

Sports

Women face unknown against BYU, Utah

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

Several members of the Brigham Young women's swimming team won't be competing when the Cougars face Nebraska on Saturday.

Brigham Young women's swimming coach Stan Crump said the Cougars have been plagued by injuries and suspensions of six of their swimmers.

With so many athletes definitely out for the dual meet against the Cornhuskers, Crump said he doesn't know what to expect from the meet in Provo, Utah.

"My big concern right now is we don't have a lot of depth," Crump said. "The kids we do have have been training so hard they are tired."

Crump said it isn't unusual for the members of the men's swimming program at Brigham Young to take one to two years out of their

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—Huppert

athletic careers so they can complete a missionary service.

But Crump said it's very rare that women athletes at BYU interrupt their athletic careers in pursuit of a Mormon mission.

"It definitely doesn't work as an advantage," he said. "The chances are that a person who leaves the program for one to two years won't do as good when they come back because they are away from the training and they are older when they return."

Crump said the freestyle and the stroke events are the real strengths of the Cougars, although he said Brigham Young is at a decisive disadvantage in some of the longer stroke events because of lack of depth.

Individually, Crump said he's anxiously waiting to see the rematch between Brigham Young's Sandy Smith and Nebraska's Dana Powers.

Three years ago when the Huskers opened their season against Brigham Young, Crump said Smith upset

Powers in the 50-meter freestyle. "That's one of the few times Dana has been beaten in that event," he said.

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert said regardless of the depth problems the Cougars appear to be having, he is entering the meet with Brigham Young with a lot of concern.

Besides having to overcome the effects of competing at a 5,000-foot altitude, Huppert said, Nebraska also must overcome possible problems with jet lag. The Huskers will prepare for their meet against Brigham Young by facing Utah Friday night.

"Anytime you travel and compete on the same day there is reason for concern," Huppert said. "I don't know how well our athletes will adjust."

Huppert said in hopes that Nebraska will be able to overcome any problems the plane trip may pose, he is going to have several pre-meet workouts.

Each member of the Nebraska women's swimming team will be required to stretch and warm up for a longer period of time, and anyone who sleeps on the plane will be instructed to wake up and walk.

Huppert said in the Huskers' meet against the Utes he is going to have all the members of the women's squad swim either their first and third or first and fourth events.

But against Brigham Young, Huppert said Nebraska will be swimming all of its athletes in their top events.

"If we swim to our capability, we can win the meet and not make it real close," Huppert said.

Huppert said the main concern he has about the Huskers' dual against Utah is the element of mystery which surrounds the meet.

Because the Utes have competed only in one meet so far this season, Huppert said he hasn't had much of a chance to analyze their squad.

He said the only things he knows about the Utes are that they possess an "excellent" freestyler in Karin Palle and that they opened their season by finishing fifth in the six-team Colorado State Early Bird Invitational.

"We're a more talented team," Huppert said.



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska fullback Micah Heibel (41) breaks through the line for yardage against Missouri as Tiger defensive back Stan Long moves in to make the tackle.

Heibel happy with opportunity

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

When Micah Heibel entered this season, he knew he could be anything from a second- to a fourth-team player. Little did he know, however, that three games into the season he would step in and start at fullback for the injured Ken Kaelin.

"I decided to just go out and play my best," Heibel said. "About playing a key role, I thought it was possible, but not probable."

Even though the redshirt junior grew up in Lincoln and was a Parade Magazine All-American at Lincoln Pius X, Heibel said growing up with Nebraska football was different than playing it.

"When I stop and reflect, I remember the people I watched play and now that I'm there, it's two totally different things," he said. "It's not necessarily that I didn't always want to play at Nebraska, it just didn't seem it was possible at times."

Heibel has seen playing time in all eight of Nebraska's games this year and started in the South Carolina and Oklahoma State games. For the season, Heibel has carried the ball 17 times more than Kaelin and has 252 total yards, an average of over five yards per

carry.

Now that Keith Jones is sidelined until Nebraska's bowl game, the Cornhuskers have lost their top three I-backs from the start of the season. Heibel said the fullbacks now could get the call more often.

"I think the main weapon of the I-formation is the I-back," Heibel said. "But with all the injuries, the fullback could get it more to reduce the pounding the I-back takes."

"But Coach Osborne takes what's given to him. A good example is the Oklahoma State game. The fullback carried a considerable number of times. It just depends on how the defense comes out."

Thought the Colorado loss was a big setback, Heibel said, everybody took it well.

"Everyone looked at it with a healthy attitude," Heibel said. "We looked at the mistakes and we learned from them. You can't do it over, and life goes on, so it doesn't do any good to whine about it."

Despite the loss Heibel still feels the Huskers have a good shot at going to the Orange Bowl and winning it.

