

sports

Team looks forward to meet

Wrestling coach expects tough test with BYU

By Inta Rizijis

The UNL wrestling team will host Brigham Young Thursday. Coach Bob Fehrs noted that although traveling to three different meets last weekend didn't wear the team out, it will be good to compete at home.

"Any time you're at home you have a slight advantage because you're in your own environment," Fehrs said.

Fehrs said that last weekend was somewhat of a let-down because the competition wasn't as strong as he had planned. He added that the team seemed to ease up during the competition.

The team is looking forward to the meet. Although BYU didn't win against Wyoming by as many points as UNL did last weekend, Fehrs said they have had a pretty good year.

"I look forward to this being a considerably tougher meet," Fehrs said.

BYU hasn't suffered much from illness and injury, according to Fehrs.

"As far as I know, they've been wrestling pretty much the same people all year," Fehrs said.

Brigham Young's strength lies in its 118- and 126-pound divisions. Although UNL's strength has been in the mid-weight division, Fehrs noted 118-pound Scott Morgan has been improving.

"This will give him (Morgan) more self-confidence when competing," Fehrs said.

Unfortunately, UNL's wrestler at 126 has been ill and hasn't been able to work out to his full potential.

"I'm hoping he'll be able to go on Thursday," Fehrs said.

Fehrs said the heavyweight division has improved, but still isn't where it should be.

Fehrs said he anticipates winning the meet on Thursday, but couldn't estimate on the scores.

"We can hang in there," Fehrs said, referring to the

lightweights. "I don't want to put too much pressure on the mid-weights."

The team has been putting more time into workouts. Two weeks ago they began two-a-day workouts three days a week, Fehrs said team members work out on their own in the morning, and then have the regular workout in the afternoon.

This extra conditioning is in preparation for the Big Eight tournament, but Fehrs said it has made the team sharper for past meets. BYU is UNL's third-to-last meet and Fehrs said it is important to win so the team can attain its goal of a 17-4 record.

Chamber's bill to pay players violates Big Eight, NCAA rule

Ernie Chambers is at it again.

Sen. Chambers' LB363 would classify Nebraska football players as state employees and, therefore, make them paid athletes.

First and foremost, the bill would be an obvious violation of Big Eight and NCAA rules. Although Chambers said he hasn't been notified of any violations, paying athletes takes away their amateur status and makes them ineligible for college ball.

At the bill's public hearing Monday, Chambers chastised Athletic Director Bob Devaney and football Coach Tom Osborne for not being present. He should realize that Devaney and Osborne both have more important things to do than get involved with a bill that even Chambers admits has little chance of making it out of committee.

Nearly every Nebraska recruit has said Osborne and his staff stress academics before the player even enrolls at UNL.

The class Husker players show on and off the field proves the Nebraska program is a good one. It will do just fine without your help, Ernie.

In-state recruits give verbal commitments

As of Tuesday morning, Nebraska had secured verbal commitments from five in-state football recruits.

Jim Skow, a defensive tackle from Omaha Roncalli joined Kevin Cole, back, Lincoln East; John White, back, Lincoln Southeast; Todd Fisher, defensive back, Omaha Burke; and Tom Rathman, back, Grand Island, in indicating they would sign Big Eight letters of intent. The signing deadline is Wednesday night.

Husker coaches were still waiting for word from two other Nebraska athletes. Marty Kobza, a tight end-linebacker and state champion discus thrower from Schuyler, still is considering multiple football-track offers from UCLA, Arkansas and Oregon. Dan Wingard, a defensive back and punter-placekicker from Omaha Westside said he is undecided between Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Both Coach Tom Osborne and recruiting coordinator Frank Solich were unavailable for comment.

Sam Madison, a defensive back from Omaha South, has indicated he plans to walk on at UNL this fall, in hopes of improving his grades and earning a scholarship.

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Larry sparks

Chambers' constant reference to football players being academically weak is to be mild—ridiculous. The idea that athletes don't have the same chance at academic success is fallacious. Football players, like other UNL students, have a chance for a good education. They just need the drive to go after it. Several Husker players—Vince Ferragamo and Jeff Kinney, to name a few—have shown that.

