

Sports

Undefeated women's tennis team to host invitational

By Brent Cobb
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Nebraska's undefeated women's tennis team will try to maintain its perfect season mark this weekend hosting the Husker Invitational at East Campus beginning tomorrow at 9 a.m.

According to women's tennis coach Kathy Hawkins, the squad is much stronger than it was last year at this time.

"By winning the three matches, 8-1 scores over Kansas State, Iowa State and Drake, I think that it indicates a more mature team than last year. The inexperience last year might have caused a loss in a third set tie breaker situation, but this year they're winning those."

One of the things the Huskers are working on as a team is being more aggressive — especially working on the net game and the transition from baseline to the net. Hawkins said her team is making that transition more smoothly and regularly this year.

Another advantage this season is that Hawkins is only working with one freshman recruit and only one freshman walk-on.

"The system isn't quite so new and most girls know how the system works," Hawkins said. "They're a little more advanced in their skills and that means fewer peo-

ple to be working with in the initial stages."

Individually, Hawkins said she has been pleased with the play of sophomore Cari Groce. Last year, she was seeded No. 1 or No. 2 doubles and played very well as a freshman. Hawkins said Groce worked all summer to improve her ground strokes game and the results are evident in her tremendous improvement as a singles player.

Hawkins also has seen improvement in Lisa Brooks, last year's No. 6 player.

"Losa is looking real strong," Hawkins said. "She's pulling out the close matches — she's one of those players who's making the transition to the net very well and that's putting the pressure on her opponent."

Hawkins said the key to her team is depth, another area of movement.

At the top, Jamie Pisarcik and Liz Mooney are No. 1 and No. 2 again. They were the first women Huskers ever to be ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association Poll last year, when they finished at No. 37 and No. 48 respectively.

That ranking system is a point criteria system based on position and the strength of the opponent.

"Both players should do even better this year because they will



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan
Pisarcik

have a better opportunity to earn more points and have direct wins over stronger opponents," Hawkins said.

The coach notes that the two have been pushing each other all year and the entire team benefits from that kind of challenge.

The team also should benefit from a stronger doubles showing this year, Hawkins said.

"Nebraska has the capabilities to have a very strong doubles lineup — and in the past that's where we have not made a difference as a team," she said.

Pisarcik and Mooney comprise the No. 1 doubles team and will try to qualify for the NCAA Championship as a doubles team as well as qualifying individually.

Groce has been a strong dou-



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan
Mooney

bles player and Hawkins has seen doubles play improvement from Lisa Brooks, Jean Hallahan and Jill Pisarcik.

"Jill and Jean will provide a big difference on the doubles showing," she said. "They exhibit sophomore maturity and doubles lineup can really make a difference in a team win," Hawkins said.

This weekend, the Husker Invitational will use a different format — one that is suited for the fall tennis season. Instead of six singles matches and three doubles, the Invitational will allow eight team members to compete in singles. There will also be an extra doubles match.

"This setup is very attractive to some teams, like us, because more people get to compete and the

coaches can better evaluate their younger players," Hawkins said.

While fall may be considered the "practice" season, there is a lot at stake this weekend. The top individual finishers will automatically qualify for the ITCA Regional Tournament Nov. 1 through 3. Hawkins said Nebraska might send up to four players to the Oklahoma City tournament. In addition, the top two finishers in the Husker Invitational go on to the nationals.

This weekend, the Huskers will compete with Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, Ohio State, Iowa Wichita State and Texas Tech. Hawkins said the early favorite was Minnesota, but an injury to their highly touted Swedish freshman may tighten the competition, and open the tournament for teams like Nebraska.

Hawkins said the Huskers can win as a team and individually if they play up to their capabilities.

She also said the secret to winning this tournament lies in the balance of the draw.

The Husker Invitational begins Thursday morning and will run through Saturday afternoon. It will also mark the end of major fall competition. Hawkins said several players will compete in various tournaments over the Christmas break before the spring season begins Feb. 1.

'Beat Nebraska' week fails to ignite Buffaloes

By Lori Griffin
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Nebraska fans planning to make the 10-hour plus trip to Boulder next Saturday may not walk into unfriendly fire after all.

Buffalo coach Bill McCartney is still trying to pep up the CU student body for the Husker contest, a task no doubt complicated by Colorado's 0-5 start. Nevertheless, McCartney, as he promised last summer, is still asking Colorado fans to wear blue to the game, refuse to sell their tickets to Nebraskans, and cheer "like mad" for the Buffaloes to pull off the upset.

There's no telling how the ticket ban will work until game day. McCartney's other plans for "Beat Nebraska" week are faring pretty well, but the plans don't have the campus on its ear yet, according to a CU administrator.

