

sports

UNL athletic squads have busy weekend scheduled

A number of Nebraska athletic teams will be busy over the weekend—and especially busy competing in Colorado.

The UNL varsity men's and women's swimming teams travel west to face Colorado and Colorado State in dual meets Friday and Saturday. Nebraska's gymnastics teams, both the men and women, will journey to Colorado for the Rocky Mountain Open tournaments.

UNL's wrestling team opens its conference season this weekend with a pair of duals against highly ranked Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

The women's volleyball squad will also be among elite company over the weekend at the 1978 AIAW National Championships hosted by the University of Alabama.

Nebraska's women's basketball team continues a busy schedule with a home game tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The game will be first of four in seven days for the Huskers.

Men's swimming

Men's swimming coach Cal Bentz expects strong competition from both Colorado teams this weekend.

"Colorado recruited a strong kid in George Tidmarsh, and while they have a small squad we're going to have to swim a good meet and place our people well to offset their talent," Bentz said. "Colorado State under a new coach is pretty much in the same situation we are. Seven or eight years ago they had probably one of the top 15 or 20 teams in the country, but their program has backed off and they're trying now to turn it around again."

Last weekend the Huskers finished fourth at the Big Eight relays, which was an encouraging start under first-year head coach Bentz.

Steve Elliott and Lance Green combined for a first place finish in three meter diving and a second place finish in one meter diving to pace the Huskers.

Nebraska also received a strong performance from the 800-yard free relay team of Dick Conradt, Bengt Jonsson, Anders Rutqvist and Joe Standfield as they captured third in the event, setting a new Nebraska school record of 7:10.62.

Bentz remains optimistic but is not predicting a Big Eight championship for the Huskers. He said, "For the first competition this season, we did extremely well."

"Up to this point everything said about the Nebraska program has been speculation, but now everyone knows we're for real and they will have to deal with us at the Big Eight meet in March," Bentz said. "The meet was not really an accurate reflection of our level of conditioning. We feel we are better prepared at the middle distances, especially in the strokes and the individual medley."

Women's swimming

UNL women's swimming coach Ray Huppert is preparing his team for the Colorado trip after a fourth place finish in the second annual Husker Invitational over the weekend. So far the women have been led by sophomore JoDee Eckstrom, who has established new school records this year in the 400 individual medley and the 100 backstroke.

Women's gymnastics

Women's gymnastics coach Judy Schalk said that, with the exception of the balance beam event, she was pleased with her team's performance over the weekend in a triangular with Oklahoma State and south Dakota State. The women are working out for the Rocky Mountain Open which will be held in Colorado Springs this weekend.

"We've had a lot of problems with the

beam this semester and until we get that problem solved we'll just have to hope for higher scores in the other events," the third-year coach said.

Men's gymnastics

Coach Francis Allen's men's gymnastics team is on the road again this weekend, traveling to Denver for their half of the Rocky Mountain Open. The meet is the fifth straight road trip for the Huskers.

Last week, although Coach Allen and Husker All-American Larry Gerard were in London, England for an international gymnastics exhibition, the No. 1 ranked Huskers managed to finish third in the Ball State All Around Classic.

Assistant Coach Jim Gottschalk was enthusiastic about UNL's performance and is looking forward to this week's competition when Gerard joins the team.

"I'm very happy with our performance at the Ball State Classic," he said. "Without Larry and with Jim Hartung still hampered a little by his injured hand, we did well to place third. Mark Williams and Chuck Chmelka came through in the all around scoring with their season high."

Nebraska will face strong competition in the Rocky Mountain Open with most of the top teams in the Midwest entered in the meet.

"It's going to take another strong team performance for us to do well this weekend, but if we're at full strength, it will be interesting to see how we do," Allen said.

Wrestling

After competing last weekend in the Iowa State Invitational Tournament, first-year head coach Bob Fehrs and his wrestling team are facing a tough inauguration into the conference season. Friday night the wrestlers will be in Norman to face the third ranked Sooners and Saturday travel to Stillwater to meet Oklahoma State, the nation's fourth ranked team.

"It's early in the season, but both are extremely powerful teams. Both will create a challenge for us but we have the men to give them a battle. They will be good matches," Fehrs added.

Fehrs was pleased with the team's performance at Iowa State. The wrestlers were led by 167-pounder Court Vining, who placed second in the overall competition, and Agron Vasha, who placed third in the meet. Another bright spot for the Huskers was 145-pound Al Freeman, a freshman from Griswold, Iowa, who was defeated on a criteria decision after tying his opponent in overtime.

