

Injury laden wrestlers to face Missouri's Tigers

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weekend," Neumann said. Nebraska brought home seven champions from the Cowboy Open and had 10 wrestlers reach the finals. Completing the Huskers' lineup tonight will be sophomore Layne Billings at 150 pounds, senior Jeff Coltvet at 158 pounds, sophomore Scott Chenoweth at 167 pounds, senior Cody Olson at 177 pounds and sophomore Sonny Manley in the heavyweight division.

Neumann said Tommy Robbins is the tentative Husker starter at 190 pounds.

Included in the Tigers' lineup tonight will be former Columbus High School graduate Charlie Sherertz. Sherertz, a 190-pound senior, won two Nebraska state high school championships before accepting a scholarship to wrestling powerhouse Iowa. He transferred to Missouri last January.

"We don't have anyone in the (wrestling) room that can beat Sherertz," Neumann said.

Robbins is slated to face Sherertz but Neumann said the Huskers will forfeit the match if they have a comfortable lead.

NOTES:

- Things won't get much easier for

Nebraska on Saturday. Nebraska will compete in the St. Louis Open — a meet that will include conference rivals Oklahoma State (ranked No. 1) and Oklahoma (ranked No. 13). No. 9 Wisconsin and No. 19 Notre Dame will also wrestle at the meet.

No team scoring will be kept in the meet.

"That's going to be a bear of a meet," Neumann said.

Neumann said the Huskers will enter the meet with the goal of placing four team members in the finals.

"That would be super," he said.

'This year everybody's attitude is good and we're coming off a great weekend.'
—Neumann

• Missouri's probable starters for tonight's meet: Buddy Smith (118 pounds), Todd Clements or Eric DeVenney (126 pounds), Brett Gray or Dan Dunkin (134 pounds), Danny Hayes (142 pounds), Greg Warren (150 pounds), Darrin Davis (158 pounds), Steve Blanner (167 pounds), Reggie Burrell (177 pounds), Sherertz, and heavyweight Pat O'Neal.

• Nebraska leads the all-time series with the Tigers 19-13-2 and last defeated Missouri in 1987, 22-15, at Columbia.

Coach looks to bust weak defense

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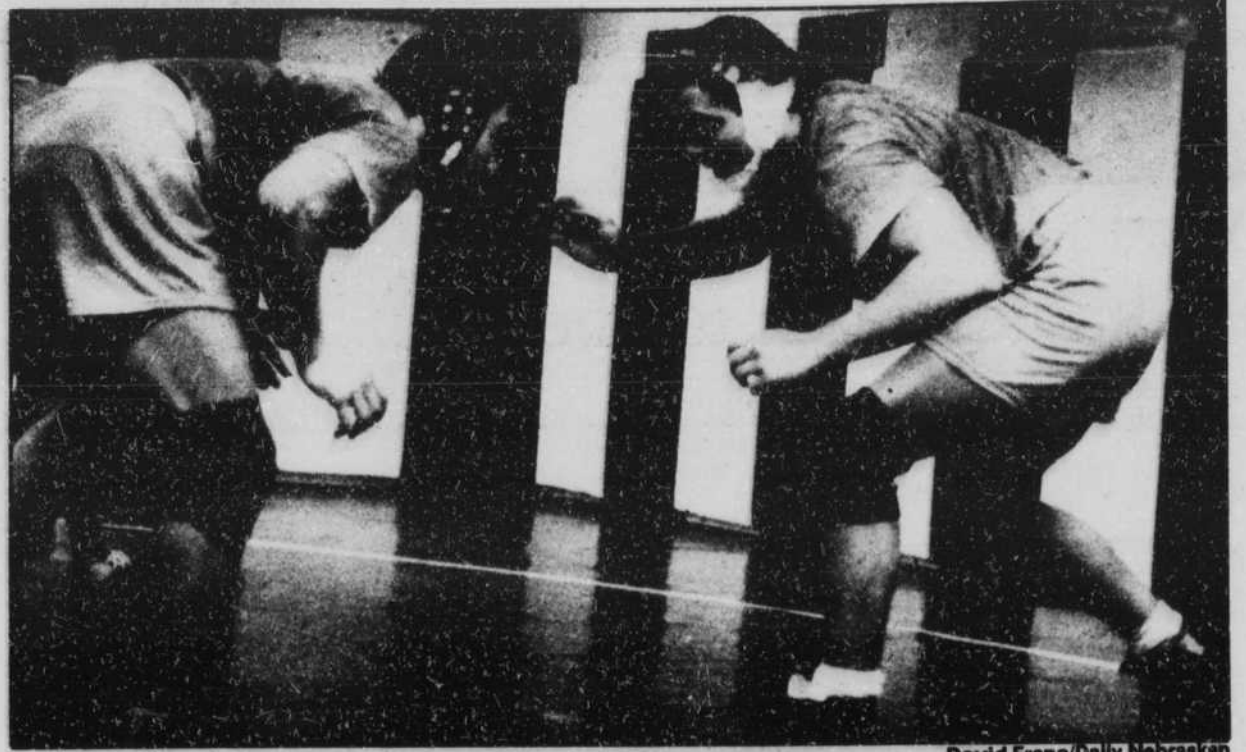
in its secondary and also has had to replace key people on the line.

