

Veteran Nebraska tennis team has NCAA Tournament potential

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

With most of the members of last year's Big Eight runner-up team returning, Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott hopes to duplicate or improve last year's finish.

"This year's team looks very promising," he said. "I'm anxious for this year to begin. This is the most talent I have seen as a coach."

McDermott, in his 8th year at Nebraska, said this year the Cornhuskers have a chance to make their first trip as a team to the NCAA championships.

McDermott is optimistic because Nebraska lost only one player, Brad Scheidegger, from last year's team. The Huskers return Pat Carson, half of the 1986 Big Eight No. 3 doubles champions, from a redshirt season.

The Huskers also return seniors Steven and Stuart Jung.

Steven Jung is a two-time NCAA participant in singles competition. The Jung brothers were rated as high as No. 19 in doubles competition last season.

Nebraska also returns senior Robert Sjöholm and junior Ken Feuer. Sjöholm is the defending Big Eight No. 2 singles champion and Feuer finished 2nd in the conference in No. 3 singles last season.

In addition, the Huskers signed Troy Larsen from Kearney. Larsen proved his worth by defeating McDermott, a former Husker varsity player, in a tournament earlier this summer in Lincoln.

Sophomore Andy Auch Moedy, from Kearney, also should add depth to the Husker squad, McDermott said. Auch Moedy played little with the varsity last year, but is expected to contribute this season.

With this lineup, the Huskers have a chance to win the Big Eight title over perennial powerhouses Kansas, which captured the title last year, and Oklahoma State, McDermott said.

The Huskers defeated Kansas 5-4 in a dual meet last season at a time when the Jayhawks were rated No. 25 in the country.

Practice will be the key to the Huskers success this season, McDermott said.

"My No. 1 goal is to work as hard as we can in practice," he said. "What is done on the court is done in practice. Our total attitude has to be to give 100 percent every time we go out."

McDermott said intense practice could lead to bigger things—like Big Eight and NCAA championships.

McDermott also hopes to see the Huskers break into the top 20 ratings for the first time.

"I just don't want to break into the top 20," he said. "I want to break in there and stay."

McDermott said the success of last year's team has aided recruiting.

"We are actually getting letters from kids we have been trying to recruit who wouldn't look our way," he said. "Boys who are ranked in the top 50 in the country are beginning to write about our scholarships and programs."

McDermott said he hopes last year's success carries over to this year's team.

"This is the year we make it happen," McDermott said. "It all starts in practices. The guys are wanting it (success) for themselves."



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Nebraska tennis player Steve Jung returns a shot during action last season. Jung and his twin brother, Stuart, return to lead an experienced Husker team.

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