

Sports

Nebraska's cross country runners prepare for Big Eight challenges

By Richard Cooper
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

For the second consecutive year, Nebraska's cross country teams will be in the position to finish in the top half of the Big Eight Conference championships. The regular season finale will be run this weekend in Boulder, Colo.

Big Eight Preview

Coach Jay Dirksen said both his teams are rested and ready to run against some tough competition.

"We did quite a bit of volume earlier this season," he said. "I think both of our teams were a little tired after we had traveled to Colorado, but it has been three weeks and they are ready to go," Dirksen said.

Dirksen said the women's race will be the most interesting. Four of the eight teams in the conference are ranked in the nation's top 20. Iowa State is ranked 12th, Missouri is sixth, Kansas State is 10th and Nebraska is 20.

Dirksen said the favorite to win the meet is Iowa State, but Missouri, Kansas State and Nebraska will challenge for the title.

Jill Noel, one of the Cornhusker runners, said none of the women on the team are intimidated by Iowa State, Missouri or Kansas State.

"We feel that we pretty well match up evenly with all those teams," Noel said. "We are the underdogs of the meet so we feel like we don't have any pressure on us."

In the men's race, the pre-season favorite to win the Big Eight Championship is Iowa State. They currently are ranked second in the nation. Dirksen said Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Nebraska and Colorado will challenge for second place.

Dirksen said Gerard O'Callaghan will run in the meet but it is not known if he will be 100 percent. Without O'Callaghan, the top runner going into the season, three runners, Kurt Russel, Bryan Clark and Tom Hoffman have fought for the top spot.

According to Dirksen, Russel is having the best season in his college career. Clark and Hoffman also have had excellent seasons.

Team captain Hoffman said all the runners on the team must run excellent races to protect their second place finish of last year.

"If everybody runs well on Saturday we will do very good in the meet," he said, "but everybody on the team has to have a good race," Hoffman said.

Here is a short report on each of the teams in the Big Eight.

Kansas State coach Steve Miller said his teams will challenge for second place in the men's race, and first in the women's. Miller said Ron Stahl and Brian Carrol have run well all season. The men's team currently is ranked 14th in the nation and coach Miller said his team has good depth.

The women's team, according to Miller, is one of the favorites to win the Big Eight championship. Miller said the strong point of his team is depth.

"If one of our runners has a bad day, someone else on the team will pick up the slack," Miller said.

Oklahoma State coach Dick Weis said his men's team has five solid runners.

"If our guys can stay no more than 45 seconds apart, then we will have a good chance to finish in the top half of the conference," Weis said.

Weis said his women's team will not be a factor in the Big Eight meet because they don't have a full team. But Christine McMiken is one of the favorites to win the individual championship. At the Arkansas Invitational two weeks ago, she took first place by blowing out the rest of the women's field by 18 seconds.

Roger Grooters, the men's coach for Missouri, said his team does not have high expectations going into the meet. Grooters said his team is young and inexperienced. Most of the runners on the team are middle distance runners. "It will be pretty difficult to finish in the upper division because we are so young," Grooters said.

The women's team at Missouri could be the surprise team of the meet, at least according to coach Lou Duesing. The Tigers took the first individual three places. Duesing said Sabrina Dornhoefer, last year's Big Eight Cross Country individual champion, is healed completely from a stress fracture in her right foot. Two weeks ago at the Burger King Invitational, she finished in the top 20. But,

Andrea Fisher, last year's second place finisher, is this year's leading runner.

In a poll released by the Big Eight Cross Country coaches, Missouri is picked to finish fourth. Duesing said his team will surprise many of people.

"It all depends on how the rest of the team runs," Duesing said.

Bob Timmons, the men's coach at Kansas, will have to rally on strong performances from their fifth, sixth and seventh runners if they are to finish in the top half of the conference. Timmons said Brent Steiner will try to defeat Yobes Ondieki of Iowa State for the men's individual title.

