

Sports

Wrestling hopes hinge on freshmen recruits

By Brent Cobb

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Nebraska wrestling coach Bob Fehrs has a difficult task ahead of him this year. He must rebuild a team that finished higher than any other Nebraska wrestling team every finished — fourth in the nation. He also must compensate for the loss of two of Nebraska's most successful wrestlers — Jim and Bill Scheer.

On the surface, that would be enough of a challenge for any coach. But Fehrs also must rebuild his team with a proportionately small number of scholarships.

"With eleven full scholarships available plus returning people on scholarship, you have to spread your money pretty thinly," Fehrs said. "In the past we only needed to fill one or two spots and so we could invest all our time, money and effort to get them."

Of the 17 new faces, there are 16 freshmen and one junior college transfer.

The junior college transfer is Kyle Jensen who is the top candidate to start in the position vacated by three-time All-American Bill Scheer. Jensen is familiar with the Scheers' reputation because he is from the same South Dakota town — Mobridge. Jensen was a two-time All-American at Bismarck Junior College.

In addition to Jensen, several other newcomers appear to be in good position to break into the starting lineup.

Freshman recruit Cody Olsen looks to be the front runner at 177 pounds. Last year, Jim Scheer was the NCAA champion at that weight class, but as a freshman, Olson's responsibility is not to replace Scheer.

"My first goal is to make the team then do as well as I can. You're not expected to do as well as a freshman, but each time you do win it's a plus for you," Olson said.

Fehrs said he expects at least some of the freshmen to make

that transition before the season begins.

"I think that perhaps we'll see four freshmen break the starting lineup before the season is over, but I can't even tell specifically which four they'll be," Fehrs said. "With the team we have returning, I think it's going to be extremely difficult for some of the returners to keep people of the talent of some of the new recruits from breaking into the lineup."

Fehrs said two of three classes between 134 and 150 will be manned by freshmen.

At 134, freshmen Billy Meyer of Lincoln and Mike Balestrini of Sunbury, Pa. are competing for the top job.

At 142, freshman Tim Kenney of Tokahawk, Wis., will challenge for a position and at 150 pounds, Keenan Turner of Meeker, Colo. or possibly Jeff Colvet of Eagle Grove, Iowa, could start.

Colvet is listed at 158, but may wrestle at 150.

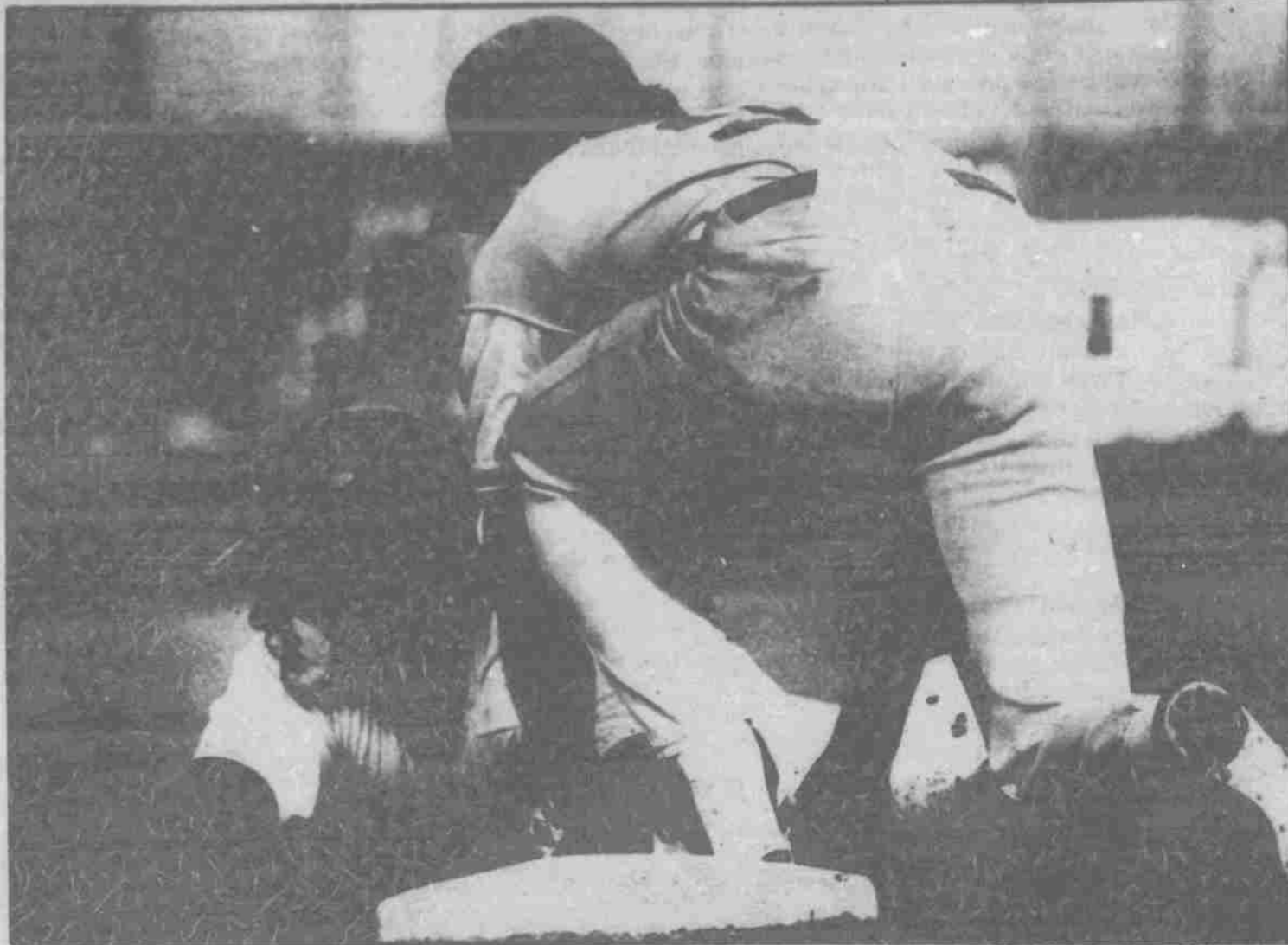
"One of my goals is to contribute right away," Colvet said.

