans. They gathered for a single purpose—to cheer their beloved Cornhusker soccer team to victory.

That's the way things will be in the future if UNL soccer team president Ron Wheeler has his prophecies fulfilled.

Now, however, things aren't quite that rosy. Last fall at UNL soccer games in Memorial Stadium, attendance was considered good if 100 people came, Wheeler said. One eight-team tournament drew about six die-hard fans, he added.

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press box review

Attendance isn't the only problem. Wheeler said the team has had trouble getting into Memorial Stadium for games and practices even after arrangements have been made well in advance.

"We've had trouble with Campus Security and maintenance men," he said.

At most of UNL's home soccer games last fall, the Huskers and the opposing team went to the stadium only to find it closed. Once, arrangements for an important game were delayed for an hour and a half because some women's field hockey team was given priority.

Soccer is just one of numerous club sports at UNL that have similar problems. Club sports are those not supported financially by the UNL Athletic Dept., such as ice hockey and crew. These clubs must go to the Recreation Dept. or ASUN Senate for money.

Soccer at UNL gets its money from the Recreation Dept. and dues, Wheeler said. The team's budget this year is \$566.94.

"This is where the gap comes between varsity and club sports—money," he said. The varsity squads have salaried coaches, while club sports rely on volunteer coaches and a student-run organization.

Wheeler said the key to increased soccer popularity is exposure. Only when fans start attending and appreciating the sport will it come to be accepted and attain varsity status, he said.

Fans should attend a soccer match this spring and see why soccer is the most popular sport in the world.

sports shorts

University. The basketball squad will travel to Omaha to face the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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Three UNL women's teams The UNL hockey team will travel for Saturday compete in a tournament at competition. Kearney State Boulder, Colo., tonight and College will host the swimming Saturday. The Huskers, 3-1, team, while the gymnastics meet Colorado State University team goes to Colorado tonight at 8 p.m.

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