

UNL grapplers meet defending champs

By Larry Stunkel

Defending Big 8 wrestling champion Oklahoma State University will invade the Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. tonight to take on the young UNL grapplers.

The tradition-rich Cowboys, who have won the Big 8 title for the last three years and finished second behind Iowa State University in the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Assoc. Championship) the last two years, will bring to Lincoln a 9-1 dual record after beating ISU last Saturday.

"Oklahoma State has an excellent chance of being both Big 8 and NCAA champions this year," said Husker Coach Orval Borgialli. "They are the best team in the nation."

"They've beaten Missouri 39-0 and Colorado 45-0, to give you some idea what we're walking into," Borgialli added.

Top individuals for the Cowboys this season are 118-pound Everett Gomez and 150-pound Steve Randall, who are both undefeated for the year. Other top OSU grapplers are Billy Martin and Rick Jones, who are both defending Big 8 champions, and Alex Maculoso and heavyweight Tom Hazel, who were conference runners-up last year.

After suffering a 19-18 defeat at Kansas State University last Friday, the Huskers will be trying to get back on the winning track.

"We really have no excuses," said Borgialli. "It was one of our poorer showings of the year."

"We made some mistakes," he continued. "They beat us with basically two moves, their stand-up and their single-leg take down."

Bruce Conger, Bob Johnson, Ralph Manning, Gary Harnish and Mark Borer all turned in winning efforts for the Huskers.

Conger was the only Husker to win by pin, while Manning, Harnish, Borer and Johnson won by decision.

Two other Huskers, Denny Zuk and Tom Jennings, both lost close matches to undefeated opponents. Zuk lost to Roger Fisher 12-10, and Jennings dropped a 3-1 decision to Wayne Jackson in the final seconds of the match.

"They're young kids, so they should bounce back," said Borgialli. "They're stable and are gaining experience with each meet."



Husker Ralph Manning maneuvers for a takedown at the Friday wrestling meet with Kansas State University.

Jeanne Dix(on) sports

The past year was a relatively calm one in the world of sports. To find controversy and action, the TV viewer had to be satisfied with the Watergate hearings, not the game of the week. 1973 was also a frustrating year for the underdog fan. Most of the darkhorses never got out of the barn.

The predictions below are for the coming sports year. In a few of them, sentiment outweighed logic. Since most of these columns probably end up lining wastebaskets, I hope to escape the inevitable sarcasm when these predictions turn sour.

The coming year:

—Oklahoma University will win the college football national championship.

—Hank Aaron will smash Babe Ruth's career home run record and then retire.

—Golfer Lee Trevino will win the U.S. Open.

—Billie Jean King will suffer an attack of 5-year laryngitis, preventing her participation in anything but tennis (sentiment).

—UCLA will whip North Carolina State in the national college basketball championship game.

—The Notre Dame football team will be watching TV on New Year's Day.

—The Milwaukee Bucks will easily win the National Basketball Assoc.

championship.

—The Kansas City Royals will make it to the World Series, but lose to the Pittsburgh Pirates.

—O.J. Simpson will make more TV guest appearances than Milton Berle.

—The Miami Dolphins will beat the Dallas Cowboys for a third Super Bowl win in a row.

—Arizona State University will win the College World Series in Omaha.

—Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut will somersault into hot water with the Russian government, but regain her form after a back injury.

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The candidate

When Nebraska football fans trade stories about the good old days, they are not talking about the era when people went to the big game in a horse and buggy

They are talking about 1970 and 1971, when the Huskers were the top team in the country and football replaced crops as the main topic of conversation in Nebraska. Merchants painted slow-moving items red and braced for the dollar-waving crowd. Every Nebraskan was happy, but nobody had a better reason to smile than Jerry Tagge.

The soft-spoken quarterback was a portrait of confidence as he directed the Husker attack. When Nebraska fell behind, his mere presence would reassure the panic-inclined crowd. With Tagge in the game, it just seemed that nothing could go wrong, and it seldom did.

Now with the Green Bay Packers, Tagge's future is uncertain. Dan Devine, whose coaching methods sometimes conflict with the principles of common sense, kept Tagge guessing about his assignment each Sunday. Sometimes he would be in street clothes keeping charts. Other times he would be the starting quarterback.

There is the growing suspicion that the Packers will trade for a quarterback (maybe James Harris of the Los Angeles Rams) during the off season. That would leave the Pack with four signal-callers and the possibility that two would be sent packing.

If there is any justice in the world, Tagge will make it in professional football. If not, maybe he should return to Lincoln and run for public office. After all, Jerry Tagge just can't lose in Nebraska.

sports shorts

The UNL women's basketball team defeated the University of Nebraska at Omaha, 37-32, Saturday. The same two teams meet again Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Women's Physical Education Bldg. 313.

Roger Chadwick led the Husker track team in the Oklahoma City Invitational Saturday. He won the 880-yard run in 1:52, only three-tenths of a second off the meet record.

The distance medley and 2-mile relay teams added second place finishes, as did Dan Speck in the 1,000-yard run.

Husker swimmers defeated two opponents in the Coliseum pool Saturday. UNL beat Buena Vista (Iowa), 102-10, and Bemidji (Minn.) State University, 95-18. The Huskers took first place in every event.

Cowboy rebounding subdues Huskers

By Steve Taylor

Stillwater, Okla.—Inspired by a roaring crowd, Oklahoma State University's Cowboys outmuscled Nebraska, 79-66, Saturday night. Rebounding was the story of the game. The Cowboys grabbed 46 rebounds to the Huskers' 33.

Nebraska raced to a 4-0 lead in the first minute on the strength of two free throws by Jerry Fort and a jumpshot by Tom Novak. Oklahoma State didn't score for four minutes, but when they did, the roof caved in on the Huskers. The Cowboys reeled off eight straight points in a flurry that propelled them to their first conference win this year.

Novak's long-range shots accounted for 21 points. The Huskers as a team shot

a respectable 43 per cent, but just couldn't rebound. The big gun for the Cowboys in scoring was Kevin Fitzgerald with 21 points.

But the night belonged to Andy Hopson. Hopson plucked 24 rebounds off the boards, setting an OSU record. The 6 ft. 8 in. junior also made 18 points.

It was not a night Fort will tell his grandchildren about. He made one of nine shots from the field and had only four points. To compound his misery, the 6 ft. 3 in. guard fouled out midway through the second half, delighting the crowd, which had been hostile toward him all night.

When asked if the crowd had any effect on him, Fort replied, "I think they had more of an effect on the referees.

Man, they sure had my number tonight," referring to the five fouls called on him.

After trailing by as many as 19 points in the second half, the Huskers had one last gasp when they narrowed the score to 74-64. But Phil Chambers, Novak and Rick Seidel missed shots that would have narrowed the gap, and the game was on Cowboy ice.

After the game, Husker Coach Joe Cipriano was calm. He said the Cowboys were a different team than the one the Huskers beat in the Big 8 tournament, but not necessarily a better one. He also said the crowd had helped the Pokes on this particular night.

As Cipriano boarded the team bus, he said that anything could happen in the game with Oklahoma University tonight.