

Husker Sorchik faces stiff competition for javelin title



Photo by Kevin Higley

Husker Scott Sorchik will defend his Kansas Relays javelin title this weekend. Sorchik has thrown the javelin 262 ft., 11 in., this season for the third best mark in the country.

Javelin thrower Scott Sorchik will be trying to win his third consecutive title when the Huskers travel to Lawrence, Kan., today and Saturday for the 52nd running of the Kansas Relays.

Sorchik has won the event the last two years, but this year it might be tougher for him, said UNL assistant track coach John Korky.

Sorchik, who heaved the javelin 229 ft., 10 in. at last year's meet, has a toss of 262 ft., 11 in. this year. He is ranked third in the nation.

However, the person Sorchik defeated in last year's meet, Robert Roggy of Southern Illinois University, is ranked second in the nation and has thrown the javelin a few feet farther than Sorchik this season, Korky said.

"Scott is one of the hardest workers, I have seen," Korky said. "He trains year round. He spends a lot of time for the limited amount of meets he competes in."

Korky said the Kansas Relays rate with the Texas Relays and the Drake Relays as the top three big Midwest events.

"There will be teams from the Big 8, Big 10, Southwest Conference, junior college teams and some private colleges," Korky said. "There also will be some high school events and I understand that this is bigger than the Kansas high school state meet to them."

He added that the Relays could be a

preview of the Big 8 Conference outdoor meet.

"All the Big 8 teams will be there," Korky said, "so we'll have an opportunity to compete against them all."

No team scores are kept at the Kansas Relays because it is difficult with so many teams, Korky said.

Individually, Korky said, the Huskers have a chance for some winners besides Sorchik.

"The two-mile relay team finished fourth at the Texas Relays and they have the ability to run with the best teams in Kansas," Korky said.

The Kansas Relays also will feature several well-known former Olympic athletes.

Al Oerter, 40, the only man to win four Olympic gold medals in the same event (discus), will compete in his first major meet in eight years.

The open division also will include Olympic pole vaulters Earl Bell and Terry Porter, sprinters Ed Preston of Arkansas State University and Robert Taylor of the Philadelphia Pioneers, sub-four minute milers Mike Slack and Mike Manke and U.S. Olympian distance runner Garry Bjorklund.

The Huskers will take 22 athletes to Kansas, including hurdler Jeff Lee and discus thrower Lee Kunz. Both have been working out with the football team.

UNL women's tennis team not resting on past record

The Husker women's tennis team lets the facts speak for themselves.

They are 9-2 in duals, won the Big 8 Conference tournament against a highly competitive field last Saturday, and could be the best women's tennis team ever at UNL.

But past accomplishments will not be enough when the Huskers meet Kansas State University and Kearney State College in Kearney today and Drake University in Des Moines Saturday.

"We got a good record, probably the best ever," said Joyce McVicker, the Huskers' number one player. "But we're nonchalant about it. I don't think we'll have a letdown against Drake."

McVicker credited first-year Husker coach Sig Garnett with the turn-around from last year's squad, which finished fourth in the Big 8 Tournament.

Two Husker freshmen on the six-woman squad also have helped, McVicker said.

Sue Sloboth is the Huskers' second-ranked player and Ruth Anderson is sixth.

"We got more kids on the team and they really help with enthusiasm," McVicker said. "We really get excited. Last year

we left after our matches, but this year we stick around and watch other matches."

Anderson agreed.

"I guess we (freshmen) are a little more enthusiastic since it is our first year. I think it helps them (the older players)."

Anderson added the best tennis she has played this year was last week at the Big 8 Tourny. In that meet, Anderson won the number six singles title and teamed with Vicki Maseman to win their doubles match.

"I was playing miserable two weeks ago," Anderson said. "I played the best I've ever played this year at the Big 8 and got more confidence. I've played tourneys before so I was used to the pressure."

"After I took the first set (at Big 8), I got my confidence back."

Anderson said she has not heard the scouting report on Drake, but "hopefully we'll get up for them."

"There won't be as much pressure as the Big 8 had, but it will be a good practice for the Missouri Valley."

The Huskers will travel to Columbia, Mo., for the Missouri Valley Conference meet April 28 to 30.

Huskers to try to come out of cellar against Kansas

By Rob Barney

UNL's baseball team will travel to Lawrence, Kan., today for a four-game series with the University of Kansas (KU) Jayhawks.

UNL is coming off four losses to Missouri, putting the Husker in the cellar of the east division of the Big 8 Conference baseball standings.

