

Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Gil Sanchez, bottom, practices with an unidentified Husker wrestler. Sanchez, 13-0 in dual meets this season, will try to improve his record along with Nebraska's.

Husker wrestlers plan to pounce upon Panthers at Cedar Falls

By Mark Derowitsch
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's wrestling team hopes to improve its 11-4 dual record today, but the task will not be easy since the Huskers must travel to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to take on No. 6-ranked Northern Iowa.

Although the Panthers are ranked higher than Nebraska, Husker coach Tim Neumann is optimistic.

"They are in the favorite's role, but I can see going 5-5 with them," Neumann said. "We'll go all out and if we don't win I'll be disappointed."

"We've wrestled them at almost every weight in open tournaments this season and we've won four of them. We just need to win two of the other six to win."

Northern Iowa coach Don Briggs said he also thinks ratings can deceive.

"The ranking doesn't make much difference," Briggs said. "Personally, I've ranked them quite a bit higher since I'm in a coaches' poll. I feel that they are a very strong team, and we're going to gear up for the meet."

Although Nebraska has a 3-23 record against Northern Iowa, Neumann said that won't affect the Huskers.

"The jinx isn't as strong as one might think," Neumann said. "In recent years, we've won three of the last six meets against them. Also, two years ago we wrestled them when they were fifth in the nation and we were 22nd. We went up to Cedar Falls and beat them. So I don't see a jinx anymore."

One factor that could help Nebraska is that the Huskers are coming off a big win against Big Eight defending champion Oklahoma.

"I feel it (the win over Oklahoma) should give us confidence to wrestle

with anybody," Neumann said. "On the other hand, we have to watch out for a letdown since teams tend to let down after reaching a goal, and one of our goals this season was to beat Oklahoma."

Briggs said he also feels that Nebraska's win should aid the Huskers.

"Being on a high can start a roll," Briggs said. "We're not taking them lightly and we're going to wrestle intensely against them."

Although the win against Oklahoma should give Nebraska momentum, Neumann said he thinks the key to the meet is basic wrestling.

"(The key to the meet) is wrestling on the mat," Neumann said. "Before we can contend for a top-10 position, we have to do that. In a way it was almost comical when someone would try to stand up against us and we would let them do so. But we've been working on it (at practice)."

Big-8 lead at stake-out

By Rob White
Senior Reporter

When Nebraska plays the Kansas State Wildcats Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the women's team will be gunning for a pair of lofty targets.

Not only would a victory give the Cornhuskers a school-record seven Big Eight Conference wins, but it also would boost them into a share of the conference lead with the Wildcats.

"I don't think we'll have any problem in getting up for the game," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said.

Nebraska is 6-4 in the Big Eight and 13-10 overall, while Kansas State is 7-3 and 18-5 overall.

The two clubs met Jan. 14 in Manhattan, Kan., where the Wildcats won 81-76.

"I think our previous history with Kansas State attributed to our defeat in that game," Beck said. "We went down there the year before and got blown out (101-67), and I think that deep in the back of our minds we didn't have the mental attitude that we

needed."

Nebraska fell behind by 12 points in the first half before closing the gap in the second.

"We came back in the second half and surprised ourselves a little and lost by five," Beck said. "I think we'll be better prepared mentally this time. Having the game on our home court will be an advantage, too."

Kansas State's January victory raised the all-time record between the two schools to 21-3 in favor of the Wildcats.

Beck said the Huskers will have to stop center Sue Leiding and forward Carlisa Thomas this time. Leiding scored 20 points and Thomas 17 in Manhattan.

"They've got good balance with Leiding and Thomas," Beck said. "Thomas is averaging 11 points and nine boards, and is the kind of player who can grab the rebound and dribble the length of the floor with it."

"We need to keep those two from scoring, but then they have four players who are averaging double figures and six that average seven points, so they're very balanced."

Beck said the Huskers may play in a zone in an attempt to stop Leiding, 6-2, and Thomas, 5-9.

"I'd like to play a little man, but I don't think we'll match up very well with them," Beck said. "We'll probably play some combination defenses and a little full-court defense. We'll mix it up and try to keep them guessing. The first time we played, we went to a zone late in the game and forced them to shoot from the outside, and that worked pretty well."

Nebraska topped Iowa State 71-65 Wednesday night despite shooting just 38 percent from the field.

"I didn't feel we played very well at all," Beck said. "Our shooting was the poorest it's been all season. Our confidence was down after losing a couple of big road games, but we did manage to win by six points."

