

Cagers face busy interim

By Jim Hunt

UNL's basketball team will be busy over semester break taking part in two tournaments and three single games.

The Huskers will take a 2-3 record into the sixth annual Roadrunner Invitational in Las Cruces, N.M. on Dec. 19-20. The team has beaten Northwestern and St. Mary's while losing to Illinois, Iowa and Washington.

Head Coach Joe Cipriano's team will face Pacific University in the first round of the tournament while host New Mexico State will take on Denver University.

Pacific returns four lettermen, including one starter off last year's team which finished 12-14 overall and 3-7 in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference.

After the Roadrunner Invitational, the Huskers will travel to Nashville, Tenn. to face Vanderbilt before entering the Big 8 pre-season basketball tournament in Kansas City.

Vanderbilt returns all five starters off last year's team which finished 15-11 overall and 10-8 in the Southeastern Conference.

Vanderbilt leads the series against the Huskers 3-1. UNL beat Vanderbilt last year in Lincoln 81-66.

The Huskers will take on Kansas in first round-action of the Big 8 tournament at 9:05 p.m. in Kemper Arena on Dec. 27.

Other teams in UNL's bracket include Colorado and Oklahoma.

After the Big 8 tournament the Huskers face South Dakota Jan. 3, at the Coliseum. Tipoff is at 7:35 p.m.

The Coyotes return all five starters off last year's team which finished 11-14.

South Dakota is led by Joe Muetting, a 6 ft. 8 in. senior center, who averaged 15.7 points a game last year.

The Huskers lead the series with South Dakota 25-7.

UNL will close its non-conference schedule at home, Jan. 6, against South Carolina.

The Gamecocks return nine lettermen off last year's team which finished 19-9.

Leading the Gamecocks will be 6 ft. 8 in. forward Alex English, an independent all-American in 1975. English averaged 16 points and 8.7 rebounds a game last year.

Before the start of this season English had started 84 straight games for South Carolina.

nebraskan sports

'Minor' bowl to offer big-league play

It may be a minor bowl in terms of money (band members and UNL football players will testify to that), but with two football teams having a combined record of 21-1, the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., offers fans a "major bowl" match-up.

Undefeated Arizona State University (ASU) will be the UNL football team's opponent in the Dec. 26 game.

Although ASU is unbeaten, pollsters have doubted the quality of the Sun Devils as opposition and have rated ASU no higher than seventh nationally this season.

Husker Coach Tom Osborne, whose team is ranked sixth nationally, said he has been most impressed with ASU's quickness.

"Arizona State has always had a lot of quickness in their running attack," he said. "This club doesn't seem to be any different."

As does Nebraska, ASU plays the I-formation on offense and uses a 5-2 defense.

Both teams are among the nation's most successful bowl-game competitors. Nebraska has won six straight bowl games and will be going for a national record of seven, while Arizona State has won its last five bowl appearances.

Leading the Sun Devils' attack will be fullback Fred Williams, ASU's leading

rusher this season after switching from the I-back spot in midseason.

Nebraska has been working out three times a week since Dec. 8, following a two-week layoff after the 35-10 loss to Oklahoma.

The team will resume full-time workouts this week and will leave Dec. 20 for Tempe.

Gerard, Mackie feats fail to forestall gymnasts' loss

By Scott Jones

UNL's gymnastics team finished second to Iowa State in the Rocky Mountain Open last weekend despite a 1-2 finish in the all-around by Larry Gerard and Gene Mackie.

Iowa State, the defending Big 8 champion, scored 408.45 points followed by Nebraska's 398.20 total and third-place Southern Illinois at 379.05. Nebraska entered the 13-team meet at Denver Univer-

sity as defending champions.

The all-around win was the second major victory of the year for Gerard. He won the Midwest Open all-around Nov. 28 to 29 and will attend an Olympic training camp at Penn State University Dec. 26, partially on the strength of that finish.

Assistant Coach Jim Hesson said school work pressure may have reduced Nebraska's effectiveness.

"I thought they really did a good job, considering the time of year (week before finals)," Hesson said. "We still scored almost 400, which under the new scoring system is pretty good."

Iowa State now has defeated the Huskers in one dual and two large invitationals but Hesson said the team is still confident they can defeat the Cyclones for the Big 8 championship.

In addition to winning the all-around, Gerard finished seventh in the high bar and sixth in the still rings. Senior Steve Dickey placed third in the pommel horse, Gary Jeurink was fourth in vaulting and Gary Duff finished fourth in the parallel bars.

Former Huskers Pete Studenski and Jim Unger placed third and seventh respectively in the still rings and floor exercise.

Head coach Francis Allen, who remained in Colorado after the meet, said last week that several Huskers will participate in training camps over the winterim.

Allen said four or five Huskers will accompany him to Fullerton, Calif., and others will go to a camp in Colorado.

Meets split by wrestlers

By Pete Wegman

Bruce Conger and Tony Jennings led UNL's wrestling squad to a split of week-end matches with Drake and Iowa State.

The grapplers squeezed past the Drake Bulldogs Friday, 20-17, on the strength of a decision by heavyweight Conger in the final match of the dual meet.

Conger's decision, when the meet was tied 17-17, came over a wrestler who had beat Conger a week earlier at the Iowa State Open Invitational.

"Drake was a fine match for us," said Tom Pollard, Husker assistant coach. "The team worked very, very hard and really came together for the first time in a year."

"They showed a lot of potential and talent."

The Cornhuskers were demolished, 40-7, Saturday by the Iowa State Cyclones, one of the nation's strongest collegiate squads this season, according to Pollard. Nebraska's lone win was by Tony

Jennings at 142 lbs. Conger and Bill Hoffman at 177 lbs. had draws.

"Hoffman had a real questionable referee's decision," Pollard said. "I felt Bill should have won the match. It was a fine match."

Jennings was undefeated in dual meets last year and is 2-0 in duals thus far this season.

With 52 points already this season, Jennings has a chance of becoming only the fourth wrestler in Nebraska history to score 100 points in a season and join what head coach Orval Borgialli calls "The Century Club."

Nebraska will send five wrestlers to the Midlands Open in Chicago over Christmas break. The meet is the second largest collegiate tournament in the nation, according to Pollard.

UNL's next dual meet is Jan. 17 at home against Missouri.

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