Other freshman recruits include Terry Cook of Spencer, Iowa, at 126, John Myer of Eagle Grove, Iowa, at 142, Buck Matson of Oberlin, Kan., at 150, Ron DeBoer of Firth at 158, Larry Thompson of Austin, Texas, at 158, and Craig Thalken of Columbus at 167-177.

"If they're willing to work hard as they seem to be, hopefully we can be consistent top 10 finisher — perhaps by next year," Fehrs said. "I think we'll have an opportunity to finish in the top 20. I'm hoping a couple of returners who have good credentials and potential will come through along with some help from some freshmen."

Fehrs doubts that he will be in a position to challenge last year's finish. But with a good season, he said a top 10 finish is not out of the question.

The Husker wrestlers begin their home schedule Nov. 14 against UNO, followed by a Nov. 30 duel at home with Iowa State.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Burt Beattie of the Whites is tagged out at third by Rich Holmes of the Reds in the third inning of the intra-squad World Series Wednesday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field. The Reds won the game 8-3 behind the four hit, nine-strike out pitching of Bill McGuire. Mark Davis and Jeff Kister had three hits each for the winners.

Husker squad faces challenge from perennially tough Tiger team

Nebraska fans, get your throats ready. Missouri's football team is coming to town.

If you thought your voices would get a rest after comeback win against Oklahoma State, think again. When Nebraska and Missouri tee it up, hard-hitting, nail-biting games almost always result.

Forget Missouri's 2-3 record. The Tigers possess one of the country's best offenses, and they'll give Nebraska's Blackshirts a tough test. Nebraska, on the other hand, will try to pull its wounded players together for another super effort. It's going to be a great game.

Nebraska-Missouri games tend to be great. I remember the first time I saw the teams play each other. That was in 1970, when Nebraska fought the Tigers all the way before winning, 21-7.

My dad and I sat in the box seats on the west side lines. With Nebraska ahead 14-7 in the fourth quarter, Missouri punted from

their own end zone. Johnny Rodgers caught the punt right in front of us, at about the Missouri 40, and scampered all the way for a touchdown. The crowd went nuts, including a 9-year-old kid in a red cowboy hat.

There have been many great games before and after that one. Remember 1976, when Pete Woods threw a 98-yard TD pass to Joe Stewart to beat Nebraska? That ended the Huskers' national title hopes right then and there.

