

nebraskan sports



Willie Thornton (65) and George Mills (75) close in on quarterback Tom Sorely (12) during Saturday's scrimmage.

Swim team improvement depends on young members

By Jim Hunt

Lifting the UNL swim team out of the Big 8 cellar depends on a young team this season for coach John Reta.

Reta, in his tenth year as swim coach at Nebraska, has nine returning lettermen from last year's team which finished seventh in the conference meet. Kansas State does not compete in swimming.

Top returnees are Bryan Moss, Pat Murphy, and Scott Russer. Moss a sophomore, broke conference records in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke. Murphy set varsity records in the 500-, 1000-, and 1,650-yard freestyles as a freshman. Russer a senior, set varsity records in the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley at the Big 8 meet.

Freshman help

Of the 12 freshman out for the team Reta hopes that at least four can help immediately. They are Jeff Barnard from Ann Arbor, Mich. a 1974-75 high school all-American; Ed Johnson from Lincoln Southeast, the state champion in the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley; Dave McCleery the state champion in the 50-yard free style and Mark Crowder from Wood Ridge, Ill.

Reta also hopes to get help from Pat DiBiase, who transferred to UNL from Kansas. Reta said that DiBiase is an excellent backstroke that qualified for the NCAA national meet two years ago.

"The team had some good performances in the Big 8 meet last year, but we weren't very deep," Reta said. "Most of the team had their personal best in the conference meet, and that is important. Major areas of concern are the 200 butterfly, 200 breaststroke, and the distance events."

Possible national affiliation

UNL Fencing Club plans tournament

By Susie Reitz

Monthly tournaments and possible formation of a Nebraska division of the Amateur Fencing League of America (AFLA) are among plans of the UNL Fencing Club, according to club sponsor Bob Dushane.

At an organizational meeting Thursday night, members decided to hold the first club-sponsored tournament Sept. 14. The tournament will be open competition in foil and epee divisions. (The difference between foil and epee is size of the blade).

Club members discussed having the epee competition at dawn—in keeping with fencing tradition, Dushane said, "But no times are set for sure. Foil will follow the epee event."

Tournaments planned

The club plans at least one tournament a month in the Women's P.E. Bldg. this year, Dushane said.

Letters of inquiry were sent to fencing clubs within the state and in Kansas to

Kansas, the defending conference champs, should be in the thick of the title race again this year, Reta said. Iowa State and Oklahoma also should be battling for the championship.

"The Big 8 Conference is getting a lot tougher," Reta said. Last year was the first year in a long time that the Big 8 was tougher than the Southwest Conference."

New NCAA restrictions

Reta said that new NCAA restrictions might hurt swimming. The NCAA has called for a 40 per cent cutback of scholarships in non-revenue sports and has restricted coaches from talking to swimmers until their senior year in high school.

"We have had a program of excellence on our minds for years," Reta said.

Good pools play an important part in a program, Reta said. "Right now in our pool we have nine out of 16 lights out, our water is like milk, and this is not good for recruiting."

"Certainly we tell people we are in the process of building a new pool," Reta continued. "I noted in some of the kids who I told the pool would be done in 1974 and then in 1975 and a credibility gap arises. I don't think we should stress the new Field House until we can take a recruit out there and show him its completely done."

1975-76 Swim schedule

Dec. 4, 5, 6—Big 8 Relays at Colorado; Jan 17- at Iowa State; Jan 23- Chicago State Univ.; Jan 24- Minnesota; Feb. 13- double dual with Kansas and Colorado; Feb. 20- at Oklahoma; Feb. 21- at Oklahoma State; Mar. 4, 5, 6- Big 8 conference at Iowa State.

determine interest.

"We've written about the possibility of having exchange nights or weekends with fencers within a few hundred miles," he said.

Dushane said the club is trying to find enough interest to organize a Nebraska division of the AFLA.

Competition as an AFLA club would allow Nebraska fencers to be nationally ranked and hold a state championship tournament.

