

sports

Huskers have shot at first all-sports championship

For the first time, UNL has a chance to become the Big Eight's all-sports champion.

The title would be unofficial, since the Big Eight stopped naming an all-sports champion several years ago.

But the Huskers are in fourth place, just three points behind runner-up Iowa State, with the championships in four sports yet to be decided.

golf and tennis — remain to be decided, and they will dictate who wins the crown.

But the Huskers, whose baseball and track teams finished last or next-to-last just a couple of seasons ago, are serious contenders in both, also. In addition, the Big Eight track meet will be held in Lincoln this year, a further advantage for NU.

The main determinant of Nebraska's final all-sports

success would appear to be how its tennis and golf teams fare.

NU's tennis team is marginal, and could finish anywhere from fourth to last. The golf team would finish third or better.

Don't expect any miracles, but one thing appears likely: Nebraska is going to have its highest all-sports standing in years.

jack shockley

Huskers end home season with wins

Before the practice's discontinuation, the Big Eight determined the conference's all-sports champion by totaling the points each school earned by its finishes in the various men's sports.

So, using the Big Eight's old procedure, the *Daily Nebraskan* thought it might be interesting to forecast an unofficial conference all-sports winner.

The mythical championship is decided by taking the standings of the 11 men's sports officially sanctioned by the Big Eight and awarding points on the basis of finish.

The champion of a particular sport would receive eight points, the runner-up seven, the third place finisher six and so on.

In the event of a tie — and there have been several this year — the points are divided evenly between the deadlocked schools.

An eight place finisher would receive one point, but schools not fielding a team would receive no points for that sport.

Kansas State, which dropped its swimming, gymnastics and wrestling programs, is a prime example of how that can hurt a school in the overall standings.

The 11 men's sports considered are: football, cross country, indoor and outdoor track, basketball, wrestling, swimming, gymnastics, baseball, golf and tennis.

With seven of those seasons completed, perennial winner Oklahoma again is on top with 42½ points, Iowa State is second with 36½, followed by Missouri, 35½, and fourth-place Nebraska with 33½ points. Rounding out the present standings are Kansas (32), Colorado (26), Oklahoma State (22½) and Kansas State, with 18½ points.

The Huskers have been buoyed by strong finishes in football, swimming, gymnastics and indoor track, but were hurt by a fifth-place in basketball, where NU was expected to do much better.

Bear in mind that Nebraska has never won a conference all-sports championship, official or otherwise. In fact, the Huskers have never even come close, usually alternating with lowly K-State — which fields three fewer teams with NU — for seventh or last place.

But this year, with four sports to go, the Huskers are still within striking distance of the top, and have an excellent chance to place in the top three.

Though the odds are against NU winning it, a Nebraska all-sports championship would be a monumental accomplishment.

Nebraska has the lowest population base in the Big Eight area, making it difficult for NU to remain competitive in some of the "minor" sports. Many of these athletes are recruited from in-state.

Even so, the Huskers won the NCAA gymnastics championship relying heavily upon Nebraska talent. And, under the guidance of a new head coach, Nebraska shot up to fourth place in swimming, where NU traditionally has finished last.

NU's competitiveness this season in its traditionally weaker sports has proven the major factor in the Huskers' turnaround from all-sports doormat to contender.

Championships in the spring sports — baseball, track,

The Nebraska Cornhuskers closed out their 1979 home season in grand fashion Tuesday afternoon drubbing UNO 4-2 and 20-5. UNL finished with 26-2 record at Buck Beltzer Field this year, the best ever at home.

The doubleheader sweep returned Nebraska to their winning ways following a discouraging weekend at Missouri.

"We came off of Missouri playing bad ball," UNL catcher Val Primante said. "These games were important because we got back on track."

Primante was one of the several hitting stars, having a perfect 5 for 5 day at the plate. Among those hits were a double in the first game to drive in the winning runs. Steve Oakley continued to be hot at the plate with a home run in the same game.

Another standout hitter was Pete O'Brien. The junior broke the Huskers season RHI record set last year by Joe Scherger. O'Brien knocked in his 54th run of the year in the second game to better the record by one.

"It was a great record to break," O'Brien said. "That

was one of my goals at the beginning of the year, to increase my run production. The guys in front of me did a great job of getting on base."

Another Husker record was tied in the second game. Senior Bob Gebler tied the school record for most hits in a year at 55. Scherger said Gebler had set the standard last year.


The winning pitchers for UNL were Jeff Costello in game one and Cliff Faust in the second. Costello gave up five hits, one being a two-run homer in the seventh by Dave Poulceck of UNO. He also struck out five and surrendered one walk. Faust was knocked for nine hits while striking out five and walking four.

Nebraska plays the Kansas Jayhawks four times this weekend.

"If we can take four from Kansas we'll have the momentum for the Big Eight (championships)," Primante said.

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"METER MAID"

sports shorts

Four members placed in the top six last weekend when the UNL Rodeo Club competed at Brooking, S.D.

Brian Dodge placed second in bull riding, Greg Swim finished fourth in calf roping, Mike Peterson was sixth in the saddle bronc and Patty Lutter placed sixth in break away roping.

The UNL women's softball team, aided by Linda McCrea's triple, scored all the runs it needed in the first inning to win the Nebraska State Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women softball title by nipping Kearney State 2-1 Sunday at Buck Beltzer Field.

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