"Of course we wanted to win the rest of our games, and it's possible," he said. "At the beginning of the year we

had a goal not to lose, and we lost one, so we set a new goal not to lose anymore."

When Heibel first came to Nebraska he was projected to play at linebacker. That experiment didn't last too long, and Heibel is glad it didn't.

"I'm happy at fullback, happier than I would have been at linebacker," he said. "I like to know what you're supposed to do. That's the way it is on offense."

Several tickets still unclaimed

Students who have purchased their season tickets for the 1986-87 basketball season may pick up their tickets at the Nebraska ticket office at the South Stadium today through Friday.

The tickets may be picked up from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m.

The ticket distribution began on Monday and according to Nebraska Associate Ticket Manager Joe Selig, many season passes have not been picked up yet.

Knox to start Saturday

I-backs slowed down by injuries

If someone had told Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne in August that his top three I-backs would be sidelined for the season with injuries before the Oklahoma game was played, he probably would have laughed. . . . right after he shuddered with horror at the thought.

But now that Nebraska's worst offensive fears have become reality, a closer look at the situa-

tion might support the old adage that things aren't always as bad as they seem.



Chuck Green

The troubles began for Nebraska's I-back corps before the season began, when Doug DuBose re-injured his knee during a scrimmage in early September. DuBose had hurt his knee last season and had arthroscopic surgery performed last February. The injury knocked DuBose out for the season and placed a cloud of speculation over Nebraska's offense. How well would Keith Jones replace DuBose? Who would back up Jones?

A few weeks later, reserve I-back Jon Kelley injured his ankle and diminished the Corn-

huskers' supply of runners even more. Since his initial injury, Kelley has suffered from back spasms and has been unable to regain the form he displayed last spring.

On Monday it was announced that Jones would require surgery for a torn ligament in his right thumb. According to Osborne, the surgery was successful and Jones may return to the team for the Huskers' bowl game.

But not before. "That's a position where you can lose players in a hurry," Osborne said Monday after practice, just hours before Jones' surgery was scheduled to begin. "The thing that's really been unusual about it (Nebraska's situation) is that they're all kind of freakish (injuries)."

Freakish or not, the fact remains that Nebraska's once overloaded I-back roster has shrunk to three: sophomores Tyreese Knox and Jeff Wheeler and freshman Terry Rodgers. With those three I-backs, Osborne isn't quite ready to throw in the towel. He shouldn't be.

In fact, it might be time for Iowa State and Kansas, Nebraska's two remaining opponents before the Oklahoma shootout, to get out their cryin' towels. The Huskers' ground attack just became more dangerous.

Knox, the heir to the No. 1 I-back spot, has proven himself to be a better inside runner than Jones. Jones is by no means a slouch in comparison to Nebraska I-backs of the past. His 4.33 speed — the fastest in school history — makes

him a devastating player when he turns the corner and gets into the open field. But his inside power was lacking from the start, not because of his size but because of his running style.

Even in high school Jones' claim to fame was his outside speed. Nobody could catch him for three years at Omaha Central because he was too fast. Not much changed when he came to Nebraska; there was no need. After all, why fix a watch that already works?

But when an opposing defense stops the outside game, what's Jones to do?

Knox, a 5-11, 215-pound back from Daly City, Calif., runs a 4.4-second 40 yard dash, just a fraction of a second behind Jones, which makes Knox as much of an outside threat as Jones. His larger frame and more powerful leg drive also gives Knox a better chance when running a trap play through the line. This type of running will undoubtedly come in handy on Nov. 22 against Brian Bosworth and Company.

Wheeler, who has vaulted to the No. 2 I-back spot, is much smaller but is a tough inside runner. At 5-10, 175 pounds, Wheeler is actually smaller than Jones. He is slower, too. Most people are. But Wheeler is a power runner whose leg drive doesn't stop until he's underneath a pile of tacklers.

Which brings us to Rodgers. At 5-8, 175 pounds, Rodgers won't run over linebackers very

often, but he could pose a serious dilemma for opposing defenders. After Knox and Wheeler have run over and through tacklers up the middle, Rodgers may have the outside all to himself. With the defense poised to stop the inside game, Rodgers' 4.5 speed and inherited reflexes could prove deadly. Like Jones, Rodgers breaking into the open field is a cue for Nebraska fans to let go of their red balloons.

If ever there was a silver lining in a cloud, this would have to be it.

In my last column (Daily Nebraskan, Oct.) I said that I thought Nebraska middle guard Danny Noonan was the best collegiate lineman in America. But then Noonan's name was left off of my mid-season All-America team. I had originally included Noonan on my team, but for some reason which is still unknown to me, he and Temple running back Paul Palmer were left off when the column appeared in the DN the next morning. I appreciated the calls and letters I received on the matter — even though some of them were a little rude — and I apologize for the mistake. I wouldn't want to get Noonan mad at me would I?

Sorry, Dan.
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