The Kansas women's team is young and have had their moments this season. Coach Cliff Rovelto said the main problem with the team is that they don't have a runner who can finish high in the race.

"We are a middle distance-based team. We don't have anybody that can compete with the top long-distance runners in the conference," Rovelto said.

Oklahoma will have their hands full in both the men's and women's races. Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen said the men's team for Oklahoma has improved a lot from last year, but is still a lower division team.

The women's team for Oklahoma has a challenger for the individual title in Tove Lutdal. But, Dirksen said, the rest of the team has no depth.

Dirksen said last year Colorado was hurt by injuries, but this year they are at full strength. In the Big Eight coaches' poll, the men's team was picked to finish in a tie for third with Oklahoma State. The women's team Michelle Buess, whom Dirksen thinks could be the dark horse to win the individual title.

Iowa State men's team is the favorite to win its fourth straight Big Eight Championship.

"I don't think anybody can beat Iowa State," Dirksen said. "Iowa State has so much depth; they have seen great runners."

Iowa State is led by Yobes Ondieki, last year's individual champion and national runner-up. Joseph Kipsang is Iowa State's second runner and has pushed Ondieki this season. Iowa State lost Paul Black, their No. 3 runner, because of a stress fracture.

Iowa State's women's team is favored to win its second straight championship. Dirksen said Iowa State has a lot of depth, and if all their runners have good races, they will be tough to beat.

Setting it Straight

The name of Nebraska's strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley was misspelled in a story on weight training for secondary sports in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan



Daily Nebraskan File Photo

Bill Weber (87) helps Allen Lyday bring down Iowa's Owen Gill in a Cornhusker game two years ago.

Weber sacrifices aid to work for local bank

By Janet Stefanski
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Senior defensive end Bill Weber had to decide whether to relinquish his football scholarship or turn down a job offer from a Lincoln bank.

Weber, member of the Academic All-Big Eight team chose to take a job with the first National Bank and Trust of Lincoln for career advancement reasons. An NCAA rule prevents scholarship athletes from working.

Weber, a senior finance major, said the NCAA rule is a good one. He said he thinks the NCAA is trying to protect the student athlete, who has to devote his time to being a full-time student and an athlete.

Since Weber has only five credit hours to complete until graduation, it was the trade-off between room and board aid that he had to consider. Weber lives at home with his parents and had been receiving about \$85 to \$100 a month plus 10 meals a week at the training table. He said he thought he would earn more money by working for the bank.

Steve Pederson, recruiting coordinator, said he thinks the

NCAA should take special cases like Weber's into consideration.

"He's advancing his career like some students do with internships," Pederson said.

Pederson said he thinks the NCAA is guarding against outside abuses such as an athlete having a high-paying job he never works at.

Pederson classifies Weber as a rare person and an outstanding student.

"There aren't that many guys that would've turned down the scholarship," Pederson said.

Weber said he doesn't think the choice was a difficult one to make. He said his parents left the decision up to him.

"They thought the scholarship was an honor for me. It was an honor for them, too. But, they figured I could make the right decision," Weber said.

Weber said he thinks he made the right decision. He works 15 to 20 hours a week outlining bond indentures for the First National Bank and Trust of Lincoln.

Weber said he might eventually start a business. He said he plans to take time off after graduation "to move back into the normal stream of life."

Husker volleyball squad to face California teams

Nebraska volleyball will take its act to the West Coast this weekend beginning with a dual match tonight in Malibu and an invitational in Santa Barbara.

The Huskers, 19-1, meet 17th ranked Pepperdine tonight. Terry Pettit's eighth-ranked squad will then play California at Santa Barbara, top-rated Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Loyola Marymount in the Santa Barbara Invitational.

It is Nebraska's only trip to California this season. Until its loss to Texas in the Tennessee Invitational three weeks ago, the Huskers were ranked sixth, just below five California schools. While Cal Poly is the only one of those teams involved in this weekend's competition, Pettit said a good showing is important to the ratings and seedings in the NCAA

tournament.