Scott Garl, a Sooner reserve last year, leads the secondary with 63 tackles. He's also picked off three passes and has broken up another five.

Ver Plank said Kevin Thompson is the best player in the Sooners' secondary. Thompson, a 5-foot-11 junior from Houston, Texas, has been in on 56 tackles and has six interceptions.

"Their defense is tough and very physical," Ver Plank said. "Thompson is probably the best in their secondary."

Linebacker Frank Blevins leads the team in tackles with 88. He also has two quarterback sacks.



David Frana/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska 177-pound senior Cody Olson attempts a move on teammate Tommy Robbins during Monday's practice at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Arena. "Since I've been a sophomore in high school, I've wanted to be an All-American and win a national championship," Olson said.

Wrestler reaches toward dream

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

A seven-year dream could come true if Nebraska senior Cody Olson has the wrestling season he hopes to have.

Olson, a 177-pound wrestler from Rocklin, Calif., said some of his goals for this season have been goals he has had for seven years.

"Since I was a sophomore in high school, I've wanted to be an All-American and win a national championship," Olson said. "It will be satisfying when I attain that goal."

Olson will begin his bid for All-America status tonight when he and the rest of the Huskers face Missouri in a Big Eight dual in Columbia, Mo.

Olson said he also wants to repeat as Big Eight champion this season. He won the title at 177 pounds two years ago before redshirting last season. Olson's championship was the Huskers' first individual conference title since 1984.

At the 1987 National Collegiate Athletic Association championships, Olson compiled a 1-2 record.

But six of the eight All-America's at Olson's weight completed their eligibility last season, which gives Olson and Nebraska coach Tim Neumann optimism for this season.

"It is definitely possible for Cody to be an All-American," Neumann said.

Neumann said Olson also has a good chance to repeat as Big Eight champion because of his improvement during his redshirt season.

"He is better this year because of redshirting last year," Neumann said. "If it would be possible for a wrestler to wrestle himself he would probably beat the wrestler he was two years ago."

Olson defeated last season's Big Eight champion at 177 pounds, Chris Barnes of Oklahoma State, two years ago for the conference championship.

Olson said he made a goal when he came to Nebraska to make his senior year his best.

"I've been working as hard as possible to peak in my fifth year," Olson said. "My attitude has been to go in and work hard every day and I feel my fifth year will be my best year."

Olson's attitude has apparently rubbed off on his teammates as he has been named one of the Huskers' captains for the season.

Neumann said he recruited Olson by chance. He said he was in California recruiting another wrestler when he noticed Olson, learned he was a

good wrestler and decided to recruit him.

Olson credited the Husker coaching staff and his family for putting him in position to obtain his dream.

"The support from my family has really been instrumental and has really been important," Olson said. "My family has really been supportive of me and that is great."

