Daily Nebraskan
Friday, December 2, 1988

# Nee hopes Huskers recover at tournament

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

After Wednesday's 77-75 loss to Michigan State, Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee isn't very confident entering this weekend's Ameritas Classic.

Nee said the loss to the Spartans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and last year's tournament may play a part in this year's classic. Last season, the Cornhuskers lost to Ohio State 72-63 in the championship game.

"I certainly think, from last year, that there's no guarantee," Nee said. "We have to come out, play hard and play smart and get the job done."

The Huskers open the tournament with a 6:38 p.m. game Friday against North Texas State. In the other first-round game, San Jose State will face Army following the first game.

Saturday's championship game will begin at 8:08 p.m., preceded by the consolation game at 6:08.

Nee said if Nebraska, 1-1, plays well, they can win the second-annual tournament.

"Being the host team, you always think you're the favorite," Nee said. "But you're supposed to think that anyway because you're playing on your home court."

Nebraska center Rich King said the Huskers must improve and avoid mistakes they made against Michigan State in order to win the tournament. King, a 7-foot-2 sophomore from Omaha Burke High School, is averaging 7 points and 7.5 rebounds a game this season.

Against the Spartans, the Huskers blew a 16-point first-half lead. Nebraska committed 15 turnovers and were out-rebounded 42-32 for the game.

"We haven't made those type of errors until (Wednesday)," King said. "It was tough to lose like that because it's the first time we've done it. Now we can look at it and work on those things."

King said the Huskers will also have to improve on playing against man-to-man defense.

"Against that defense, I'd say we haven't been able to execute against it," King said. "I know it sounds like a cliche, but (against Michigan State) we were unable to get the big plays when we needed them."

In the first round, the Huskers will play North Texas State, a team which finished with a 17-13 record last season. The Mean Green Eagles advanced to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament but were defeated in the first round by North Carolina.

The Green Eagles are led by center Ronnie Morgan. Morgan scored 16 points in North Texas State's season-opening loss to Louisiana Tech. Morgan was named the Southland Conference newcomer of the year last season.

San Jose State returns three starters from last year's team, which finished 14-15. The Spartans are led by 6-1 guard Steve Haney. Haney, a senior from Lansing, Mich., averaged 12.6 points a game last season.

This season, the Spartans opened the year with a win against Sonoma State.

Army, which comes into the game with a 2-1 record, is led by sophomore Derrick Canada. Canada, a 6-2 sophomore form East Orange, N.J., averaged 13.9 points a game last season.

**Ameritas Classic Schedule**

| Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|
| 6:38 pm Nebraska vs. N. Texas State | 6:08 pm Consolation Game |
| 8:30 pm San Jose State vs. Army | 8:08 pm Finals |

at the Bob Devaney Sports Center

# Volleyball team to face 'confident' Weber State

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

When Weber State volleyball coach Cindy Fredrick watches her squad play, she sees a team that has made great strides during her four years with the program.

When Fredrick watches films of the Nebraska volleyball team, she sees a talent-laden squad that serves as an ideal role model for her players.

Fredrick said it is because of those reasons that she has mixed emotions entering Weber State's match against Nebraska in the first round of the Mideast Region portion of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament. The match, which will be the Cornhuskers' final home appearance of the season, begins at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

Fredrick said she is looking forward to the match because it serves as a nice reward for Weber State. The Wildcats reversed a 9-24 record four seasons ago by compiling a 32-7 mark this season en route to winning the Big Sky Conference title.

But Fredrick said she is cautiously optimistic because the match will be Weber State's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Nebraska, 27-4, qualified for the NCAA Tournament by capturing the Big Eight tournament title Nov. 26 in Salina, Kan. The Huskers are seeded second in the Mideast Region, while Weber State is seeded 7th.

The remaining opening-round matches in the Mideast Region are top-seeded Illinois against eighth-seeded Illinois State, third-seeded Oklahoma against sixth-seeded Western Michigan and fourth-seeded Notre Dame against fifth-seeded Penn State. The first-round matches will be played at campus sites, with winners advancing to the Mideast Regionals on Dec. 9 and 10 at Champaign, Ill.

"I know that Nebraska is an extremely good team. I know they're very physical and very power-oriented," Fredrick said. "But we have to be looking forward to the match. If we weren't, we might not be ready to play."

Fredrick said Weber State needs to play as a team and be fundamentally sound in order to defeat Nebraska. She said she isn't concerned about her squad being intimidated by the tradition-rich Huskers.

"We are not easily intimidated," Fredrick said. "We're confident that we will play well."

Fredrick said her biggest concern entering the match is the presence of Nebraska All-America setter Lori Endicott. She said Endicott, a preseason All-America selection who is the two-time Big Eight player of the year, is as good a player as there is in the country.

"She's outstanding," Fredrick said. "She's a good setter."

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit echoed Fredrick's thoughts. He said Endicott is the best collegiate setter in the country.

"She has the ability to win matches in a lot of different ways," Pettit said. "She is an excellent server, one of the best blocking setters in the country and a very good defensive player."

**NCAA VOLLEYBALL**
*tonight*
**Nebraska vs. Weber State**
*7:30 p.m. NU Coliseum*

Pettit said he is confident Endicott and the rest of the Husker starters — outside hitters Val Novak, Angie Millikin and Janet Kruse and middle blockers Carla Baker and Virginia Stahr — will play well. He said Nebraska focuses on the NCAA Tournament.

"Obviously, we can't get to the Final Four if we don't beat Weber State," Pettit said.

Pettit said his only regret entering the match is it's being staged on the same night as a Nebraska basketball tournament. The Ameritas Classic, which includes Nebraska, North Texas State, Army and San Jose State, begins at 6:38 p.m. Friday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We'd prefer to be playing on a different day," Pettit said. "It's important to have a good crowd."

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# NU wins Sprint Classic

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Spectator interest sparked the Nebraska men's swimming and diving team to a victory at the first annual Husker Sprint Classic at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Thursday night.

Nebraska coach Cal Bentz said he was pleased with the reactions of the crowds.

"I think (the Husker Sprint Classic) was a good idea," Bentz said. "It is important for Nebraska to do exceptionally well against nationally-ranked teams.

"The crowd was supportive and a well-behaved swimming crowd."

Nebraska outdistanced second place Southern Methodist University 60-48. UCLA was 3rd with43 points, followed by defending national champion Texas with 27. Stanford finished in 5th place with a 23-point total.

The Cornhuskers took first place in four events. The Huskers won the 200 medley relay in 1 minute, 30.85 seconds.

Nebraska's Peter Williams won the 100 freestyle in an NCAA qualifying time of 44.50 seconds.

Junior Sean Frampton won the 50 breaststroke in of 25.52 seconds. Nebraska also won the 200 freestyle relay in a time of 1:21.18.

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