



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska distance runner Jill Noel runs in a meet earlier this year. See page 8.

Cowboy wrestlers favorites in meet

By Bob Asmussen

The Nebraska wrestling team will attempt to end its frustration this weekend when they travel to Stillwater, Okla. for the Big Eight Championships.

Nebraska was ranked sixth in the nation the last two seasons but finished only third and fourth in the conference.

Nebraska is currently rated 14th in the country. Big Eight host school Oklahoma State holds the No. 1 ranking and is considered the meet favorite. All five Big Eight teams that compete in collegiate wrestling are ranked in the Top 20. Oklahoma holds down the third spot, Iowa State is ranked eighth and Missouri is No. 20.

"Oklahoma State definitely should be favored in the tournament," Oklahoma Coach Stan Abelsaid. "They probably are the best team in the country. Being favored, they'll have number one seedings in most of the weight classes and that is an obvious advantage."

Oklahoma hasn't "peaked"
Oklahoma State will be led by Mike Sheets. Sheets is ranked No. 1 in the nation at 167 and Kenny Monday is nationally the No. 1 contender at 150. Other highly ranked Cowboys include Clar Anderson, ranked No. 2 at 134, and Karl Lynes, ranked No. 2 at 190.

"I'm very pleased with the way everybody on our team has been wrestling," Oklahoma State Coach Tommy Chesbro said. "We still have not gotten to our peak in conditioning or our mental attitude, but we've had two great wins over Iowa and Oklahoma back to back. We've been working out twice a day since Christmas and it's paid off."
Nebraska will be led by

the Scherr brothers. Bill Scherr is the No. 1-ranked wrestler at 190. Jim Scherr is No. 2 at 177. The other nationally ranked Husker wrestlers is Gary Albright, the sixth-ranked heavyweight.

Nebraska is coming off a successful weekend. The Huskers defeated Drake 32-19 and fifth-ranked Northern Iowa 24-22. In duals with Big Eight teams this season Nebraska was able only to defeat Missouri by 28-12. Oklahoma State defeated Nebraska 41-5. Nebraska's overall dual record was 15-5.

Winner to NCAA
In Nebraska's Big Eight duals, Albright was the only wrestler to emerge undefeated. Bill Scherr was defeated by Oklahoma State's Lynes. Jim Scherr lost to Oklahoma's Dan Chaid. No other Nebraska wrestler was able to win more than two dual matches in the Big Eight.

Oklahoma State is the defending conference champ, but Oklahoma has won the most conference titles with 18. The Cowboys have won 16 league titles, while Iowa State won 12 conference championships.

Returning conference champions include Iowa State's Kevin Darkus at 126, Oklahoma's Clint Burke at 134, Sheets and Monday. Sheets has won 67 consecutive matches.

The winner of this weekend's Big Eight championship will be the likely NCAA meet favorite. The NCAA tournament will be at the New Jersey Meadowlands March 8-10.

The Nebraska lineup: 118-Matt Campbell; 126-Gil Sanchez; 134-Chris Marisette; 142-William Taylor; 150-Bill Ferrie; 158-Lyndon Ruhnke; 167-Jake Sabo; 177-Jim Scherr; 190-Bill Scherr; Heavyweight-Gary Albright.

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Humphries...

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"Stats don't mean a lot to me," he said. "With the other guys helping out, that means I can do other things."

Those other things include leading the conference with 88 steals and ranking third in assists.

Humphries said he is slightly disappointed with his conference play, because he has been slowed by an ankle and groin injury.

"My timing has been off and it (groin injury) nags me every time I play," he

said.

When Colorado's season is finally over, Humphries said he'll pay attention to the NBA.

Humphries said he hopes he gets the chance to play for a team that needs a guard. If that team is the Denver Nuggets, he will be pleased.

"I would love to play in front of the people I know," he said. "I think of myself as an unselfish player and Denver loves to run up and down the court."

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