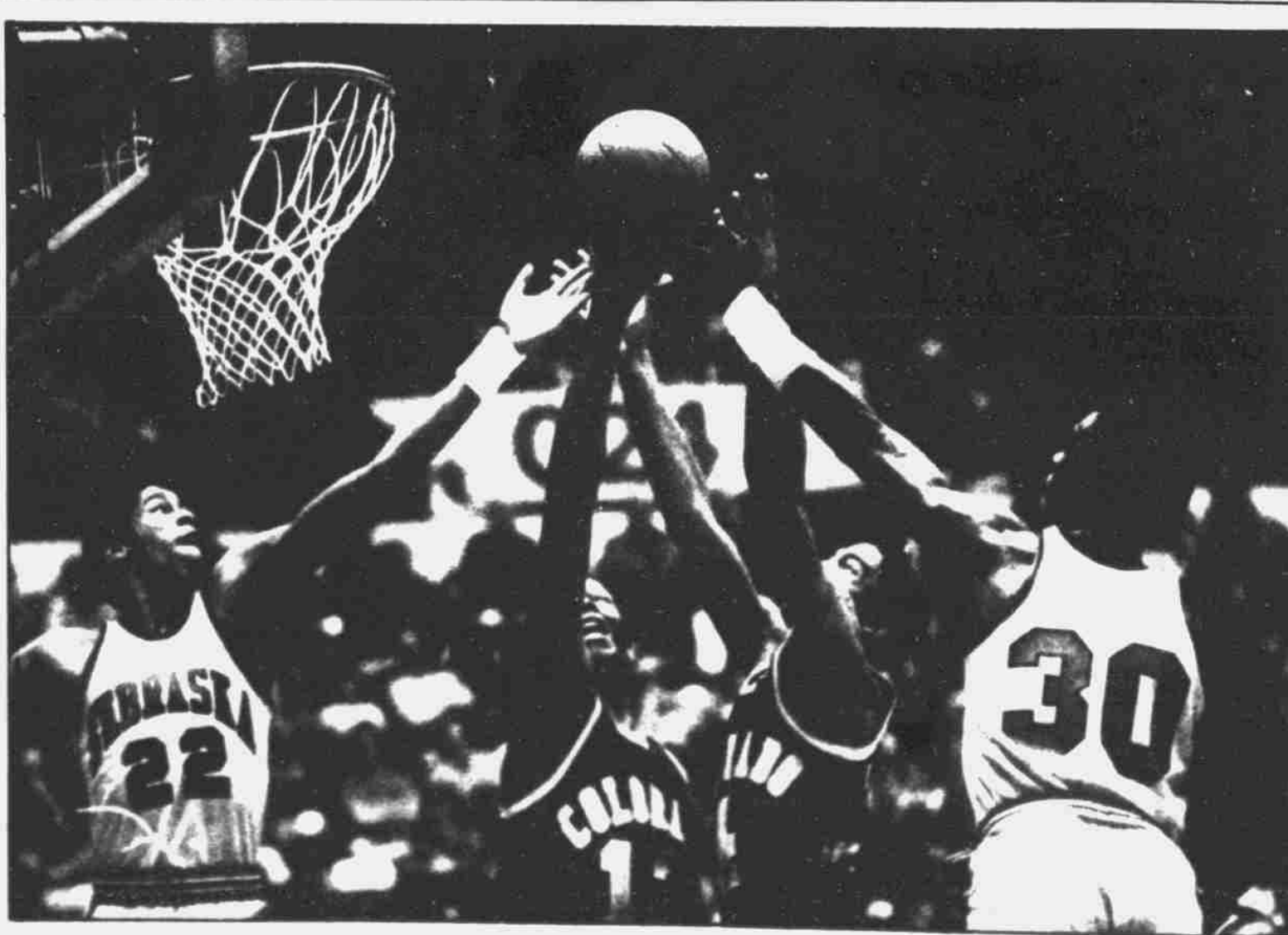
"Football players have strong bodies and weak academic accomplishments," Chambers said.

Interesting. What about the nine Huskers who made the Academic All-Big Eight team? Year in and year out, Nebraska has the largest number of players on the conference all-academic team and usually on the national team. This hardly shows students of a low mentality.

They have "nowhere to go when the game is over," Chambers said.

What about the more than 90 percent of the players who receive their degrees? Don't they have the same chance of getting a job as any other graduated student?

Chambers says the players deserve "compensation for what they do for the college and the state." What about the full-ride scholarships most of the players are on? Isn't that compensation?



Greg Downing (22) and Kenny Walton (30) of Nebraska and Joe Cooper (13) and Doug Worthington (4) of Colorado battle for a rebound. Colorado won the game in Lincoln, 62-59, but the two teams will battle again tonight in Boulder.

Photo by Jon Natvig