"I think the team progressed quite a bit from the previous tournaments. We got a lot out of our men and are looking forward to the dual season," Fehrs said.

The Huskers open their home season on Dec. 11 against Wyoming at 7:30 in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Volleyball

UNL's varsity volleyball team, who captured the Region 6 championship by defeating Southwest Missouri State, have been seeded 11th in this weekend's 24-team AIAW National Championships.

UCLA is top-seeded for the 1978 tournament. Hawaii seeded second and Southern Cal, the defending champion, seeded fourth.

The tournament is split again into four pools of six teams each. The UNL women play third-seeded Utah State, sixth-seeded San Diego State, Kentucky, Ohio State and Rutgers.

Other teams in the tournament include Pepperdine, Texas A&M, Southwest Missouri State, Arizona, Florida State, San Jose

State, Texas-Arlington, Pittsburgh, Oregon, Alabama, Brigham Young, Purdue, Portland State, Northern Kentucky and Mississippi.

"We're really pleased with the seeding," said Husker coach Terry Pettit. "I think that shows tremendous respect for our program."

UNL is now 34-21 on the season and has won 20 of its last 24 games since compiling a 14-17 record by the halfway point of the season.

Women's basketball

The Nebraska's women's basketball team, now 4-3 on the season, will host Midland College tonight in a 7:30 contest at

the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Coach Lorrie Gallagher's squad is led by Diane Delvigna's 19.1 points a game and Carol Garey's 16.1 point average. Garey is also Nebraska's leading rebounder at over eight grabs a game.

After Tuesday's 77-71 loss to Kansas State, UNL faces four opponents in a one-week span. The women travel to Missouri Western Friday and then return to Lincoln to host California-Fullerton Monday night at 7:30. On Dec. 13 the women will face Wichita State in a 5:15 preliminary game before the Nebraska men take on California State-Sacramento.

