

# Coaches rebuild wrestling program with largest recruiting class ever

By Ward W. Triplett III  
Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor

1984 is the year Nebraska wrestling enthusiasts have been dreading for the last four seasons.

The Scheer twins, both NCAA champions, Olympic alternates and several time Big Eight champions, are gone.

Plus, a number of wrestlers coach Bob Fehrs was counting on quit the team midway through last season, a move that not only crippled the dual record for a while, but also will throw a lot of freshmen into the fire when this season begins Nov. 10.

It adds up to a young, inexperienced team that will try to equal 1984's fourth-place national finish, the highest ever by a Nebraska team.

"This is what we refer to as the proverbial rebuilding year," Fehrs said. "It wasn't exactly planned that way, but we will have a few holes to fill."

The midseason dropouts resulted in five dual losses, which at one point dropped the team to 20th in the national ratings. A late season surge salvaged a 15-5 final record.

"We struggled a bit in the early season, and some of our toughest matches were early," Fehrs said. "As the season went on, we regrouped ourselves and ended up pretty close to the dual record we thought we could get."

That took some "semi-herolds," Fehrs said, most of which were provided by the "Murderer's Row" of Jim Scheer, Bill Scheer and heavyweight Gary Albright.

While the Scheers won at 177 pound and 190 pounds respectively, Albright, who will return for his junior year, finished second, losing to enormous Tab Thacker of North Carolina State. He too was an Olympic alternate.

This season, Fehrs figures Albright and junior Matt Campbell (118), to be the team's strongest performers.

"We have several other people returning who may help us, but they're going to have to be on their toes," Fehrs said.

An 18-member recruiting class, the largest ever, is the reason most of the squad's weights will be up for grabs. Fehrs said he thinks at least five of the rookies will be in the starting dual lineup. "This is definitely the largest number of recruits we've ever had," Fehrs said, "but the previous year we had our worst in terms of numbers. That, coupled with the other problems, forced us to bring in quality and quantity if we wanted to hold national prominence."

Several state champions highlight the recruit list, including in-state champions Craig Thalken of Columbus, Bill Meyers of Lincoln and Ron DeBoer of Firth. Tim Kenney was a Wisconsin state champion at 142, while Buck Matsen and Keenan Turner

were repeat state champions in Kansas and Colorado respectively. Both will wrestle at 150.

Cody Olson was a state champion in Nevada and a West Coast champ after moving to California. Ed Borrer was also a state champion in two states, with two titles in Kansas and one in Oklahoma.

Larry Thompson was also a state champion in Colorado, while Dan Boardman was an Illinois state champ. Finally, Kyle Jensen and Mark Monford were state champions from the same town as the Scheer twins — Mobridge, S. D.

Other recruits, who all narrowly missed state titles, are Terry Cook of Spencer, Iowa, Mike Balestrini of Sunbury, Pa., John Myers of Eagle Grove, Iowa, and David Harris of Oklahoma.

In addition to the recruits, Fehrs said the team will hold tryouts for anyone interested, providing the wrestling office is contacted before Aug. 27.

"We don't cut anybody," Fehrs said. "Usually, people cut themselves after they see all the work involved."

The wrestlers' home schedule: Nov. 14 — UNO, Nov. 30 — Iowa State, Dec. 7-8 — Husker Duals, Jan. 3 — Lock Haven, Jan. 5 — Clemson, Jan. 15 — Arizona State, Jan. 19 — Oklahoma State, Feb. 9 — North Dakota State, Feb. 22 — Drake, Feb. 23 — Northern Iowa.

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