Husker athletes prepare for 'exotic' holiday travel

By Jeff Browne

Even if UNL's student athletes aren't able to take a break from their various training regimens, many of them still will be taking trips which seem to be such a necessary part of everyone's Christmas breaks.

Many of UNL's athletic teams will be traveling over the Christmas break and their destinations will include such semi-exotic places as Atlanta, Honolulu, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Los Angeles and Evanston, Ill.

Moe Iba and the men's basketball team will play in what might become a great stopover for fans headed to Miami and the Orange Bowl. The Cotton States Classic at The Omni in Atlanta will feature the Cornhuskers as well as host school, Georgia Tech and nationally ranked teams, Alabama and Michigan State.

The tournament will run two nights. Dec. 28 and 29. Nebraska plays Georgia Tech the first night at 8 p.m. They will then play either the winner or loser of the Alabama-Michigan State game depending on how Nebraska fares against the Yellow Jackets.

KOLN-TV in Lincoln will televise the Nebraska-Georgia Tech game and will televise the championship game of the tournament if the Huskers are in it.

While the men's team is toughing it in Georgia, Kelly Hill women's team will be taking a trip to Southern California. After playing at Kentucky and Cincinnati on the first weekend of the new year, the Huskers take their show to Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Malibu for a week of games.

UNL's women's swimming team will be just upstate from the football team when they take their winter training trip to Fort Lauderdale. Coach Ray Huppert said the team will welcome the break from the routine.

"It will be good for the team to be able to work out twice a day," Huppert said. "They'll have no classes or exams and they'll be able to take naps whenever they'd like."

Ruppert said the team will take a week off before going to Florida so the team can concentrate on its final

The men's swimming team will be headed to Hawaii as it will compete in a dual against the University of Hawaii and in the Rainbow Invitational, Coach Cal Bentz said he will use the time in Florida as training time so his team will be ready for the post-holiday schedule when most of the team will be shooting to qualify for the NCAA meet.

The wrestling team probably isn't as lucky as some of UNL's other teams unless Evanston, Ill., suddenly changes from the home of the Northwestern Wildcats into a tropical paradise. Still, they will be just minutes away from downtown Chicago.

Coach Bob Fehr's wrestlers will be in Evanston Dec. 29 and 30 to compete in the Midlands Tournament.

The team will then make it home to be host to New Mexico and Northwest Missouri in a triangular at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The sports center also will host basketball games Jan. 4, as the UNL men's team is host to Colorado State, and Jan. 7, when Nebraska plays Northwest Missouri in men's play.

After the football team's Orange Bowl appearance Jan. 2, many individuals will play in college all-star games at various locales around the country. Mike Rozier already has been named to play in the Hula Bowl in Honolulu, and All-American Turner Gill, Irving Fryar and Dean Steinkuhler are certain to be playing their final collegiate games in uniforms other than those of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

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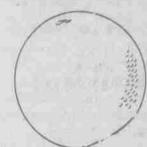
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