

Nebraska ending season at top of conference

Analysis by Pete Wegman

Nebraska's win over Oklahoma Wednesday night puts the Huskers exactly where they would like to be at the end of the season—on top of the conference.

After one week of conference play, the Husker's 2-0 mark is equaled only by Oklahoma State. Preseason Big 8 favorites Kansas and Oklahoma each have lost once. Kansas was defeated by Iowa State Wednesday.

The Huskers 68-61 victory over Oklahoma was the result of a defense that forced 28 Scooner turnovers, and of the shooting of guard Jerry Fort and center Larry Cox, who scored 24 and 20 points respectively.

All-Conference and All-American prospect Alvan Adams, a junior, paced Oklahoma with 28 points.

Coaches featured

The league-leading Cornhuskers host the Colorado Buffalos Saturday at 7:35 p.m. in the Coliseum. The game will feature the two deans of the Big 8 basketball coaches. Colorado mentor Sox Walseth is in his 19th year at CU and Nebraska coach Cipriano is in his twelfth season.

One of the Buffs' biggest problems this season has not been who is playing, but rather, who isn't playing. Junior Dave Logan, a two-year starter for Colorado, was expected to be the nucleus of the team until he injured a knee in one of the last football

games of the season. Logan, who finished in the top 10 in conference scoring last year, is out for the season.

Young team

With the loss of Logan, Walseth was forced to form a team with no returning starters. Walseth admits the team is his youngest in some time, but adds, "I feel relatively sure that we're going to be pretty tough before it's all over."

The leading performers for CU thus far have been 6 ft. 4 in. senior guard Tony Lawrence and 6 ft. 7 in. sophomore center Greg Mueller. Both score about 14 points a game.

Fred McDonald, the Buffs' tallest player is 6 ft. 11 in. and one of those expected to lead the team, has played little because of an ankle injury.

Freshman center Larry Vaculik, who alternates with McDonald, will be experiencing a homecoming of sorts Saturday. Vaculik was a Prep All-American at Omaha Ryan last season. He is the first freshman since Logan to start for Walseth and is averaging about nine points a game.

Fans attending Saturday's game will be treated to the Big 8's best and worst defensive teams. The Huskers have given up an average of just less than 70 points a game while the Buffs' opponents have averaged nearly 90 points each contest.

sports

Gymnasts to face Colorado

Thirteen Nebraskans will visit Colorado on Saturday. But they say they don't expect to relax like tourists or find the natives very hospitable.

The thirteen are coach Francis Allen and his 12-man gymnastics team. The Huskers will compete in a dual meet against Big 8 foe Colorado, which Allen says is a tough assignment.

"Colorado is probably the best-up-and-coming young team in the nation," Allen said.

After finishing in the Big 8 cellar for three consecutive years, Colorado was beaten only by champion Iowa State, Oklahoma and the third-place Huskers last year.

Allen said the credit for Colorado's improvement belongs to third-year Buffalo coach

Dave Wardell. He said Colorado is one of the top four states in the nation in high school gymnastics, but that before Wardell became coach, most Colorado prep stars went to other schools.

"You look at any major gymnastics team in the nation and they'll have some Colorado gymnasts," Allen said. "He (Wardell) is really cooking there."

"They have good individuals in every event. They could win every event, that's how good they are. But we just have more depth than they do," he said.

Are the Huskers looking past Colorado to their dual meet with defending national champion Iowa State next Saturday?

The team is "not that naive," Allen said. "They know CU is good."

Charter member sees new sport succeed

By Becky Morgan

It's not often that a charter member and instigator of a college sport is around long enough to see that sport become successful.

A new athletic program usually takes more than four years getting off the ground and by then graduation has taken care of the first year initiates.

Not so for women's gymnastics and senior member Peg Van Beek.

As a freshman, Van Beek, along with Marilyn Fagerstrom, an assistant professor of physical education, decided to introduce a competitive women's gymnastics program at UNL. That was four years ago. Within that time the team has grown from a few volunteer members to a sizable program with five members on scholarship.

Van Beek is on a sixteen hour per semester scholarship. In her four years at UNL she has consistently been the team's top performer and scorer.

Junior high school gymnastics

Van Beek said junior high school teachers introduced her to gymnastics.

"They got me interested in the sport," she said. "From then on it was lots of practice. That's why it is so important to introduce the sport at the lower grade levels. As you get older you have more conflicting interests and it gets harder to find time to practice."

Van Beek practices about three and a half hours daily. "You have to be dedicated," she said.

Floor exercise is Van Beek's preferred event. She is also a solid all-around performer and is strong in vaulting also.

Promising future

There's a promising future for the women's gymnastics program at UNL Van Beek said.

"We have a lot more people out for the sport now, more selection," she said. "There are some promising freshmen. We also are receiving more money from the athletic department."

The team will travel to South Dakota State Saturday. The meet is expected to be close. UNL was defeated by one half point when they faced South Dakota State last year.

One team disadvantage will be the loss of Sandy Czaplewski, a freshman performing in floor exercise. Czaplewski was injured last weekend and is not expected to compete.

Women's basketball team faces undefeated Wayne State tonight

After 112-25 win over Nebraska Wesleyan University Wednesday night, the UNL women's basketball team will face undefeated Wayne State College tonight in the auditorium of the Women's Physical Education Bldg.

Hoping to put the first blemish on Wayne State's record, coach Jan Callahan said the team has not appeared to be demoralized after defeats at the hands of the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) last Thursday, and Kansas and Kansas State Universities in the Wildkitten Classic last Friday and Saturday.

The UNL team lost to UNO, 48-47; to Kansas State 82-31; and to Kansas, 57-45.

"If anything, the team is more ready," Callahan said. "They learned a lot from their road trip, as the competition we faced taught us a great deal."

Five in double figures

Five Huskers scored in double figures in the win at Wesleyan. Rhonda Rhodes led Nebraska's

scoring with 20 points.

The win evened the women's record at four wins and four losses after the three-game road skid.

"Against UNO we hit a poor percentage of our shots, but our defense was good," Callahan said. "We were ahead at the half, but they came back in the second half and beat us."

Callahan said the game against Kansas State was not as bad as the score indicated, because, she said, the Wildkittens are probably the best team in the Midwest region.

Probably to nationals

"They will undoubtedly go to the nationals," Callahan said. "I feel it was a good opportunity for us to play such a good team. A team can improve greatly by facing better competition."

The Husker's Junior Varsity also will play tonight at 6 p.m., with the varsity match following at 7:45.

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