

Huskers in the swim for Friday meet

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

The picture painted by the Nebraska men's and women's swimming teams during Friday's Big Eight Invitational in Lawrence, Kan., won't be a fair representation of how competitive the conference will be.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz and women's coach Ray Huppert said they don't place a lot of faith in the meet's outcome because all teams involved will drastically improve by the end of the season.

Bentz said the Cornhuskers, who have captured eight straight Big Eight

titles, will instead use the meet to determine who will earn a trip to New Orleans. Nebraska will face Tulane in New Orleans on Nov. 14 after competing against Louisiana State in Baton Rouge, La., on Nov. 13.

"We're prepared to swim fast," Bentz said. "We don't have many meets during first semester, so we have a lot to accomplish."

Bentz said he is confident that this year's team is the best he has had during his 12 years of coaching at Nebraska. He said the Huskers have the talent and depth to challenge at the conference and national levels.

"I haven't changed my mind," Bentz said. "We're going to be awe-

some."

Bentz and Huppert said they can sense anxiety in their teams after seeing them work through a two-month pre-season conditioning schedule.

Huppert said Nebraska will be ready for the Big Eight Invitational. He said the Huskers have spent the last two months combating feelings of fatigue and boredom by altering their training schedule.

"When you go two months, it gets to be a little hairy," Huppert said. "Sometimes you have to recognize when a change (in training) has to be made."

Huppert said he doesn't place much faith in the meet's outcome

because the Kansas Jayhawks have opened their season by capturing its title each of the last 11 years that the meet has been scored.

But Huppert said Nebraska has proven it is a better team than Kansas each of the last three years by defeating the Jayhawks for the Big Eight title.

"Swimming is funny," he said. "In other sports, winning each game plays a role in your success. But in swimming we try to improve all year long and put everything together at the end of the season."

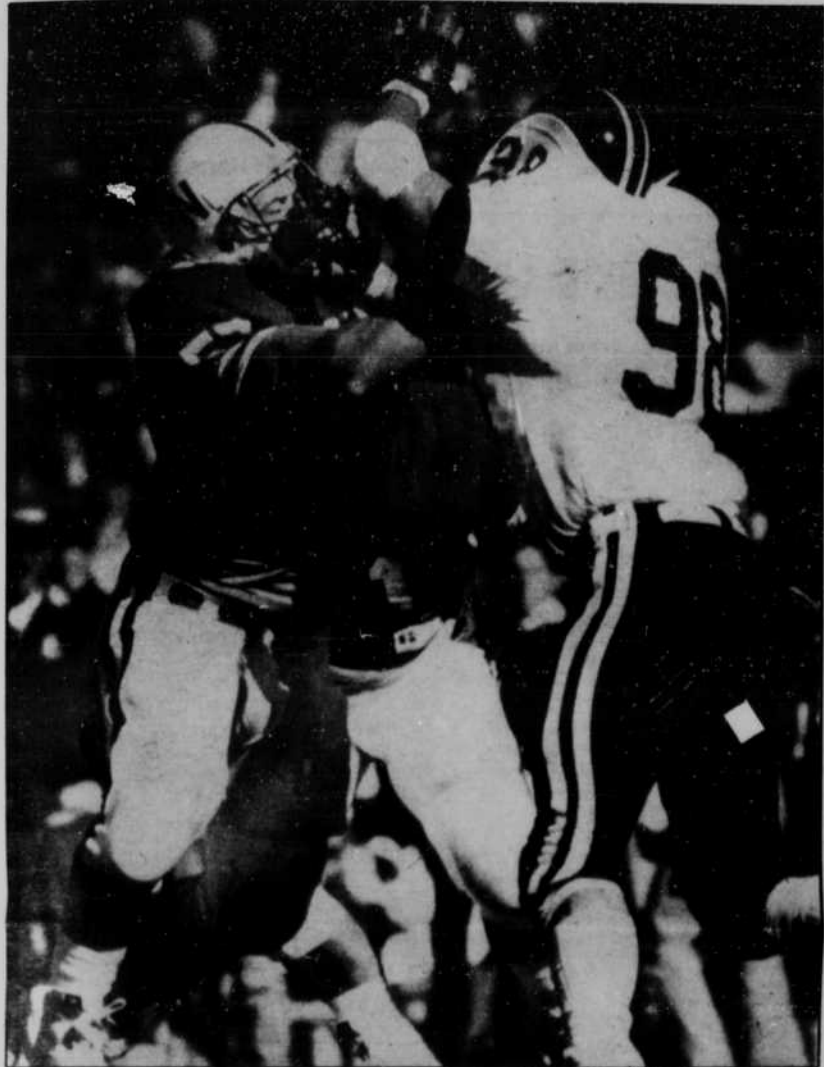
Iowa State women's swimming coach Ramsey van Horn said he will approach the meet with a different