The Jayhawks last weekend took three of four games from Iowa State University to stand second in the division. Coach Tony Sharpe said the Huskers must win two games to stay in contention for a playoff berth.

The top two teams in each division at the season's end advance to the Big 8 tournament May 20 through 24 in Oklahoma City.

"We need a minimum of two wins and we would preferably like three," Sharpe said.

Sharpe will be starting Kirk Eymann (2-2) in the first game of the series today, and Jeff Costello (3-2) in the second. The first game of the series is a crucial one, Sharpe said.

"In the event of two teams tying at the end of the season and then splitting the season series, the playoff spot is determined by the first game of the series between the two schools," he said. "Whoever won the first game will go to the tourna-

ment."

The Huskers have had a week's layoff. The team has a doubleheader Tuesday with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), after being rained out twice.

"We would have loved to have played UNO this week, but you can't do anything about the weather," Sharpe said. "We hate to come back into Big 8 play on a losing note."

UNL, 18-8 on the year, and KU, 17-12-1, compare similarly on paper.

In team hitting, KU ranks sixth in the Big 8, the Huskers are seventh. UNL leads the league in team fielding, Kansas is third. And in team pitching Kansas ranks first, the Huskers second.

"Kansas is a good pitching club and they play good defense," Sharpe said. "Their only weakness is probably hitting." Kansas has one of the leading hitters in the conference, third baseman Lee Ice. He stands seventh in the Big 8 with a .385 average.

The Huskers have two of the Big 8's leading batters in centerfielder Paul Haas and leftfielder Joe Scherger. Haas, a senior, is hitting .373 and Scherger, a freshman stands at .352.

UNL also has two of the leading pitchers in the conference. Steve McMansman is 4-0 with a 2.28 earned run average

UNL hopes to qualify more for AIAW National Meet

Husker women's track coach Carol Frost said she hopes to qualify more members of her squad for the AIAW National Meet when UNL hosts Northwest Missouri State University and Fort Hays State in a triangular meet Saturday.

Field events will begin at 1 p.m., with running events scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the Ed Weir Track.

The Huskers have qualified six individuals for the national meet and Frost said she is hopeful of qualifying more athletes.

"I am hopeful of qualifying all of our relay teams," Frost said. "I also think we could qualify in three or four other events."

Frost did not say which individuals she thought could qualify.

The Huskers have already qualified Deb Raddatz in the shotput, Pam Koontz in the discus, Cynthia Dixon in the 880-yard run, Toni Midder and Pam Baker in the 100-yard dash, Baker in the 100-meter hurdles and Jean Essman in the long jump.

The Huskers, after Saturday, will have three meets remaining to qualify for the national meet at UCLA, May 19 through 21.

"Whether we qualify more people or not depends on our competition," Frost said. "We can't run it on our own. We have to have good competition and good weather."

Frost said she expects the Huskers to do well in the meet Saturday.

"I have high hopes for this meet," Frost said. "We have performed well this year and we are starting to get some of our girls back who were injured."

The Huskers have been without the services of their two best distance runners for the last few weeks, Frost said.

Cynthia Dixon has been out with a stress fracture and Kelly Hiatt has been hampered with tendonitis, Frost said.

Frost said the Huskers defeated Northwest Missouri State in the Missouri Invitational meet during the indoor track season.

The Huskers return home Wednesday for a doubleheader against Missouri Western State college.

sports shorts

UNL's Crew team will try for its third consecutive Big 8 Conference Rowing Championship Saturday in Manhattan, Kan.

If UNL wins the meet this year it will gain permanent possession of the Ben Stott Challenge Cup for winning the Big 8 title three consecutive years.

The Huskers are 3-2 this year with victories over the University of Minnesota, Washburn University and Notre Dame University. The Husker losses have been to Big 8 tourney host Kansas State University and Wichita State University.

Races are scheduled for the varsity men's eight, varsity women's eight, freshmen men's eight, novice women's eight, varsity men's four with cox and single sculls.

Sigma Chi fraternity is sponsoring an All-Greek Fight Night Boxing Tournament

at 7 p.m., tonight in the National Guard Armory, 10th and Military Ave.

All benefits from the \$2 ticket sales will go to the Wallace home for minimally retarded children in Colorado.

There will be 13 bouts. Tickets may be purchased from any member of Sigma Chi fraternity or at the door.

UNL's women's softball team will travel to Norman, Okla., Saturday for the Sooner Invitational.

The Huskers are 4-4 on the season and are scheduled to play a doubleheader at Central State University, today.

UNL's women's golf team will also be in Norman this weekend to defend its Big 8 Conference Golf Championship at the University Golf Course.