

UNL powerlifting team hopes to reach national heights

By Jim Kay

The Nebraska powerlifting team director Boyd Epley sees Nebraska's high finish at the AAU National Powerlifting Championships as an indication of things yet to come for the team.

Nebraska finished second to Texas A&M University last weekend at the meet in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Following Nebraska's impressive performance, Epley predicted the team may be national champs next year, although their point total fell a little short this time.

Thirty-eight points won it last year for Montclair State (N.J.," Epley said. "And A&M was second with 37 points. So we felt the 51 points we scored should have

been enough."

Texas A&M won the meet with 53 points. Scoring goes to the top 10 places in each individual weight division. Winners score 12 points toward the team total.

Nebraska had two individual winners, junior Mike Arthur at 132 pounds and freshman Tim Evans in the 181-pound class.

Record set

"Arthur set a national collegiate record in the deadlift of 505 pounds," Epley said. "And Evans probably had the most outstanding lift of the meet when he broke the old squat record by 80 pounds."

Evans set two national collegiate and American teen-age records with the squat

lift of 620 pounds and a 1,535 pound total for all his lifts.

Freshman Bill Toscas, though finishing sixth in the 165-pound class, set an American teen-age deadlift record of 540 pounds in his weight class.

Other top finishers for UNL were freshmen Monte Lofing, second at 114 lbs., sophomore John Dier, third at 123, sophomore Chris Buechle, ninth at 114, freshman Mike Daugherty, ninth at 148, and freshman Walt Boerne, ninth at 242 lbs.

"They all did a very good job," Epley said, "and they all contributed to the team effort. We had four or five opportunities to win but we didn't. This was the largest powerlifting meet ever held with 193 lifters from 50 schools. It was also the first team ever sent by Nebraska."

Bright future

Epley was optimistic about the future of powerlifting at UNL with so many underclassmen on his team.

"We have a good chance to win it next

year," Epley said. "The thing is we have the structure to have a good team with the Recreation Dept. and advanced weightlifting programs here at the university. Mike Arthur is really the coach and I'm the director. It's a good structure and a good set-up."

The powerlifting team receives no support from the UNL Athletic Dept. or the Student Fees at UNL. The 14 team members who represented Nebraska at the AAU meet paid their own way, Epley said.

The team's next competition will be Saturday at the Nebraska State Powerlifting Championships. Epley said the meet is an AAU open meet as far as age group goes but that it was limited to Nebraska state residents.

"The University team will be entered as a team," Epley said. "The main competition will come from the Lincoln Health Club, the Omaha Athletic Club, and a team from Alliance called the Ironmen."

sports

Biting wind, hard-hitting session open football practice

Cold, windy weather greeted more than 140 Husker gridders in a hard-hitting initial spring practice Wednesday.

Husker coach Tom Osborne said he expects to cut the squad to 120 in a week and down to "a little more than 100 at the end of spring practice."

One Husker starter from last year who missed the opening drills was fullback Dodie Donnell. Osborne said

Donnell was not able to finish his required winter training because of a class conflict. But once he finishes it, he will join the squad, Osborne said.

Another Husker from last year, sophomore tight end Brian Horn, has decided not to join the team this year.

"He told us last week that he had other interests," Osborne said of the Omaha native. "He said he wanted to work on his school work. He had a speed problem at tight

end so we moved him to the interior line."

Ohio State transfer Dan Rice also will miss spring practice after undergoing back surgery Monday.

Senior Stan Waldmore who played offensive guard last year, has been switched to offensive tackle.

Osborne added that his fifth year at the Husker helm could be the toughest.

"I'm not more confident than a year ago," he said. "We have further to go than a year ago. We're so inexperienced at so many positions and have a lot more to accomplish."

Osborne said he thinks the squad is in a little better shape this year.

"We had them run a mile and a half today and we couldn't find anyone who couldn't run it in a reasonable time."

Osborne said he expects a battle at the quarterback position between senior Randy Garcia and junior Tom Sorley.

"But I think people hinge too much on that position," he added.

Osborne said the adverse weather "wasn't ideal, but we got some benefit out of the practice. It's pretty tough to practice with the cold and the wind blowing."

Three new coaches greeted the Huskers. Lance Van Zandt from Kansas University is UNL's new defensive coordinator. Gene Huey from New Mexico University is the Huskers new tight end-wingback coach. Charlie McBride from the University of Wisconsin will handle the defensive line.

