

Swim Coach Bentz optimistic about season

By Laurie Moses

Although the Nebraska men's and women's swim teams won't have their first meet until November, both coaches say they are looking forward to the season with anticipation.

"I'm really excited about this season," women's coach Ray Huppert said, "Every year is different."

Men's coach Cal Bentz said, "This was a good recruiting year, maybe the best since I've been here. We have 11 new swimmers including walk-ons."

Four scholarships were awarded for the women's team. Dana Powers of Tacoma, Wash., swims butterfly, individual medley and freestyle. Kenya Kelly of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., swims backstroke and butterfly. Susan Cashman of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., swims middle-distance freestyle and Michelle Kallman from Littleton, Colo., swims backstroke and freestyle.

Recruits for the men's team include Chuck Rea, a California junior college transfer. Rea was the California junior college champion in the 100 freestyle. Other recruits were Ernie Duran of Fresno, Calif., Micheal Edmundson of St. Charles, Ill., and Jeff Brown of St. Cloud, Minn.



Photo courtesy of UNL Sports Information Office
Emily Ricketts, a sophomore freestyle specialist from Irvine, Calif., competes at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool last winter.

The men's team has won four straight conference titles. One of the swimmers who could lead the way to a fifth is sophomore Tim Brinner. He finished 11th in the 100 breaststroke at the Senior Nationals in Clovis, Calif.

"He has the potential to score at nationals," Bentz said.

Junior Cliff Looschen, a two-time all-American, won't be returning to the team this year. Looschen quit after being reprimanded by Bentz for not working out hard enough this summer. Looschen planned to walk on at Indiana this fall.

"As a scoring potential, he'll be missed," Bentz said. "He was two-time defending Big Eight champ in the 50 and 100 freestyle, so yes, the team will notice his being gone. In other terms though, it may be positive. We can use his scholarship on someone else. We will go with the guys we have," Bentz said.

The strengths of the women's team include the freestyle and backstroke.

"Another strength we have is depth. Maybe not overall, but in single events," Huppert said.

"We'll wait and see what people want to do. We have the potential for a Big Eight Championship... anybody can be beat," Huppert said.

Hoppen, Cloudy, Ponce return to lead cagers in new season

By Kevin Warneke

While the minds of most Nebraskans are on the Big Red football team, the men's basketball team, is on paper, on the verge of its first NCAA tournament-qualifying berth.

But, in order to see that goal realized, certain holes will have to be filled in the Nebraska lineup.

Leading rebounder and third leading scorer Claude Renfro, starting guard Greg Downing, and ace reserves Terry Smith and Lenard Johnson are gone. Overall, coach Moe Iba returns only four lettermen from last year's squad.

On the other hand, three members of last year's starting lineup are back to lead the Cornhuskers. Center Dave Hoppen, forward Stan Cloudy and guard David Ponce all return and are counted on to log their share of leadership playing time.

Hoppen, a 6-11 sophomore from Omaha, took Nebraska by storm as a freshman, leading the Huskers in scoring 13.9 points a game. He also was Nebraska's second leading rebounder.

Cloudy sparked the Huskers to the semifinals of the National Invitational Tournament in New York and wound up as Nebraska's second leading scorer, tallying 11.7 points a game. Ponce averaged 8.1 points a game.

Also returning from last year's squad is Eric Williams, who filled the role of

third guard last year while averaging more than four points a game and Williams figures to be the leading candidate to replace Downing as Ponce's opposite.

This year's squad also marks the return of John Matzke, Mike Martz and James Moore. All three were red-shirted last year and figure to challenge for the power forward position vacated by Renfro, and Matzke will give Cloudy a battle for his small forward position.

Iba also inked three high school recruits and two junior college recruits to this year's squad.

Keith Neubert and Ron Smith figure to battle Moore and Martz for the power forward position. Smith, 6-9, also appears to be the leading candidate to back up Hoppen at center.

Brian Carr should give Nebraska depth at the point guard position and Curtis Moore and Titus Dock will battle for the small forward position.

Iba indicated in the "Pre-Season Prospectus" that Cloudy could be tested at guard, depending on the progress of the others at the small forward position.

Iba also said that his two main worries are filling the power forward position and the stability of the guards.

The coaching staff also has a new addition in assistant coach Tim Carter, who was an assistant coach at Oklahoma the last two years.

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