The Huskers will play their third straight match without center blockers Sharon Kramer and Michelle Smith. Kramer will miss the rest of the season with a broken leg, while Smith missed last week's matches with a foot injury.

The Huskers are alone atop the Big Eight conference with a 7-0 record, while Iowa State is 5-2 and Missouri 4-2. Karen Dahlgren, a center blocker from Bertrand, was named the conference's player-of-the-week for her 22 kills in 34 attacks last week against Kansas and Oklahoma.

Dahlgren has the league's best hitting percentage with a .441 mark, good enough for fifth in the nation. She also had five solo blocks and one service ace for the week.

Rec Scoreboard

FLAG FOOTBALL Philistines 26 (3.0), Killer Bees 12 (3.0) Soupbones 7 (4.2), Ruggers 6 (4.4) Burr Two West 44 (4.0) Cather Five 14 (4.0) Cather Seven 14 (3.4), Cather Five 0 (3.4) Schramm Four 42 (4.0), Abel Nine 0 (4.0) Burr One East 21 (4.0), Harper Five 6 (3.5) Alpha Tau Omega 19 (3.0), Acacia 12 (3.5) FarmHouse 13, (4.2), Sigma Chi 2 (4.0) Beta Theta Pi 12 (4.3), Phi Gamma Delta 0 (4.0) Tau Kappa Epsilon 12 (3.8), Delta Tau Delta 0 (3.8) Chi Phi 27 (3.3), Kappa Sigma 18 (3.3)	Miracle Mets & Stu P. 5, WTS 2 Cather Two 11, Cather Six 9 Cather Ten 11, Cather Eight 8 Kappa Sigma 11, Delta Upsilon 8 Gummerts 24, Mutley's Crew 2 Sigma Chi 11, Alpha Tau Omega 6 Alpha Tau Omega 12, Beta Theta Pi 4 Alpha Gamma Rho 12, Sigma Phi Epsilon 9 Acacia 7, Delta Upsilon 2 Phi Kappa Psi 4, Delta Tau Delta 3 FarmHouse 10, Delta Tau Delta 3	Alpha Omicron Pi def. Towne Club 15-4, 15-4 Kappa Delta def. Delta Gamma 15-7, 15-11 Catch 22 def. Piper Three 15-6, 15-5 Raymond Three def. Abel Three 15-5, 15-6 Smith Ten def. Alpha Xi Delta 15-2, 15-2 Alpha Delta Pi def. Kappa Alpha Theta 15-8, 12-15, 15-12 Abel Seven def. Sandos Five 15-8, 15-6
SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS Sigma Phi Epsilon 9, Sigma Chi 8 Beta Sigma Phi 12, Beta Theta Pi 11 Voykoulf 6, Geepers 1 Cather Three 8, Abel Four 3 Abel Five 13, Cather Twelve 5 Delta Tau Delta 13, Lambda Chi Alpha 4	VOLEYBALL Sandos Nine def. Mashers 15-1, 15-11 The Generics def. Ind./Reamers Four 15-7, 13-11 Alpha Phi def. Delta Delta Delta 15-11, 15-6 Pound Nine def. Pound Ten 13-15, 15-10, 15-8 Love Memorial Hall def. Smith Five 15-9, 15-8 Gamma Phi Beta def. FCA Women 9-15, 15-13, 15-6	BOWLING Pin Pounders, high games, series Mike Retwisch, Strike Force, 190, 529 Lori Stanley, D'Riskies 180, 442
CO-REC SOCCER Phi Psi 6 (3.0), Abel Thirteen 0 (3.6) FIG One/Alpha Chi Omega 4 (3.7), Kappa Alpha Theta/DTD 0 (3.7) Legal Eagles 4 (3.0), Lambda Chi Alpha 3 (4.0)		
WATER POLO Theta Xi 46, Sigma Phi Epsilon 40		