



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Jeff Coltvet (top) tangles with Notre Dame's Ward Gerardi.

Wrestlers hoping to defeat Sooners again

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Last season, the Nebraska wrestling team defeated Oklahoma for the first time in 36 years.

Now, Cornhusker wrestling coach Tim Neumann said he hopes a new 36-year losing streak against the Sooners isn't about to begin.

"Last year's win was a great one," Neumann said. "We definitely need to pull together this weekend, especially since we've only been on eight cylinders once this year."

"It's definitely been testing our character," he said.

Oklahoma, No. 13 in the latest Amateur Wrestling News coaches' poll, is 9-8-1 this season. The Sooners will join Northern Illinois in the triangular meet with the Huskers.

Nebraska defeated Oklahoma 25-16 last season.

"If everybody is healthy, which I anticipate, we match up with Oklahoma really well," Neumann said. "Almost every match is too close to call, so it will be a real exciting dual."

The Huskers meet the Sooners at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. They will face Northern Illinois at 6 p.m. The Sooners will wrestle Northern Illinois at 7 p.m.

Neumann said the Sooners have suffered numerous injuries this season, and Northern Illinois has "a lot of freshmen and sophomores in their lineup."

"They're not real experienced," he said of Northern Illinois.

One of the top matches against Oklahoma will be in the 150-pound weight class, where Nebraska's Keenan Turner, who has been ranked as high as ninth this season, will wrestle the Sooners' No. 10-ranked William Taylor.

Taylor originally signed with Nebraska in 1983, when he qualified for the NCAA Championships at 142 as a freshman. Taylor moved to 150 the next season — the same year Turner became a Husker.

"William beat Keenan out for the spot, but that was a long time ago," Neumann said. "William was dismissed from the team during the second semester, and Keenan went on to be named the national freshman of the year at 150."

Neumann said it is important for the Huskers to perform well this weekend to regain their confidence after last weekend's 18-13 loss to No. 20-ranked Missouri. Three of Nebraska's starters were absent at last week's dual.

"We were fairly happy with the team we put out there," Neumann said. "In about seven of the 10 matches, they performed about as well as they should have. We just wrestled with a sub-par lineup against Missouri."

Neumann said he was disap-

pointed with some aspects of this year's team, but that several of Nebraska's problems this season stemmed from injuries and other factors, such as not upsetting any top-

10 teams. In August, Neumann said he thought the Huskers had a good chance of finishing among the nation's top three teams this season.

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NU tunes up for Big 8 meet

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz will receive his final test before the Big Eight Championships by facing Iowa Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Bentz said the dual meet is important because it represents the Cornhuskers' final test before the conference championships, which will be March 3-5 at the sports center. He said Nebraska, which has won eight

straight Big Eight championships, would like to use the meet as a springboard to this year's Big Eight and NCAA Championships.

Bentz said the Hawkeyes are a strong team because they have an excellent group of athletes. He said Iowa men's swimming coach Glenn Patton has developed a strong walk-on program that compliments his scholarship athletes.

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