Separate divisions

"At our tournaments we let men and women compete in any division they want to," Dushane said. "But if we formed an AFLA division and had official tournaments, that would change."

AFLA competition allows women to fence foil while men compete in foil, epee and saber.

The Fencing Club is for students and faculty interested in fencing. Membership does not require fencing skills, since the

Team problems increase; more pressure on coach

By Jerry Stunke!

Before August practices started for UNL's football team, Husker coach Tom Osborne told reporters he felt under more pressure this season.

Little did Osborne know the added problems to be encountered during the first three weeks of practice.

Defensive safety Jim Burrow, defensive end Ray Phillips, defensive tackle Dean Gissler and quarterback Vince Ferragamo had already been declared ineligible by the NCAA for the first game.

One week later, first team guard Nick Zanetich quit the team, then back-up guard Stan Waldemore injured his knee the next day. Senior defensive tackle Ron Pruitt now is out for the season with a broken ankle.

Records rumor

The day after Pruitt's injury, it was rumored that sophomore I-back Monte Anthony might be ineligible for the season because of a records mix-up.

The foul up was straightened out, and Osborne announced Anthony will play.

"That would have been it," he told the Lincoln Journal, "I would have gone to the top of Memorial Stadium and jumped off."

Osborne probably isn't considering suicide, but the misfortunes aren't removing any pressure.

Position uncertainty

Osborne said the reasons why he feels more pressure range from purely personal feelings to the uncertainty about some positions.

"The more you're around, the more you know what's expected," he said. "The best team may always get the majority of breaks, but the more you're in coaching the more you realize there are factors you can't control."

Although Osborne said he thinks the Huskers will be a good team this year, he added how well they compete depends on how well things go early in the season.

Last year after two losses, (Wiscon-

sin and Missouri,) Osborne said it was like "swimming upstream because some of our incentives were taken away."

Back on track

It was a 56-0 win over Kansas that got the Huskers back on track.

"The Kansas game showed how a season can hinge on one game," Osborne said. "They never recovered. Before, they were 4-1 and nationally ranked, after we beat them they didn't win another game."

But Osborne said he thinks this year's team has enough character to avoid such a slump in a similar situation.

Osborne still hasn't announced who the starting quarterback will be against LSU, but did say Bobby Thomas will return punts in Burrow's absence and Jerry Wied will start in place of Pruitt.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Husker coach Tom Osborne

sports shorts

Physicals for women interested in UNL women's intercollegiate athletics will be today from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the training room of the South Stadium Office Bldg.

Nearly every varsity football player saw action Saturday in the Huskers' final major scrimmage before next Saturday's home opener against LSU.

The number one and two units scored four touchdowns on the scout teams during the two-hour closed-to-the-public session. Randy Garcia and John O'Leary

scored on short runs while Bobby Thomas and Dale Zabrocki caught touchdown passes.

Head coach Tom Osborne said the starting lineups for the LSU game will be announced later today and the entire 60-man squad will be named Tuesday.

Entries for co-rec flag football, men's tennis singles and women's tennis singles are due Wednesday in the Recreation and Intramural Office, 1740 Vine St., 472-3467.

Entries for men's and women's golf singles are due Friday.

As far as UNL's Water Polo Club is concerned, Nebraska is still part of the Great American Desert.

Nebraska is the only school in the Big 8 with a water polo team, and in such a competitive desert, scheduling is difficult and road trips long.

Water polo is played with two seven-men teams who maneuver in the water and try to throw the ball into a soccer-like goal.

The club's first action will be Sept. 19 and 20 in a tournament at Central Missouri State College.

"Our chances are pretty good if everybody keeps practicing," club member Mark Rinne said. The 20 club members practice Monday through Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Coliseum pool.

The club will compete in tournaments at the Universities of Wyoming and Wisconsin in October. If enough interested teams are found, Rinne said UNL also will hold a tournament.

"We're concentrating on tournaments this year because we know they won't be cancelled," Rinne said.