

Wrestlers' backs off the mat in turnaround

By Kirk Zebolsky

The Nebraska wrestling team, after some difficulty earlier this season, gave its best performance of the year in two dual meet wins last weekend, Coach Bob Fehrs said.

"We had gone through some trying times at the beginning of the season," Fehrs said. "I feel very good about the fact that it looks like things are improving."

The team traveled to Grand Forks, N.D., Jan. 13 and beat North Dakota 37-11, with Gil Sanchez and Jake Sabo recording pins at 126 and 167 pounds, respectively. The Fighting Sioux were ranked 11th in NCAA Division II.

Nebraska's Matt Campbell at 118 defeated Scott Knoulen, who beat Campbell in the Bison Open earlier in the season. William Taylor, wrestling for the first time since being injured, defeated Division II All-American Jeff

Schumacher at 150.

The following day in Fargo, N.D., the Cornhuskers defeated North Dakota State, No. 2 in Division II at the time, 31-15. Heavyweight Gary Albright and Campbell recorded pins.

"As a whole, the team wrestled very well," Fehrs said. "North Dakota State has several real good kids. I thought it would be considerably closer."

The two wins upped Nebraska's dual meet record to 8-4. In other duals over the holiday break, Nebraska beat New Mexico 24-15, and Northwest Missouri State 40-5 in Lincoln Jan. 2. On Jan. 7 they lost to sixth-rated Iowa 25-10 in Ames.

The only winners at Iowa were the Huskers' three All-Americans, Jim Scherr at 177, Bill Scherr at 190 and heavyweight Gary Albright. Nebraska has been lacking wins in the middle weights all year, Fehrs said.

Nebraska's wrestlers at 118 and 126, Campbell and Sanchez, are competitive, Fehrs said. They have a combined record of 22-12. The Scherrs and Albright have a combined record of 58-6-1.

The situation improved with last weekend's meets. "They're coming up with good performances in the middle (weights)," Fehrs said. "Some of the people who have been doing the floundering are doing better. Ferrie (Bill, at 150 and 158) and Sabo have started to wrestle much better and with more intensity."

Fehrs said getting Taylor back from his injury also gave the team a lift.

The return of 134-pounder Chris Marisette, who has been out with oral surgery, should help Nebraska in two dual meets this weekend. They meet Northern Illinois at DeKalb Friday and Northwestern and Illinois State at Evanston, Ill. Saturday.

Nebraska forfeited at 134 against North Dakota and North Dakota State, but will have all weight classes filled this weekend.

Marisette will attempt to make his normal 134 weight this weekend, after wrestling at 142 against North Dakota State, Fehrs said. Taylor will move down to 142, Ferrie will wrestle at 150 and Lyndon Ruhnke will move into the 158 slot.

"They will be three meets that we could win," Fehrs said. "They're going to be real good meets for us to continue improving. They should not have the caliber of people that we have, but we're going to have to be intense in order to stave off any upset hopes by them."

Fehrs said Northwestern has a good dual meet team and Northern Illinois normally has a well-balanced team. He is not sure what to expect from Illinois State.

Smokin' Joe...

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"It is a fallacy to say that we are all 10 years older than we were in 1971. In the legs, yes, not in the mouth. The mouth is the last to go. If the speech defect is recognizable, other signs are not visible to anyone but fight people."

And with Joe, the signs are all there. While insisting that he is entering a "body cycle" that will result in the sudden streamlining of his torso, Frazier is coping with his apparent middle-aged metabolism mostly by steering the conversation in other directions. He is manipulating his sons Marvis, Joe, Mark and Hector. In the wings are some nephews, Rodney and Bernard.

After the fiasco against Jumbo Cummings, the never-say-die Frazier claimed, "Whatever you do, separate me from everybody else. I'm one of God's men. I'm a seventh son. I do have a lot of history. When I get old, I'll tell you all."

Well Joe, since the concerned words of doctors don't work, since the pleas of your fans won't do it, and since you seem not to care that your sons are getting torn apart at your expense, please consider my words as another attempt to keep you and your sons and nephews as far away from boxing as possible.

Mike Rozier will report to Mauler camp

Mike Rozier will report to the United States Football League's Pittsburgh Maulers despite the fact that he has fired agent Mike Trope. Rozier is expected to report to the team's training camp in Melbourne, Fla. this weekend.

Rozier, according to a Boston Globe story, was upset with Trope taking 13 percent of Rozier's salary for services Trope rendered. The National Football League's Players Association has a policy that agents can't take more than five percent of a player's salary. That percentage cap does not exist in the USFL.

In other USFL news, Nebraska offensive tackle John Sherlock signed a contract Monday with the Arizona Wranglers.

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