attitude than Huppert. He said the Cyclones will enter the meet with victory on their minds.

"We aren't going to have our people swimming their second or third events. Hell, no," van Horn said. "We want to see our people do their best."

Van Horn said he's confident that Iowa State can challenge Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri of the meet's title because the Cyclones added 15 freshmen to their roster. He said the newcomers will provide needed talent and depth.

"We've got some talent," van Horn said. "So we're going to be better than in the past."



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Keven Lightner battles Kansas State's Don Blackburn.

Tackle wants field recognition

By Kent Endacott
Staff Reporter

Nebraska offensive tackle Keven Lightner wants to be recognized for his accomplishments on the football field, not what he can do in the weight room.

Lightner, a senior from Hastings Adams Central High School, has received much publicity for being Nebraska's strongest player. He combines his 6-foot-2, 285-pound frame with a 441-pound bench press and a 756-pound squat.

He also has 4.94 speed in the 40-yard dash.

Lightner said that while his size and speed got him noticed, he wants to be known as a great offensive lineman.

"Over the years here I think I've been a pretty good offensive lineman, but over the years people have mostly associated me with lifting records," Lightner said. "I just want to be recognized as being one of the best in the Big Eight and not just for the other things I've done."

Nebraska offensive line coach Dan Young said Lightner's strength has been showing on the field.

"Once he gets on a guy it's hard to get him off," Young said. "He has a lot of power and he can really dominate a guy."

Lightner said he rarely tries to finessé opponents. He said he likes to use his strength against defensive linemen.

"When it's fourth and two or third and two and coach calls an isolation right behind me, I know all I've got to do is come off hard," Lightner said. "This year I have a lot of confidence that I know I'm going to knock him down, and maybe I didn't have that before. Coach has been going behind

me and John (McCormick) quite a bit, it seems like."

After lettering as a reserve his sophomore and junior years, Lightner said he starting to get the recognition he has wanted. He said professional scouts have indicated they are interested.

"They all tested me back in March and I think they were all impressed with what I've done," he said.

"As far as the physical testing, I know I'm in the upper percentage in what I can do," he said. "I've got to keep proving myself on the field."

Lightner said he has been told he's not tall enough to play tackle in the National Football League, so he will try to be a guard.

"I'm trying to work on my football skills, blocking techniques," Lightner said. "I'm not tall enough to play tackle in the NFL, but as far as pulling guard I'm trying to work on my footwork because a guard has to move around a lot more than a tackle does."

Lightner said he hopes to be named to this year's all-Big Eight team. To do that, he said, he will have to beat out Oklahoma tackles Greg Johnson and John Phillips.

"The Oklahoma tackles are well publicized, and they're both big kids," Lightner said. "But I think I can do maybe a lot more things than they can."

They have a different kind of scheme, where I have to do a lot more pulling and things than they do. And maybe that's going to help me."

Lightner said he never used steroids. He said because of his size and strength he is often accused of using the drugs.

"As much as I lift, I can't bench press 550 pounds," Lightner said. "I can lift a lot, but it's not anything outstanding or astronomical like roids can do for you."


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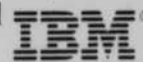
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