

Sports

Sugar Bowl beckons UNL flag football team

By Mike Reilley

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

How sweet it is.

The Gators, the UNL women's intramural flag football team, savored the sweet taste of victory five times in route to a first place finish at the Mid-America Regional Collegiate Flag Football Championships in Omaha.

The win at the regionals earned the Gators a spot in the National Collegiate Flag Football Championships in New Orleans Dec. 28 through Jan. 1, 1985. The national tournament is an officially recognized event of the Sugar Bowl Classic.

The Gators rode to the title on the coattails of veteran griders Mary Pritchard and Cathy Seybold.

Seybold, a running back, and Pritchard, a quarterback, combined for 16 touchdowns in the tournament. Both were named to the all tournament team and Seybold won the Most Valuable Player Award for the second consecutive year. Both played with last year's regional champs, Smith Ten, which finished third in New Orleans. Seybold also was named to the all-tournament team there.

The Gators do not expect to dominate the nationals as easily as they did the regionals.

"The competition is a lot tougher at the nationals than the regionals," Pritchard said. "The players down there are faster and they throw the ball more."

Seybold was a member of the Husker track team during her first three years at Nebraska. When the senior soil science major was not competing in the long

jump, high jump or the heptathlon, she was playing flag football.

Pritchard played softball during her freshman year, and built her strong passing arm by playing in the outfield. She has since been active in women's intramural play and has been part of many championship teams. Most recently, she played with the co-rec basketball champions, The Express.

Preparations for the nationals have been difficult, Pritchard said, and workouts run into the late hours.

"We've been practicing late at night, around 10 or 10:30 (p.m.) because everyone's out of class then."

Pritchard said southern schools like Texas and Southwest Louisiana hold an advantage over northern teams since they are preparing in a warmer climate.

Nebraska's cold weather has forced the Gators to move indoors practice.

Gator co-coach Chris Mangan is quick to praise his high scoring tandem. Mangan said Pritchard's "icy cool attitude" and Seybold's "explosiveness" are two of the reasons why the Gators sport a 13-0 record.

Seybold and Mangan are not the only players on the team that can light up the scoreboard. Mangan said the scoring abilities of wide-receiver Mary Malone and running back Robin Scherer spread out opponents' defenses and opened opportunities for Pritchard and Seybold. As a take off on last year's "triplets," Mangan refers to his running stars as "the quadruplets."



Mary Pritchard, left, and Cathy Seybold...Husker intramural stars prepare for Sugar Bowl Classic game.

The Gator game plan involves some razzle-dazzle plays which exploit Scherer's quickness. Mangan said Scherer is deadly on the halfback option pass.

Scherer hit Maloney for a touchdown pass in the Gator's 33-0 victory over Missouri-Kansas City in the regional championship game.

Scherer, Maloney and Linda Alderson were named to the all-

tournament team at the regional tourney along with Seybold and Pritchard.

The rest of the Gators also did a good share of damage at the tournament. Mangan cited the performance of Amy Alderson, Jayne Fleck, Nancy Gogan, Crystal Hicks (who scored two touchdowns), Judi Mumm, Theresa Saffranek, Tammi Scholz and Bev Schott as one of the reasons the Gators will be spending New Year's

Eve in New Orleans.

Although the "quadruplets" have kept the Gators in the thick of the national title hunt, the team has no superstars.

"It's a problem but also a benefit," Mangan said. "We don't have the outstanding athletes like last year's finalists had, but our all-around talent is better. Our chances of winning the national championship are much better this year."

Olympians to compete in NU-Japan gym meet

By Richard Cooper

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Nebraskans will see some of the best gymnasts in the world when the Japanese National team returns to the Bob Devaney Sports Center for a dual meet against the Nebraska men's and women's gymnastics team Sunday night.

Scott Johnson, one of the members of the United States Gold Medal Olympic team, will compete for the Cornhuskers. According to Nebraska men's coach Francis Allen, Johnson will help the team a lot.

The Huskers will be without junior Mike Bowers because of back problems. Allen said Bowers will be out of the lineup until January.

"Except for the NCAA finals, I cannot think of a meet that we will be more keyed up for than the Japan meet," Allen said.

Allen said he will use Wes Suter, Neil Palmer, Mike Epperson, Kevin Davis and Tom Schlesinger for the all-around competition.

According to Allen, Epperson will be the person to watch. Allen said Epperson has improved since the beginning of the season. He finished in third place in the all-around competition at the Nov. 16 Chicago Invitational.

"The last time a freshman finished that high in all-around was when Jim Hartung was a freshman," Allen said.

The Japanese averaged scores of 9.5 against Pittsburgh last week. The Japanese team is 1-1 in competition against American universities. Nebraska tied 2-2 in the series against Japan.

The Japanese team is made up of collegiate all-stars from all the

universities in Japan.

The women's team will have their hands full because this will be their first meet.

Coach Rick Walton said his team is ready to take on the experienced Japanese team.

Walton said some of the members of the Japanese women's team competed in the 1984 Olympics.

"Hopefully the intrasquad meet we had last Monday night helped get all the butterflies out of the girls' stomachs," Walton said.

The Cornhuskers are led by senior Terri Furman and junior Char Hagemann, one of the top all-arounders in the Big Eight Conference.

Walton said freshman Jackie Cassello will be another person to watch.

The meet will start at 7 p.m. and will be televised by the Nebraska Public Television network.

Pacific spikers take on Penn

By Jeff Korbelik

Daily Nebraskan Sports Reporter

Note: This is the second in a three-part series on Nebraska's opponents in the Midwest Regional.

The No. 3 rating in the nation is not always advantageous.

Case in point: The University of Pacific volleyball team received a bye in the first round of the NCAA tournament. But, the team must leave its home of Stockton, Calif., for the Midwest Regional in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Pacific Coach Terry Liskevych said the Midwest is the second toughest regional in the tournament behind the West Coast Regional. One West Coast team is placed in every regional because of the West's power.

"I would have liked to have hosted the regional, but once the decision is made you have to live with it," he said.

Pacific will play Penn State Saturday night. Should they win they will meet the winner of the Nebraska-Western Michigan game. The seventh-rated Cornhuskers

and eighth-ranked Penn State are the only two teams not from the West Coast in the CVCA top 10.

Liskevych said his team is looking forward to playing Penn State after suffering a loss to them in the third week of the season. The loss, one of the few blemishes on their 29-7 record, knocked them out of first place in the national rankings.

Shortly after the Penn State loss, Pacific lost its All-American setter, Jan Saunders, with torn ligaments. While Saunders was nursing her injury, Pacific proceeded to lose four more matches.

Pacific, in Liskevych's terms, has fielded its best team ever. Joining Saunders as a first team All-American is middle blocker Eileen Dempster. Saunders and Dempster are both seniors. Jun-

ior Julie Maginot, outside hitter, earned honorable mention.

Liskevych said the team is experienced and well-balanced. Pacific has five seniors, three juniors and four freshmen.

"We've had a winning tradition since 1979, and the lowest we have finished is fifth, therefore this group is very tournament experienced in NCAA play," he said.

Although the power of volleyball lies in the West, Liskevych said, there is more and more parity every year throughout the country.

This tournament offers Liskevych his last chance for the NCAA crown. After this season, his ninth, he is retiring and becoming the head coach of the U.S. Olympic and National teams. He had signed a four-year contract.

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