A corn roast Friday featuring talks by coaches and players is planned, but a bonfire McCartney talked about is not. A human wall he had hoped to set up Saturday morning stretching from Folsom Field to the Boulder Harvester Hotel

a mile away has also been canceled.

("Beat Nebraska" week) is basically just a pep rally in which we will "Roast Cornhuskers." Laurie McFarland, student administrator in charge of student relations at CU said.

A 5-kilometer road race in connection with Nebraska week is also scheduled to take place before the game.

"The race is to mainly raise money for Macky Auditorium, but we planned it in conjunction with Nebraska Week," McFarland said. "We wanted to raise spirit and enthusiasm for the game. Everyone is excited to play Nebraska."

Nebraska week was originated by McCartney to rally support for the game.

"He wanted it to be a creative as well as a fun time for all," she said.

Student Organization for Alumni Relations is in charge of planning the special event because "a lot of alumni come back for the Nebraska game and we want to keep them involved in campus activities as much as the current student," McFarland said.

Lightning-quick cagers hope to strike

By Mike Reilly
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Two out of three isn't bad.

The Nebraska women's basketball team began workouts Monday with quickness and experience but lacking one of the most precious commodities in the game: height.

Only one player, freshman center Lisa LaGuardia, stands above 6 feet.

But, second-year Nebraska coach Kelly Hill plans to use her cagers' quickness to its extreme.

"We've always been a transition team at Nebraska," Hill said. "We'll try to keep an upbeat tempo at all times."

Hill became the Huskers' official coach last May after serving last year as interim coach. She assisted under Collene Matsuhara for three years before that appointment.

A new rule put into effect by the NCAA would be advantageous to the lightning-quick game the Cornhuskers will try to employ.

Women's basketball teams on college and high school levels will

play with a smaller ball this season. According to Hill, the ball (which is one centimeter smaller and two ounces lighter than the regulation ball), will require an adjustment period.

"It could create some turnovers early in the season because the players will try to do more things with it," Hill said.

Quantity of experience is another of the Huskers' assets. Four starters return from last year's 16-12 team.

Returnees include the backcourt tandem of 5-6 senior Cathy Owen and 5-9 sophomore Stacy Imming, 5-10 sophomore pivot Angie Miller and 5-9 senior Debra Powell return on the front line. Miller was the team's leading rebounder, while Powell made the "Big Eight's" first team.

A likely candidate for the fifth starting role is 5-9 freshman Maurice Ivy.

Ivy, a prep All-American from Omaha Central and the first blue chip athlete the Nebraska program has ever recruited, said she hopes to make a significant contribution during her initial year as a Husker.

"I want to contribute with my scoring and rebounding abilities," Ivy said.

When asked about the possibility of stepping into a starting role early in the season, Ivy said, "I don't know if I'll be able to start right away, that is up to the coach. I'm just out there fighting for a position right now."

After completing her first workout in a Husker uniform, Ivy said one aspect of her game surprised her.

"My passing has improved quite a bit," Ivy said. "I think I can contribute in that area, too."

Ivy lists the Big Eight championship as the team's top priority and has set two personal goals.

"I want to be both an academic and athletic All-American," Ivy said.

The Husker women will begin their season Nov. 23 in their own invitational. Last year's national runner-up Tennessee is up next in the first round of the Dial Classic in Minnesota. Oregon, Big Eight NCAA qualifiers, Kansas State, Missouri, and Iowa, the NCAA attendance leader last season, are also on the schedule.

UNL runners ranked 20th

Nebraska's women's cross country team, consisting of five sophomores and a junior running for the first time, is ranked 20th in the nation, according to this week's NCAA poll.

The Huskers joined Big Eight and regional opponents Kansas State, Missouri and Iowa State in the rankings. Missouri, whom the Huskers defeated in the Illinois Invitational, was ranked 18th.

The men's team received votes for the top 20, but failed to place in the ratings.

"We've gone from the lower half of the conference to being considered one of the best in the country in just two years," coach Jay Dirksen said. "I'm really proud of both teams."

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Rec Scoreboard

BOWLING

Monday Kingpin Kegler
High games — Russ Karpisek, Gutter Shooters, 178, Jan Pollard, Who Cares, 188.
— High series — Karpisek, 522, Holly Brown, Lucky Strikes, 506
Note — Karpisek bowled 60

pins over average for high men's game. The Lucky Strikes finished with a series of 1,875.

Monday Pin Pounders
High games — Mike Rethwisch, Strike Force, 184, Lori Stanley, D'Risks, 197.

High Series — John Peter, Strike Force, 493, Trina Pekas, 469.