Osborne joked that because of two new coaches from the South (Van Zandt and Huey), the rest of the Huskers will have to learn to speak Southern.



Photo by Kevin Higley

UNL started spring football practice Wednesday. One of the 147 players trying out for the team practices blocking against a blocking sled. Spring football will end with the annual Red-White game April 30.

Wightman-led intramural Elites win open league division crown

When the name James Wightman is mentioned one probably thinks of Cornhusker football. For the past two seasons Wightman has been a linebacker for Tom Osborne's team.

This past intramural basketball season Wightman showed he can be a successful basketball player too.

He formed a 16-member team, the Elites, that competed in and won the open league division. The league was open to anybody, according to recreation director Gail Wiedow.

"If they wanted to, the starting members of the varsity basketball team could form a team," Wiedow said.

The Elites, after losing its first two games of the season, finished strong winning its last 10 in a row. Included in that streak was a victory over F.A.C., the all-university intramural champions.

Wightman said many of the 16 players on his team were former high school basketball players, including Husker football player Junior Miller from Midland, Tex.

"Junior was heavily recruited out of high school for basketball," Wightman said. Wightman said Miller and Anthony Mitchell were two of the leading scorers on the team.

"We were a run and gun team," Wightman said about the team's offense. "Defensively, we played a man-to-man when we faced a tall team and a zone when we played a quick team."

The Elites season is not finished, Wightman said. The

team will play at the State Penitentiary Friday. They also have plans to play a charity game for sickle-cell anemia following spring football practices against Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a game against a University faculty team.

Intramural championships were from Feb. 28 through March 16. Winners in the respective divisions were: Fraternity A Division, Alpha Tau Omega, 28, and Sigma Chi, 26; Fraternity B Division, Sigma Phi Epsilon, over Tau Kappa Epsilon, 36-30; Fraternity C Division, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 29 and Farm House 27.

The winner of Residence Hall A Division was Abel 10A over Harper 9A, 28-24. Residence Hall B Division, Abel 3B, 34, and Abel 11B, 30. Residence Hall C Division was Harper 310, 38, and Abel 3C, 19.

The winners in the Independents division's were: Independent A Division, S.A.C., 36 and Average White Team, 35; Independent B Division, R.B. Rebels, 41 and Hoopers, 35; and Small Fry Pee Wees, 46, and Phi Delta Theta, 36.

In the all-university championship game F.A.C. downed Alpha Tau Omega, 42-23.

According to Wiedow 305 teams competed in intramurals this year, compared with 289 the year before. "We were very pleased with how the intramural program went this year," Wiedow said. "Being able to see the Coliseum really helped."

"We had double the floor space and we were able to start the games later and get done with them earlier."

sports quiz

1. How many years has Tony Sharpe been baseball coach at UNL?
2. UNL has had three first team All-Americans in baseball. Who are they?
3. True or False. Besides being the head baseball coach at UNL Tony Sharpe also has served as an assistant basketball coach.
4. Who was the leading hitter on the 1976 Husker baseball team?
5. Which Husker pitcher led the Huskers in strikeouts and earned-run average last season?
6. Which of these players has the record for the highest Husker batting average for a career? (A) Bobby Thomas, (B) Don Brown, (C) Steve Smith or (D) Stan Bahnsen.
7. Which team was the Big 8 baseball champion last season?
8. True or False. Norm Glismann has the UNL record for the most home runs in one season.
9. What was the Huskers' final record in baseball last year?
10. Who did John Sanders replace as assistant baseball coach at UNL?

1. Sharpe is entering his 31st year as head baseball coach at UNL.
2. Bob Cerv in 1950, Don Brown in 1956 and Gene Stohs in 1972.
3. True. Sharpe was an assistant basketball coach under Harry Good and Jerry Bush.
4. Bobby Thomas hit 327 for the Huskers in 1976.
5. Kirk Eymann led the Husker pitchers last year with 53 strikeouts and a 2.30 era.
6. Don Brown recorded a career batting average of .409 from 1954-56.
7. The University of Missouri.
8. False. Bob Cerv and Don Brown have the record. Cerv hit 10 home runs in 1950 and Brown hit 10 home runs in 1956.
9. 21-24-1.
10. Bob Gates.