Olson said his family's support involved allowing him to come to Nebraska to wrestle. Olson said when he graduated from high school, he wanted to wrestle in the Midwest.

"This is where wrestling is," Olson said. "Forty people from the Big Eight qualified for nationals last year and 18 were All-Americans, which is most out of any conference. This is the best conference for wrestling — but I am biased."

Olson said he thinks Nebraska has a good chance of being ranked in the top 10 this season. The Huskers are currently ranked No. 18.

"We have steadily improved over the last four years, but it has been frustrating not to be in the top 10," Olson said. "I feel we have a good chance of being there this year if we keep working and have no injuries."

Olson has an overall record of 57-54-5 after compiling a 9-32-2 record as a freshman.

Coaching counts; OU will prevail

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earned All-Big Eight honors while allowing Oklahoma to pile up 419 yards rushing in the Sooners' 17-7 victory against Nebraska last season.

Oklahoma will also exploit Nebraska's glaring weaknesses on offense. The Huskers' offense has been plagued by inconsistent efforts that display its mediocrity. It has also been bothered by split end Morgan Gregory, who drops more passes than he catches.

Even if the Nebraska offense is having one of its better days — and that's doubtful — against Oklahoma, Gregory will find a way to hinder the Husker effort.

The remaining area in which Oklahoma holds a superior advantage is tradition. Nebraska fans like to say that Oklahoma's total domination of the Huskers is due to "Sooner Magic."

But the fact is that it all comes down to coaching. The sooner Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and his loyal followers realize that Osborne is the second-best coach in the conference behind Oklahoma's Barry Switzer, the better off they will be. It also wouldn't hurt them to realize that Osborne is the third-best recruiter in the conference behind Switzer and Colorado coach Bill McCartney.

With factors in mind, it is obvious Oklahoma will beat Nebraska. The Huskers and Sooners possess two of

the most respected programs in college football. But the reality is Oklahoma is building for the future while Nebraska's future is filled with question marks.

The biggest question facing the Husker program is in terms of recruiting, in which two mediocre classes are ready to take their turn in the spotlight next season. If the recruiting class of 1985 — which included such players as Broderick Thomas, Steve Taylor and LeRoy Etienne — can't beat Oklahoma, what gives Nebraska any right to even imagine that any Husker team can beat the Sooners? Sweet dreams, Nebraska fans.

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NU to take over 'Their House'

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yards on 24 carries to help the Sooners down Nebraska. But Anderson is just a reserve this year. Leon Perry, a redshirt senior, has rushed for 547 yards in 208 attempts this year.

Another thing the Husker defense has to do is force the Sooners to pass. A completed pass in Norman happens as frequently as a Democrat wins the presidency. But the passes Oklahoma happens to complete usually occur during key fourth-quarter drives against the Huskers.

The only guarantee this game has to offer is that the Huskers' defense won't be on the field, unless the Sooners find themselves down by 14

points in the fourth quarter.

But to stop the Oklahoma offense and evict the Sooners from their home, Nebraska needs the help of its offense. This was evident in last year's game.

After former I-back Keith Jones scored on a 25-yard run in the first quarter, it seemed the biggest drive mounted by the Husker offense was about 15 yards.

The Huskers must come out and at least make the Sooner defense work up a sweat during the first half. And to do that, Nebraska coaches must use I-back Tyreese Knox more and must establish a passing game.

Knox, a 5-foot-10, 215-pound senior, must spell starting I-back Ken

Clark more. Knox is a hard-nosed runner who picks up a lot of yards up the middle, whereas Clark is more of a finesse runner.

Husker quarterback Steve Taylor must also have a career day against the Sooners. If he does, and if the "Sandman" breaks the wishbone, the Sooners will have to check out the latest trends in the real estate market.

So Oklahoma, you're welcome to come up to Lincoln to live. Because after Saturday's 24-17 loss to Nebraska, "Your House" will become the new and improved "Our House."

Derowitsch is a sophomore news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter.

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