Huskers dive into dual with Kansas Jayhawks

By David Mussman
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's swim teams will meet Kansas Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. It is the final dual of the season for both teams.

The Huskers, currently No. 15 in the country, will face a good challenge from the Jayhawks, said Coach Cal Bentz.

"They're a serious challenge," Bentz said. "We'll have to swim fast and compete well. It all comes down to that bottom line."

The distance races will be especially challenging for Nebraska to win, Bentz said. In the 1,650-yard freestyle, the Cornhuskers are depending on freshman Jaco Kruger. Kruger will be taking on last year's Big Eight champion for Kansas Chuck Jones.

The 100- and 200-yard backstroke events will feature Big Eight champion Ed Jowdy for the Huskers and runner-up Glenn Trammell for Kansas.

The Nebraska men have posted a record of 7-1 this season, including victories over three nationally ranked

teams. The Jayhawks come into Saturday's meet with a record of 4-3.

The Nebraska women, having one of their best seasons ever at 10-2, face their greatest Big Eight Conference challenge against Kansas, Coach Ray Huppert said.

"In every race there's a key matchup," Huppert said. "We're the two best teams in the conference, so no one race is more important than another."

Nebraska is the only Big Eight team that has defeated Kansas in dual competition, Huppert said. Except for the last two seasons, when Nebraska won the championship, Kansas has won every other year.

Huppert said two Huskers have already qualified for NCAA competition — Dana Powers, in two events, and Erin Hurley. He said he hopes to see more qualifying times this meet.

Eleven Husker seniors will compete in their last home meet Saturday — senior swimmers Jeff Brown, Ernie Duran, Mike Edmondson, Jim Fellows, Doug Hubner, Tony Poleo, Trischa Zorn, All-Americans Shauna Gilmore and Dana Powers and divers Eric Ognibene and Heidi Hecker.

Gymnasts to meet Auburn

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

In its last two meets, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team has broken the school record for overall team scoring.

The Cornhuskers will try to make it three in a row Sunday night as they face Auburn at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Against No. 1-ranked Utah Feb. 2, Nebraska scored 184.25. Sophomore Jeaneane Smith broke her own school record from last season with a score of 37.60.

Last Saturday, the Huskers hosted the Heartland Invitational and again set a school record of 184.90. Smith finished second in the all-around behind Oklahoma's Kelly Garrison-Stevens with a 37.75. Smith also broke the Nebraska record in the floor exercise with a 9.7.

Nebraska coach Rick Walton called the Huskers' performance Saturday night the best he's ever seen at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. He said he thought Oklahoma was surprised that they were defeated by Nebraska.

Walton said he thinks Nebraska can score at least 186 if the Huskers rotate

through the events without falling.

"If we can manage to hit all four events in one night, we can score 186 to 187," he said. "The funny thing is, we didn't even hit three events with Arizona State and Oklahoma, but we still scored a 184."

