

sports

Wrestling coach confident of squad's motivation

By Kevin Warneke

Although the UNL wrestling squad will not be facing one of the nation's finest wrestling teams when they meet South Dakota State Friday, Coach Bob Fehrs is confident there won't be a letdown in his teams' motivation.

"It's possible that we might have a letdown, but we hope it won't happen," Fehrs said. "They upset us two years ago. Back then we didn't have any South Dakota natives on our squad, but now we do. Those three starters will want to do well against their home compadres."

The squad is coming off a recent 21-17

victory against Indiana, which saw Nebraska come back from a 17-0 deficit.

"Our coming back for the victory is a combination of factors," Fehrs said. "Our middle to heavyweight wrestlers are more experienced and the better part of our lineup was in the lower weight classes."

"I'm not real familiar with the SDSU squad. They have a new coach and we haven't competed against them in two years since last year's match was canceled because of inclement weather," he said. "They're a young team, which is both good and bad. Maybe they'll be enthusiastic because of their youth, but they're also inexperienced."

Injuries have been a constant barrier standing in the way of the Cornhusker's success. Johnnie Selmon, Judd Norman, John Shearer and Bayard Closser have all been injured recently. Fehrs said underclassmen have been called on to fill the spots of the injured wrestlers.

Fehrs said that because of these injuries, the lineup has had to be shifted around and partners are taken away in practice.

"We have put stress in practice on our ability to escape from opponents and also we're being ridden too much," Fehrs said. "But basically, the season is going as we anticipated."

"Oklahoma beat us 27-16, but they were

rated No. 1," Fehrs said. "We felt that we should win the next three matches, but we haven't won them as soundly as we should have. That is due to injuries, though."

Many goals for the season were set at the beginning of the year, but according to Fehrs one sticks out more than the others.

"We set several goals for the team, some general, some specific," he said. "We would like to move up in the Big Eight championships and take third place."

But first things first, and Coach Fehrs is confident going into the SDSU match. "I think we should win by at least 12 points," he said.

The match will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Gymnast Furman already veteran in first year

By Scott Ahlstrand

Terri Furman lives life in the fast lane, and she wouldn't want it any other way.

A freshman gymnast, Furman mixes about four hours a day of practice with sorority life and studies.

"I've always been on the go," Furman said. "I think the gymnastics have helped me set up a daily routine. In high school I was in cheerleading as well as gymnastics, so the busy schedule is nothing new to me. I don't procrastinate because I don't have time to. When something has got to be

done, I manage my time so I can do it.

Although this is Furman's first year of competing at the college level, she is a tournament veteran. Furman got her start in gymnastics in grade school. Along with Kim Grabowski, a UNL teammate, and some other girls, Furman joined a club directed by Francis Allen, UNL's men's gymnastics coach.

Since working with the team, Furman has noticed some differences between club and college gymnastics.

"I think you'll find the toughest level of women's gymnastics at the club level," she

said. "Right now, 11 to 15 is the prime age for competitors. I think in general, training is taken more seriously in college. That's one of the reasons why the college level is getting tougher and tougher every year."

Scholarship helped

The decision to attend college wasn't very difficult for Furman, but which college to attend did give her problems.

"I almost graduated at mid-semester of my senior year of high school, but I didn't think I was ready for college," Furman said. "When I did graduate, Nebraska didn't offer me a scholarship. I visited Oklahoma State and I was ready to sign with them, when I received a scholarship offer from Nebraska. I like UNL's program and I decided it would be the best one for me."

While Furman competed several years for the Nebraska School of Gymnastics, she did take a year off to compete for Lincoln Northeast High School.

"I think my coaches at the club were a little disappointed when I competed in high school, but they knew that I'd be back," she said. "In high school, Kim Grabowski and I had so much more experience than the rest of the girls. It kind of made me feel bad. When I did go back to the club all of my friends understood."

In her first college tournament, Furman placed first in floor exercise and fourth on the balance beam at the Rocky Mountain Open in Colorado Springs. Coach Judy Schalk believes Furman is going to be one of her top all-arounders if she can overcome her weaknesses.

"Right now Terri has three strong events and one weak one," Schalk said.

"She's going to have to work on her uneven bar routine, but she'll do it. She's really a strong competitor."

Uneven bars problematic

Furman thinks her trouble with the bars can be attributed to her strength.

"The bars have always been a definite weakness for me," she said. "I like the floor or best if you fall, you're not falling off of anything. I think my best asset is my flexibility that helps me with events like the floor and the balance beam. If I were stronger the bars would probably be my best event."

Furman enjoys gymnastics because of the people involved. "The people I meet are really crazy, they know how to have a good time."

"I suppose Kim and I could have been rivals, but we never really competed against each other. We were always for the team and not as individuals. I've always looked up to Kim. We try to help each other whenever we can."

When Furman gets a break in her schedule, she spends it with her sisters in Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

"It's nice to get a break now and then," Furman said. "You eat, drink and breath gymnastics and you get tired of it sometimes. My sorority really helps me out."

While UNL's women's gymnastic team has not been as successful as the men's team, Furman says the public shouldn't count them out for Big Eight honors.

"We're not going to win the national championships," Furman said. "But I think we'll surprise some people, including ourselves."

Swimmers to turn Hawaiian for holiday-break invitational

By Jodie Fields

Intense training in a positive environment, good competition and a recruiting aid are all benefits the Nebraska swimming coaches said the Christmas training trip to Hawaii will offer.

"We want to take the athletes to a positive environment for training. It will enhance the training program. It will be fun and a lot of hard work," Ray Huppert, the women's coach said.

Two two-hour workouts per day will take up most of the athlete's time, but there will be time to lay on the beach and sightsee.

Men's coach Cal Bentz said the teams will leave Lincoln Dec. 28. They will compete in the Rainbow Invitational at the University of Hawaii. On the way back to Lincoln the men's team will stop for a dual meet with Stanford, Jan. 8.

Bentz said this is the fourth Christmas training trip the teams have taken. In past years they have been to Southern California, south Texas and Florida. Bentz said these trips have helped to establish Nebraska as an up-and-coming team.

Bentz said these trips have helped Nebraska by letting the team compete against quality teams.

Other teams that will be competing at the Rainbow Invitational are Arizona State, BYU, Simon Fraser from Canada, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Northwestern.

Huppert said the swimmers have raised a lot of the money for the trip. They have been selling Final swimwear and taking pledges for an aqua-thon where they swam for money by the lap.

"If I would take it (the money) out of the budget there would be little or no money left for the rest of the season," Huppert said.

Bentz said it has worked out well for the men's team because it only has two trips this year, so the budget can absorb the costs. He said future training trips will be confined to California, Texas and Florida.

Both coaches agreed these trips help recruiting. They can meet swimmers in the area plus athletes that are thinking of coming to Nebraska are impressed that Nebraska makes this trip, Bentz said.

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