

New tennis coach fourth in four years

By Ron Powell

The UNL women's tennis coaching spot changes about as much as Nebraska weather.

For the fourth consecutive year, the team has a new coach. But Julie Wood, this year's coach, says she isn't bothered by the turnover, even if she is in her first coaching job.

"I really like it," Wood said. "I love working with the athletes. I've got some real good kids from both a tennis and personality standpoint. I enjoy being around athletes like these that are giving 100 percent and working hard all the time."

Wood comes to UNL with tennis experience. For the past two years, Wood taught tennis classes at the University of Texas-Austin. She also played two years of college tennis at Northern Iowa University.

Wood said her coaching methods would follow a "hard but flexible" philosophy.

"There will be days when I'll run them into the ground," Woods said. "But I know there will be days when we will have to ease up and not go as hard."

Wood said her team is going through a round robin tournament this week to determine the seven players who will travel to Columbia, Mo. for the team's first fall meet.

Although fall meets do not count on the official spring record, Wood said she intends to treat them like regular matches.

"Our girls need to win and need to gain confidence before the spring," Wood said.

The team returns five out of six starters from last year's team and has a group of freshmen with good potential, Wood said.

Leading the returnees is senior Sue Sloboth, a three-

year letter winner and last year's number one player.

"I would guess Sue is probably our best overall player," Wood said. "She has the most power, experience and consistency on our team."

Wood said junior Judy Huerter, sophomore Sue Moore and freshmen Ann Swanson and Cindy Reiman will be the top challengers for Sloboth's spot at the top.

Huerter and Moore played numbers two and four respectively last year. Wood calls them "good, consistent players."

Swanson is a two-time state champion from Grand Island while Reiman, from Peoria, Ill., was one of the state's top high school players a year ago.

"They (Swanson and Reiman) should be able to push top players but it depends on how well they can handle the pressure," Wood said.

Senior Sue Bauers and sophomore Carrie Schmitz are returning starters after playing in the fifth and sixth spots a year ago. Wood said, however, both will be pressured for a starting spot by freshman Rocky Rissi, Beth Jester and Kerry Distefano.

"It's going to be close for all spots because the freshman should be able to push the upperclassmen," Wood said.

Wood said she thinks the team has shown some good talent in practice, but added she can't be certain until they play in competition.

"My philosophy is we can beat anyone in the Big Eight," Wood said. "I think we have the talent but we need to work on the mental part of the game and being able to handle pressure."

"This team was last in the Big Eight last year and this team doesn't belong on the bottom," she said. "If we don't improve our position, I'll be surprised."

just have to adjust to each person."

The team has set some definite goals for this season, namely repeating as Big Eight champs, winning the Region VI Tourney again and a top 10 position at nationals. Last year they finished 17th of 24 teams.

Wednesday the team leaves for Texas where they will be involved in a match against Texas Women's University and the Mean Green Invitational at Denton.

"It's going to be a very tough tournament," Haberman said. "I think it will be the toughest one we will play in all year."

Melcher said she hopes the Huskers can prove better this year than last in the Invitational. There will be 12 teams involved.

"We're better prepared this year than last," Melcher said. "We were a little intimidated last year."

Fellowships to be given by science foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Research Council again will advise the National Science Foundation in the selection of candidates for the foundation's program of Minority Graduate Fellowships. Panels of scientists and engineers appointed by the NRC will evaluate qualifications of applicants.

Final selection of fellows will be made by the foundation, with awards to be announced in March 1980.

The NSF Minority Graduate Fellowship Program is open only to persons who are citizens or nationals of the United States as of the time of application, and who are members of an ethnic minority group underrepresented in the advanced levels of the Nation's science talent pool—i.e., American Indian, Alaskan Native (Eskimo or Aleut), Black, Mexican American/Chicano, or Puerto Rican.

Eligibility is limited to those individuals who, as of the time of application, have not completed postbaccalaureate study in excess of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours, or equivalent, in any field of science, engineering, social science, or mathematics.

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"It's going to be a lot harder this year (winning the Big Eight championship), and we know it," Haberman said. "You could see things getting closer last year."

"You can just see the potential in a lot of the teams. Like Kansas State," Melcher added. "There have been a lot of young teams, but everyone is getting more experienced."

Both being setters the women said they definitely feel there's a difference in each person they set for, the spikers. Pettit tries to keep them in the same rotation during a game so they can get some pattern to their setting.

"You have to know what each girl will take and what they won't, how aggressive they are, and how high they get up," Haberman said. "There's different styles and you



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