

## sports



Photo courtesy University of Missouri Athletic Dept.

Missouri senior Earl Gant is eighth in the Big Eight Conference in rushing going into Saturday's contest with UNL. Tiger coach Warren Powers is confident a Missouri win will put MU in a post-season bowl game.

## Powers is coming home, bringing Tigers this time

By Brad Horky

When sports enthusiasts say "the student is meeting the teacher," usually they are speaking of the Big Ten Conference. That's where Bo Schembechler's Michigan Wolverines do battle with Woody Hayes' Ohio State Buckeyes. Schembechler was an assistant to Hayes, and they both are successful coaches.

In the Big Eight Conference, that phrase is beginning to be as important when Tom Osborne and Warren Powers match wits from different sides of the field.

Powers was an assistant coach under Osborne at Nebraska before accepting the head coaching position at Washington State, and is now at the University of Missouri.

In last season's opener for both schools, Powers brought the WSU Cougars into Memorial Stadium and shocked the football world by downing the Huskers 19-10, in his coaching debut.

After one season at the helm of the Cougars, Powers took the reins at Mizzou and in this season's opener stunned everyone again as the Tigers dumped defending national champion Notre Dame, in South Bend, 3-0.

Saturday, Powers again comes "home" as he brings the 6-4 Tigers to Lincoln to meet the Orange Bowl bound, second ranked Huskers.

### Traditionally tough

"You always like to come back where you came from and do good," Powers said, "but it's no fun playing a great football team like Nebraska.

"But I don't play the game, the players do, and Nebraska knows the Missouri game



Warren Powers, head football coach at the University of Missouri.

has always been a tough one, it's not me. The last ten years Nebraska has won five games and Missouri has won five."

Powers said the Nebraska and Missouri football programs were alike, but Washington State was a different story.

"Missouri and Nebraska both have excellent programs," Powers said. "They both have great followings. At Washington State, the school was smaller and they didn't have the great following out there as NU and MU enjoy."

Powers also mentioned that he noticed a different style of play in the Pac Ten and Big Eight conferences.

"They are both excellent conferences, but the Big 8 is a little more physical. Defense is emphasized more here than out there, and the defenses are a little more aggressive.

"The Big 8 also has a tougher running game than the Pac Ten does."

### Plenty of incentive

Powers was asked if Nebraska's win against Oklahoma would aid Mizzou player's incentive.

"Our team really doesn't need any more incentive," Powers said. "They (the MU players) always play hard. But playing the Big 8 champ and a team that is headed towards the Orange Bowl has to add something. When a team's on top everybody wants a shot at you. Missouri can be tough on Nebraska, I know, I used to have to coach against them when I was at Nebraska."

Powers said he is pleased with the players at Missouri.

"They have adapted real well to having a new coach at the institution," Powers said. "We knew at the beginning of the year we had an excellent chance on having a good team. We'd have a better record, but we are young and we've made a few mistakes."

Powers said that a bowl for Missouri isn't out of the picture.

"We've got a few bowls interested and looking at us. We've got a good shot at a bowl if we can knock off Nebraska, but I don't think we'll get a bid if we lose."

"We have great personnel," Powers said. "We're young, but we'll grow, we're going to continue to get better."

## Swimmers seek qualification for nationals

By Ed McClymont

The fortunes of the UNL women's swimming and diving team appear to be rosy for the 1978-79 season. The Huskers return six individuals who qualified for the national meet last year, and according to Coach Ray Huppert, they have a chance to qualify 10 individuals for this year's meet.

"This is the first year we have quality athletes in every event," Coach Huppert said. "If we stay 100 percent healthy we can be a definite power."

The women participated in the Cyclone relays where no points were kept. Coach Huppert said the idea of the meet was to let the girls get "a relationship of where they stood with other kids." He said he felt that that if scoring would have been kept, the Huskers would have won by three or four points.