And if that wasn't enough, Missouri did it again in 1978. The Tigers' big fullback, James Wilder, romped all over the Huskers. He scored four touchdowns and ran for 181 yards as MU won, 35-31. NU's Rick Berns countered with a school-record 255 yards, but it wasn't enough. The loss was especially crushing for Nebraska, which had upset Oklahoma the week before. NU had to face the Sooners again in the Orange Bowl, and Billy Sims and Co. won the rematch.

Missouri almost did it again in Columbia in 1979. Nebraska defensive end Derrie Nelson sacked Missouri's Phil Bradley on the game's final play to preserve a 23-20 win. The Tigers went for the touchdown from Nebraska's 11-yard-line, when a field goal would have tied.

Nebraska stomped the Tigers in 1980, 38-16. But 1981 was a different story. Nebraska had to drive 65 yards in the final minutes to win, 6-0. An inexperienced sophomore named Turner Gill directed the Huskers that day. Fullback Phil Bates got the touchdown on a 3-yard run with 23 seconds left.

Nebraska won its fourth straight over the Tigers in 1982, but the win didn't come easily. Bruce Mathison subbed at quarterback for the injured Gill, and engineered two fourth-quarter drives to help NU win, 23-19. Mike Rozier established himself as a great running back. He ran roughshod over Missouri that day, gaining 139 yards, even though he had a hip pointer.

Nebraska's "triplets" — Gill, Rozier and Fryar — made the difference last year as Nebraska won 34-13. Again the Tigers played well. With NU leading 2-13 early in the fourth quarter, Missouri drove to the Nebraska five, but the Tigers fumbled and Mike Keeler recovered for Nebraska. The Huskers promptly drove the length of the field to put the game out of reach.

By winning the last five games, Nebraska has moved out to a 14-8 lead in the series during the Bob Devaney-Tom Osborne era. The Tigers have upset Nebraska enough times for fans to know what kind of game they'll see Saturday. If Nebraska can patch its backfield together, the Huskers should win it. Doug DuBose has played well in Jeff Smith's absence, but Nebraska needs a healthy Smith and a healthy Tom Rathman. And if Travis Turner and Craig Sundberg can play with some consistency at quarterback, the offense could roll again.

So the Huskers should win it, but when you're playing Missouri, you never know.



Photo Courtesy Missouri Sports Information

Missouri fullback Eric Drain.

Wave to roll for defense

When cornerback Dave Burke made a leaping interception to kill an Oklahoma State drive last week, restless fans waiting for the first Nebraska score let about a third of the traditional red balloons go in appreciation.

Rollie Hughes manager of the Nebraska Union RecRoom, then realized that the defense didn't really have a fan-appreciation gimmick like the offense has balloons. So, the "Black Wave Handkerchief" will debut this weekend at Memorial Stadium.

"Since fans are so into the wave these days, and the defense has been doing so well, we thought this would be a good way to honor the defense," Hughes said. But there's more to it. A good sale of handkerchiefs will not only give the Blackshirts some extra support, it will give the UNL Bowling Club close to \$4,000 of its projected \$10,500 budget for the 1984-85 season, said Hughes, who advises the club.

The bowling club sells Big Red bowling goods outside the Nebraska Union each home game. The Missouri game, however, is the one game Campus Activities and Programs will allow the 54-member club to seek funds in addition to its regular sale.

Hughes and Tom Simonson, owner of Simonson Sporting Goods in Alliance, had thought about the black handkerchiefs since the first game. Last week's performance sealed the plan, Hughes said.

"We knew coach (Tom) Osborne said he didn't like the wave," Hughe said. "But then we read that the defensive people thought it pumped them up," Hughes said.

About 20,000 of the cloths will be finished by game time, and sold for \$2 each by 20 groups on campus before the 11:30 a.m. game.

The bowling club has its largest membership ever after three separate organizations joined at the start of the year, Hughes said.

"We used to have the bowling club, which was very loosely organized, the Big Eight Classic league and the Intercollegiate team," Hughes said. "This year, that has all been grouped together. We draw the Big Eight league bowlers from the bowling club, and the intercollegiate teams from the league."

The handkerchief sale will be part of the bowling team fund-raising drive. A bowl-athon is scheduled in November to cap the month-long drive.