

sports

National tournament goal of women's golf team

By Charles Vaughn

In most sports, coaches feel winning is everything, but women's golf Coach Gerry Fisher says this is not true in the AIAW. Qualifying for the nationals in May is what counts.

"None of the tournaments mean anything," Fisher explained. "It doesn't help us to win the Big Eight when qualifying for nationals. We would like to win the Big Eight because it's good for our confidence, but it does not meet our ultimate goal of going to the nationals."

Qualifying requires playing one's best throughout the season. It allows no room for a break until the season is completed, Fisher said. He said an average team score of 310 will be sufficient for qualifying, but he says it could drop by the end of the season.

Qualifying scores are determined by taking the 10 best day scores for the year. Fisher estimates Nebraska's is 312 at the moment.

"You need to be in the top 24 to qualify and the coaches feel that the top 24 will be 310 and under. We're just guessing at 310, it could be 308, we don't know. We just have to play the best we can all the time and get some good averages," Fisher said.

"It's almost like running a race against the clock—you don't know what it takes to really win. By winning I mean qualifying. Every time you tee up at the tournaments you are not only competing against the schools that are there but you're competing against all the schools in Division I," he added.

"We need to have some good rounds to get down to 310 and have a shot at the nationals," Fisher said.

Last week at the Betsy Rawls Invitational in Austin, Texas, the Huskers opened the spring season by finishing last out of 21 teams. Fisher says this is no indication of the kind of team to expect. A combination of competing ever played on," not getting a practice round and competing against 18 of the top 24 teams in the nation, resulted in a last-place showing.

Fisher said he expects a complete reversal in a tournament in Houston, Texas, against Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Houston Baptist, and Lamar over spring break.

"We will get four days to practice so we should know the course. We've (previously) beaten all the teams except Lamar and Houston Baptist. We have a good chance of winning," Fisher said.

Shot-putter Staub enjoys NCAA indoor success

By Cindy Gardner

As the Nebraska men's track squad gathered for practice Monday afternoon, shot-putter Joe Staub was the recipient of lots of praise and more than one friendly pat on the back. Last weekend, the junior finished fourth at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Detroit, Mich., with a personal-best and school-record throw of 64-3. Yet, it was a moment of victory that almost didn't occur.

Less than a year ago, Staub, who has been frustrated by injuries throughout his career, said he was ready to quit. Instead of giving up, however, the former Division II All-American and national record holder said he was able to find the motivation he needed to stay in competition.

"I think being a Christian keeps me going," said Staub, who still suffers from tendinitis in both knees. "The Lord has really helped me. He's been my motivating force."

In his first year as a Husker, Staub apparently has had all the necessary motivation. The first time he

competed as part of the Nebraska team his throw of 59-1 broke the 15-year-old college record.

Won California championship

Staub came to Lincoln after winning the California Junior College Championship as part of the Glendale Junior College team last season. Prior to competing for Glendale, Staub attended Cal-State Northridge where he earned his Division II honors.

Staub's shot put career began at Cantwell High School in the Los Angeles area. He was throwing 62-6 with the 12-pound shot, but he said, "That wasn't good enough against the tough California competition."

"I didn't win anything," he recalled with a smile. "I had a lot of injuries in high school."

He said his older brother inspired his prep school shot put efforts.

"I can remember when I was a sophomore and my brother was a senior. I just wiped him out in the shot," Staub said. "He accepted it, I guess."

Training, encouragement

Despite the injuries, Staub chose to compete on the collegiate level and said it was at Northridge that he received most of his training and encouragement. While at this Division II school near Los Angeles, he trained and competed under the watchful eye of Coach Art Venegas.

"He (Venegas) was a very good coach. He really motivated me and inspired me to throw," he said. "He knew I had ability."

After establishing himself as a notable athlete at Northridge, Staub transferred to Glendale before coming to Nebraska last fall.

"I had a large choice of colleges but I chose Nebraska because of the people," he said. "I really like Coach (Dick) Railsback."

No adjustment problems

Coming from sunny California, where he was able to train outdoors all year, to Nebraska hasn't caused any major adjustment problems for Staub. In fact, he said he prefers the Midwest.

"It's more relaxed here. I really like that. I think it helps me throw better," he said. "The competition out here is also a lot better."



Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Joe Staub

Crowd support would aid gymnasts

Just a few notes for those of us who have not yet left for spring break:

Before leaving, why not buy a ticket to the NCAA Gymnastics Championships to be in the Bob Devaney Sports Center April 2 through 4? It's a rare advantage to be able to host the national finals in any event, much less two years in a row. It would be good to see high attendance prove Lincoln worthy of the honor.

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The Huskers are going for their third consecutive national championship and have the capability of being an awesome team, especially when pumped up by a roaring crowd. The second-place finish in the Big Eight meet will look pretty insignificant if Francis Allen's athletes grab the big slice of cake. The end of the season, the time that really counts, is much more important than the top half of the schedule.

Now look at the NCAA basketball tournament. Except for years when a dominant team (Kentucky in 1978, Indiana in 1979) pretty much kicks everyone else around, the team that just motors along in December and January

In addition to the relaxed atmosphere, Staub said he's noticed a lot of team spirit among the members of the men's squad.

"We all have our goals and they're not just individual goals—they're team goals," he said. "Team goals are important even in an individual sport like this. They provide an internal motivation. You're not just out here for yourself."

Staub claims that setting personal goals in terms of length is something he avoids.

"I don't like to set goals because when I set goals I'm also setting limits."

Although definite goals aren't part of the picture, Staub does have some hopes for the future.

"I want to go to the Olympics, but it depends on a lot of little things. If my body can hold up I would like to throw 67 or 68 feet someday, preferably before I graduate," he said. "In the meantime, I just like to do my best every year."

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Softball team gains first-round victory

The Nebraska women's softball team upset Southwest Missouri State University, 3-2, in yesterday's opening round of the Oklahoma Invitational at Norman, Okla. The game marked UNL's first win against the defending Region Six champion.

A three-run home by Peggy Loos lifted the Huskers to the win. Pitcher Rhonda Revelle picked up the victory for Nebraska by allowing three hits and no runs and adding a single.

The tournament consists of five pools of six teams each. Schools must play all other teams in their pools and the top two from each pool will advance to Saturday's championship round.

Nebraska was scheduled to play Texas Women's University last night and will face Northeast Oklahoma and Southern Illinois today.

and then gets hot at the end of the year usually wins the championship. Last year's champion, Louisville, Michigan State the year before the Marquette in 1977 are examples of teams that weren't much better than lots of others, but peaked at the right time.

That brings us to this year. Three teams that have not played exceptionally well earlier, but are peaking at the right time are Indiana, North Carolina and Kansas.

This column was written Thursday morning. So I predict that whoever won last night's Utah-North Carolina game, played in Salt Lake City, Utah, will win the West regional. In the East, the Brigham Young-Notre Dame winner should make the Final Four.

Indiana will win the Midwest regional; and, really going out on a limb on this one, Kansas will win the Midwest.

Random Shots: I've seen some big upsets, but St. Joseph's over DePaul? Blue Demon fans are still sitting stunned in front of their TV sets.

Quiz answers from last column: Kenny Brown's 30-yard punt return against New Mexico State on Oct. 6, 1979, was the last regular season Husker to runback. Of course, Johnny Rodgers' 77-yarder in the 1972 Orange Bowl win over Alabama was UNL's last in postseason play.