### Senior co-captains

Senior co-captains Ellen Hollander and Kristi Wells will lead the women this year, both having competed for three years in the national meet. Hollander qualified on

the medley relay teams while Wells competed in both the one- and three-meter diving competition.

The four other returning national meet qualifiers are juniors Cindy Agee, Melanie Jakob, Anne Watland, and sophomore JoDea Eckstrom. Eckstrom placed 20th in the 100 medley, and all four swam on the relays which competed at the nationals.

The Huskers will have added depth this year at free-style with the addition of Cary Backhaus who transferred from Alabama two years ago. She did not compete last year, despite the fact she went to nationals while swimming for Alabama.

### Freshman recruits

Three freshmen recruits should also add depth to the squad, according to Huppert.

Laura Spindler, Rene Sullivan (high school All-American), and Marla Thompson are all capable of qualifying for the national meet, which is at the University of Pittsburgh this year, he said.

The qualifying time for nationals may be achieved at any meet in the season. However Huppert said he isn't concen-

trating on that quite yet.

"The first semester we are working mostly on conditioning," Huppert said. "Right now we are practicing two times a day Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Sunday. In the second semester we will start gearing the girls towards the nationals."

### Big eight meet

The Big Eight meet will be held at Oklahoma Feb. 22-24, and Huppert gives the Sooners a slight edge, due to the home arena. The returning champs Kansas and Missouri also look tough, he said. Hopefully, Huppert said, with added depth and leadership, the Huskers could rise to the top.

The women's first dual meet of the season will be this Saturday at the Nebraska Sports Center. The opposition will be Oklahoma.

"We moved the starting time back to 4:30 in hopes that some of the football crowd might stop in after the game instead of getting out in the jam," Huppert said.

## 'Team presence' contributes to winning volleyball season

By Kathy Chenault

Strenuous training and team play are to be credited for the impressive 27-2 record compiled by the UNL freshman volleyball team, according to its coach, Russ Rose.

"Individual-wise we weren't as potent as many, possibly most of the teams we played, but our success came as a result of the actual talent we displayed as the presence of a team," Rose said.

Rose commended his players for working and training hard from the beginning through the end of the season. He said his expectations at the start of the season weren't high because there wasn't as much individual talent present as in past years.

### Expecting humble year

"I told myself at the outset that I would

have to be humble this year. I have always been fortunate in being involved with successful teams, both as a player and since, as a coach. But these girls have earned my respect.

"They went out and worked together to become the best playing unit they could become. Nobody is capable of out-training this bunch."

One of the reasons the team earned respect from other teams and players as well as Rose was the size of the squad, he said, because there were only seven members on the team.

"If you know anything about volleyball, you know that doesn't allow for much depth," he said, chuckling. "But they knew they would play. They had to play."

### Varsity opponents

Out of 29 matches played, only one was against a junior varsity team. The

remainder were against varsity squads, who Rose said are usually reluctant to play the Nebraska freshmen.

"The large schools feel they have nothing to gain by playing a freshman team, and a lot to lose," Rose said, adding UNL manages to schedule the matches because of its reputation as a strong team.

This season the team claimed victories in Fort Hays, Colby and Nebraska invitational tournaments, while finishing second in the Jayhawk meet. The high point of the season, according to Rose, was splitting a match with the varsity squad from Kansas.

The confident attitude of the girls was another reason they were able to do well in competition with top teams from other schools.

### No 'leftover' treatment

"They were not treated like leftovers

because I could never think of them in that way. Consequently, they don't feel inferior. This allowed them to go out and concentrate on winning."

The only match losses were the first and last played, which, Rose said, "made for a very exciting and fun time in between."

Although the freshman team philosophy is to work as a separate entity, the main goal is developing future varsity members, Rose said.

"I stressed performing under a certain discipline and playing the name of the game defense. As far as individual potential for varsity action, it's up to their own personal desire and determination.

"Beyond that, they made the season a total success by creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence among themselves, and a feeling of pride from me. I'll never forget this team."