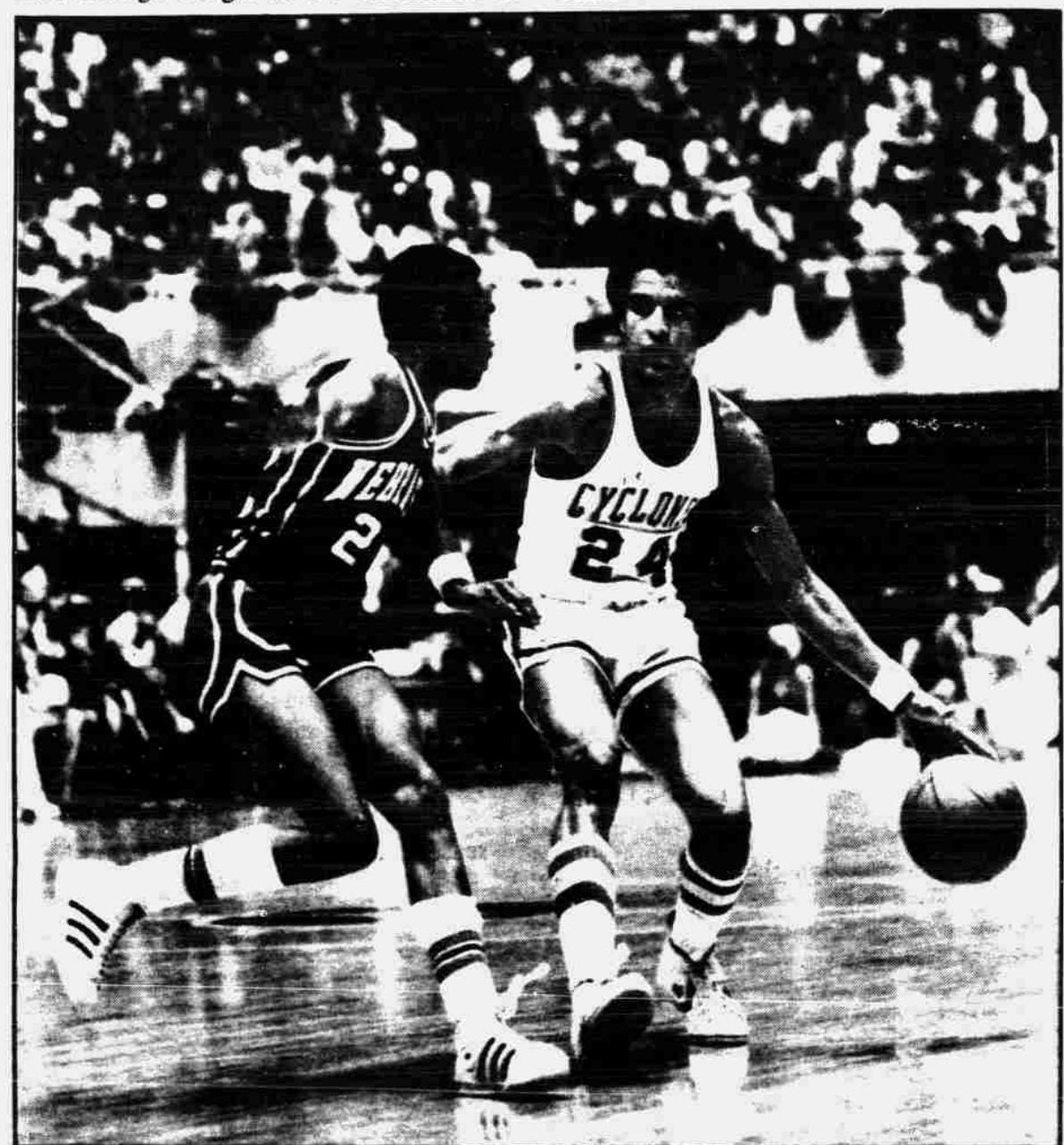


Photo by Ted Kirk

Andrew Parker (24), last season's leading scorer in the Big Eight Conference with a 22.9 average, returns to lead the Cyclones again this year.

Last season's darkhorse team to contend for conference title

By Jim Kay
Sports editor

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles previewing Big Eight Conference basketball outlooks this season.

They were last season's darkhorse team, young and steadily improving as they came from preseason obscurity to challenge for the conference title.

But this year Iowa State won't have the advantage of being an unknown quantity.

Last season's Big Eight team of surprise in basketball was Iowa State University.

In a year when the young Cyclones were supposedly rebuilding, second-year coach Lynn Nance led his team to a 14-13 record and a 9-5 league mark, which was good enough for a second-place tie with Nebraska behind national power Kansas.

This season will not, however, afford the Cyclones the chance to sneak up on opponents as they did a year ago.

Ten lettermen return this season, including four starters and four others who saw starting duty last year. Highlighting the returnees are the Big Eight's leading scorer of a year ago, Andrew Parker, and the nation's leading rebounder, Dean Uthoff.

Parker averaged 22.4 points per game and Uthoff had 14 rebounds per game, and both were consensus All Big Eight picks at season's end.

The two other returning starters are forward Bob Fowler and guard Charles Harris.

Fowler was the fifth leading scorer in the Big Eight against conference opposition with 15.9 points per game and Harris was second in the league in assists with 88.

Chuck Harmison, a 6-foot-9, 220 pound junior, will fill the other forward position vacated by the graduated Steve Burgason. Harmison was the Cyclones' second leading rebounder last year.

The depth at guard will come from lettermen Jon Ness, Carlton Evans and Jon Gideon. Double letterman John Tillo will provide depth at both guard and forward as the sixth man on this year's team. Ivan Gruhl is the backup center.

The newcomers on this year's team are guards Eric Davis of Chicago and Chuckie White of St. Louis, and forwards Robert Estes of Kansas City, John Kunert of Dubuque, Iowa, and Bill Buchanan from Campbellsville, Kentucky.

Continued on Page 15

A full-length color film "On the Threshold of Eternity" will be featured on the Dec. 7 *Outdoor Nebraska* program on the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

The film deals with conservation efforts to protect both endangered and marginal species of wildlife.

* * *

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and UNL announced Monday that the

Amateur Athletic Union has awarded its AAU-Sears National Junior Olympics to Lincoln for the third straight year. The 1979 Junior Olympics will be held August 9 through 12.

* * *

The University Recreation Department is offering a cross-country skiing trip to Rhinelander, Wis. Dec. 29 through Jan. 5. The \$64 cost includes transportation, lodge

accommodations, insurance and equipment. The only extra cost will be for food.

For more information contact Dan Steller at the Recreation Office, 1740 Vine, 472-3467.

There are also a few positions still available on the backpacking and climbing trips to Mexico over Christmas break. Interested persons should contact Mark Ebel at the Recreation office.

sports shorts