

sports

Small but talented track team heads to NCAA meet

UNL track coach Frank Sevigne will take a small, but talented team to Detroit for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships this weekend.

Six UNL performer performers from the Husker team that finished second in the Big Eight Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships will go to the national meet.

"Six people could win a national meet if you have the right people," Sevigne said. "You just need the right combination of points. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying we're going to win, but anything can happen in a national meet."

Headlining the UNL entries is hurdler Jeff Lee. Lee, a junior from Racine, Wisc., is defending his 60-yard high hurdle title which he won in Detroit last year.

Lee won the national title in 7.1 seconds last year and has tied his record three times this season. However, in the Big Eight meet, Lee ran 7.23 seconds good for second place.

"Jeff has a definite possibility of repeating," Sevigne said. "Out of all the weekends this season, he has had one bad meet and that isn't unusual."

Another front-line performer for the Huskers is sophomore Scott Poehling. Poehling has the fastest time in the world this year in his specialty, the 600-yard run, with a time of 1:09.01.

However, Poehling also encountered difficulties in the Big Eight meet when he was nipped at the tape by Lester Mickens of Kansas.

"Scott went out too fast in the Big Eight meet," Sevigne said. "He ran his first quarter faster than the quarter (440-yard dash) was won in."

The other UNL entry in the meet is the mile relay team. The team is expected to be Ron Hoagland, Pat McKenzie, Ray Mahoney and Tom Dovel.

The quartet has run the mile relay in a time of 3:12.56 while winning the Big Eight meet and setting a new UNL record.

Although, Poehling ran the anchor leg in the Big Eight meet, he is expected to be replaced by Hoagland at the national meet so he can concentrate on the 600-yard run, Sevigne said.

Sevigne said there is a possibility Poehling will run the relay depending on "circumstances," but Sevigne did not elaborate on those circumstances. If Poehling runs the relay, he probably will replace Hoagland, Sevigne said.

One other Husker, freshman sprinter

Everad Samuels, had qualified for nationals with a time of 6.1 seconds in the 60-yard dash but will not make the trip. Sevigne said Samuels is not ready for the meet.

There will probably be quite a difference in the times in the NCAA meet, Sevigne said. The meet will be run at

Cobo Arena on a wooden track which produces slower times than the Sports Complex track.

Sevigne said Villanova, University of Texas-El Paso, Washington State, Tennessee and Auburn will probably be the leading contenders for the team title.



Photo by Ted Kirk

UNL hurdler Jeff Lee will defend his national title in the 60-yard high hurdles this weekend at Detroit in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. Lee was upset in the event by Missouri's Dan Lavitt (middle) in the Big Eight meet Feb. 26.

Women gymnasts pin national title hopes on Concannon

UNL's 98-pound freshman gymnast, Jeanne Concannon, is favored to take the all-around women's gymnastic title and qualify for nationals in the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) Region 6 gymnastics meet Friday and Saturday.

UNL women's gymnastics coach, Judy Schalk, said Concannon is the Husker's best shot to qualify for nationals.

"Patty Carmichael will also have a chance, but she is not yet 100 percent healthy," Schalk said. "It will be

tough for anyone to top Kolleen Casey of Southwest Missouri State."

The top all-around competitor from this weekend's meet at Springfield, Mo., will compete in the national AIAW meet at the University of Washington March 31 and April 1.

Southwest Missouri State's Casey, a former Olympian, has been scoring about 38 points this year in the all-around — an average of 9.5 in each of the four events.

Schalk said the SMSU team has added depth to go along with Casey.

"They have a fine team all the way around and should be the favorite for the team title," Schalk said. "But we and Grandview will be fighting for second."

Host SMSU is the six-time defending regional champion and one of the country's top-ranked teams, she added.

"Grandview used to be untouchable, but we're up to their level of competition now," Schalk said. "We lost to them by a small margin on their court earlier in the year. "On a neutral court I'm sure we can beat them."

Intramural starter overcomes handicap

The Birds of Prey intramural basketball team scored six points in overtime Monday and nabbed a win over the Midnight Raiders in the Independent League B competition.

One player, Mark Manning, scored the six overtime points. Manning lost his left arm at age four, to bone cancer.

Manning, a sophomore accounting major and a starter for the intramural team averaged about 10 points a game during the playoffs.

"I always liked sports and I never let my handicap get in my way," Manning said. "Whenever I wanted to do something, I got out and did it. I guess I feel I don't have a handicap."

Manning was a starter his senior year for the Exeter High School varsity basketball team. He earned letters in basketball, football, track and golf. In track, Manning went to the state meet in the triple jump.

In all these sports, Manning said he did not hesitate to go out and play with everybody else. He added that no special coach helped him to overcome his handicap.

He admitted that a good man-to-man defense probably is his weak point in basketball, but that otherwise, playing with one arm does not limit him.

Manning said he has succeeded in sports because he refused to allow a tough physical limitation to become a mental obstacle as well. He said other people might look at him and say he is limited in what he can do, but he does not see it that way.

Sophomore Patty Carmichael said she hopes the team can earn a wild card berth for the nationals.

"Southwest Missouri will be tough to beat because they're been scoring more than 140 all year," Carmichael said. "If we could score 134 points, we should have a chance to be a wild card team."

Schalk said there is one problem with the wild card.

"The teams on the East and West coast always score higher than the teams in the Midwest. It's the judging. The other teams have a much better chance to qualify," she said.

According to Carmichael, the team is "psyched up for the meet and ready to do well."

"All of us are finally in better shape. Peggy's [Liddick] ankle is better and so is mine," she said. "Crissy [Robertson] had a bone bruise but it is also better."

Carmichael said winning the Big Eight Championship puts added pressure on the team.

"It's our own prestige. We know we have to perform well, but that doesn't intimidate us," she said.

While the women are busy preparing for the trip to Springfield, Coach Schalk also is busy recruiting.

"Letters of intent went out Monday," Schalk said. "We hope to pick up a couple of girls from Florida — Lisa Martin and Karen Ginsburg. They're probably better than the girls we have now."

Renee Reisdorff, outstanding Omaha Bryan gymnast, almost is a certainty to attend UNL, Schalk said.

"That would really give us depth," Schalk said.

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