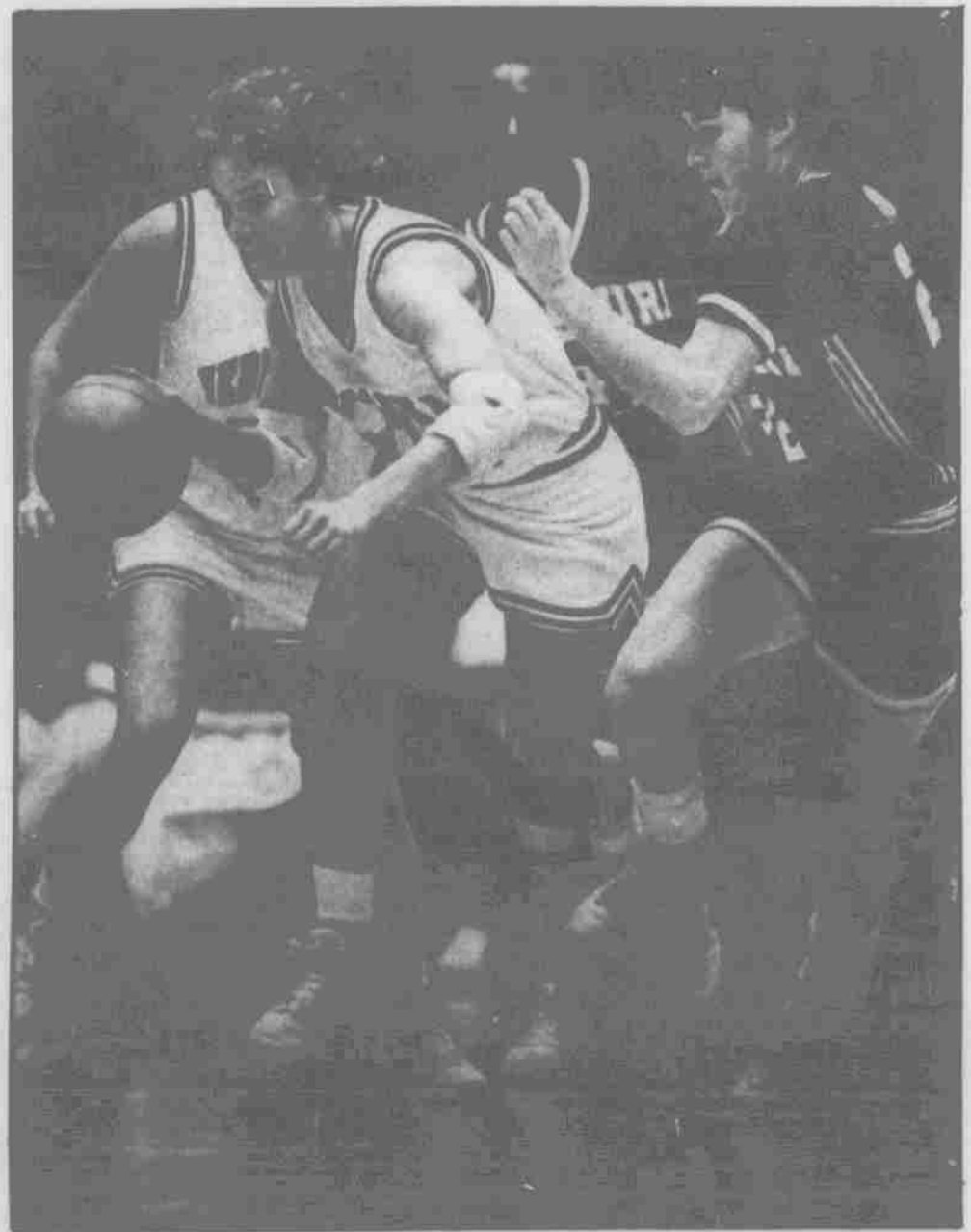
Walton will be competing against his former boss, Robert Dillard Sunday night. After graduating from Jacksonville State in 1979, Walton served as Dillard's assistant coach until 1980.

Walton said Dillard got him started in coaching and that he learned a lot while working for him.

Before Sunday night's meet, Auburn will compete in the Purina Cat Classic in Columbia, Mo., Friday and Saturday. Walton said Auburn may be affected by the traveling by Sunday.

Walton said that this week is the first in nearly a month that Nebraska has been able to practice for the entire week. He said that he hopes to accomplish some things with the younger team members during Sunday's meet.

Walton said he hopes to get freshman Angie Burdette into all-around competition for Nebraska. Burdette has been slowed by an ankle injury for the last two weeks and has seen limited action.



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Stacy Imming, shown here in a fast break during Nebraska's 88-78 win over Missouri Jan. 28, will try to do her part to lift the Cornhuskers past Kansas State Saturday.

All-American to sign with Huskers

By The Associated Press

Mickey Joseph, a high-school All-American quarterback from Marrero, La., announced Tuesday that he would sign a national letter of intent to play college football at Nebraska.

Joseph, who was to sign the letter of intent later Thursday at a news conference in Louisiana, had narrowed his choices to Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Joseph led Archbishop Shaw High School to a 19-1 record the last two seasons. During his senior season he passed for 1,087 yards and 12 touchdowns and rushed for 920 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Joseph said several factors influenced his decision.

"I like the academic program, the winning tradition and, last but not least, Broderick Thomas," Joseph said. "He really convinced me Nebraska is the place for me."

K-State defense tough

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The other transfer is William Scott, who came to Kansas State from State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo. The 6-2 guard is averaging 16.2 points a game.

Steve Henson, a freshman from McPherson, Kan., High School, is the other starter. Henson was a two-year all-state performer in high school, where he was also an All-American in track.

Nee said that the Wildcats are strong, even though they start three juniors, a sophomore and a freshman.

"I really think they're for real," he said. "I think they're a really fine basketball team."

"They've just got good balance."

Nee said that in their previous loss to Kansas State, Nebraska committed too many turnovers against the Wildcats' pressure defense. Nee said handling that pressure would be important in this game.

"The key, the big thing, is they really do a great job defensively," Nee said.

Tip-off is scheduled for 1:10 p.m. Saturday in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.