

Women swimmer's season called a success

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Although his team has a 3-4 dual record this year, Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert called the season's first three months a success.

Huppert said the Cornhuskers, who are predominately made up of freshman and sophomores, have come a long way since losing their season-opening dual meet to Colorado St. in Fort Collins Nov. 5.

"I'm real pleased and excited where we are but we have a long way to go," he said.

Nebraska hasn't accomplished all the goals it has set for the season, Huppert said.

"We are just scratching the surface."

But more than half of this year's team has already produced nearly 48 lifetime best swims, Huppert said.

"I am pleased but not content with what has been happening with the team," Huppert said. "I have been especially pleased with our meets at home this season."

Nebraska is 2-0 in home meets. The Huskers defeated Southern Illinois and Iowa at home. Nebraska's other win came against Indiana in the National Dual Meet Championships

at Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Dec. 3. The Huskers lost to Alabama and Arizona at the National Dual Meet. Nebraska also finished 3rd in the Sun Devil Classic Nov. 18 and 19 at Tempe, Ariz. The Huskers' other dual loss came against then nationally-ranked Arizona State.

'I'm real pleased and excited where we are but we have a long way to go.'

-- Huppert

Nebraska began the season by finishing 2nd in the Big Eight Invitational Oct. 28 and 29 in Ames, Iowa. Defending Big Eight champion Kansas won the meet.

"The Southern Illinois meet was a big boost," Huppert said. "We swam well at Colorado State but lost. We swam better at Arizona State and have improved from the first meet."

Nebraska has shown improvement throughout the season, Huppert said. "... and that is a big factor in our future success," Huppert said. "All

of our meets were the same. We progressed well and if you are a coach all you like to see is the team continuing to improve."

Freshmen Kelly Fox and Laura Wilborn have made an impression on Huppert. Huppert said he is also impressed with the performance of junior Kathy Barragan.

"These three have all swam lifetime bests and have performed well," Huppert said.

Freshman Laurel Hill, a sophomore academically, has swam lifetime bests in all her events, Huppert said.

"I think (swimming lifetime bests) has given her confidence," Huppert said of Hill's performance. "Laurel sat out of swimming last

year (after graduating from Ralston High) because she did not think she was good enough to perform at the college level.

"But she has become a strong part of our program. And we were excited to have her tryout."

The Huskers need to work on their technique, particularly their turns, if they want to be considered a favorite to dethrone Kansas as conference champ, Huppert said.

"After (the first semester) the team has had the opportunity to see what they can do," Huppert said.

"But there are some major things we have got to do if we want to look as if we can be the conference champs."

"It has been a fun semester." Nebraska will travel to San Diego,

Calif., Dec. 31 to compete in the Cal-San Diego Collegiate Invitational. The Huskers will also compete in the San Diego Senior Invitational Jan. 6 and 8.

Nebraska mainly will be using the trip to California as a training period, but the scores will count toward the Huskers' season record, Huppert said.

Huppert said he is putting more emphasis on the training aspect of the California trip than how the Huskers score.

"The score will count on our record but we don't want that to interfere with our training," Huppert said. "We want to leave there with a couple of wins."

NU swimmers to face Olympians, international field in '88 U.S. Open

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Six members of the Nebraskaa men's swimming and diving team will face former Olympians and foreign swimmers in one of the toughest challenges of the season Dec. 18-20.

The Huskers will compete in the 1988 U.S. Open at the Indiana University-Purdue University Natatorium in Indianapolis, Ind.

Cornhusker senior Mike Irvin and juniors Sean Frampton and Jaco Kruger will make the trip. Sophomore Peter Williams, freshmen Rhett Talbert and Ryan Bell round out the Husker contention.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said he is looking for the Huskers to improve on their fifth place finish in the university division.

"We want to place higher than fifth, which we placed last year," Bentz said. "And we can only do that by swimming faster than the other people."

"If we make a smooth transition, we'll swim fast," Bentz said. "There will be some of the top swimmers in the world at the meet and the pool is one of the finest facilities around, so we're looking forward to a very fast and competitive atmosphere. We are not going down there with the idea of swimming slowly."

Teams from many countries, including China, Canada and Hungary, will be competing in the international meet, Bentz said.

In last year's U.S. Open held in Orlando, Fla., Williams startled the swimming world by finishing the 50-meter freestyle in a time of 22.63

seconds. At the time, that was the eighth fastest performance in history.

Williams then came back to the same pool in April and unofficially broke the world record with a 22.18 clocking. But because Williams is a citizen of South Africa, the record was never recognized by FINA, the governing body of swimming. Williams now ranks second on the all-time list. Matt Biondi, a 1988 gold-medal winner in the Seoul Olympics, holds the world record time of 22.14.

If more Huskers can qualify for the NCAA championships at the U.S. Open, Bentz said, then the first half of the season may be considered a success.

"We finished the season 3-1 (in dual meet competition) and qualified nine different people in different events. If we can qualify more at this meet, then it is going to be an excellent season," Bentz said.

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Huskers will have 'extra test' today

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Although some of the Nebraska men's basketball team have begun to take final exams, coach Danny Nee said the whole team will have an extra test Saturday.

But the Cornhuskers' exam won't be in the classroom. Instead, Nebraska will play Furman on the basketball court in a game Nee said he thinks is one of the most important on the Huskers' schedule.

"Nebraska has to be able to get a team on the floor that's able to concentrate on basketball for 40 minutes," Nee said. "Furman plays hard, and if we're not ready, we'll be in trouble."

Tipoff is set for 7:35 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nee said the Huskers need guard Eric Johnson, forward Beau Reid and center Rich King to play better offensively in order to win.

Johnson leads the Huskers with a 15.3 points per game average, while King and Reid are averaging 10 and 8.2 points per game, respectively.

"Those are the three key players for us," Nee said. "I think we have to get them involved to be successful."

Furman, 3-2, is led by guard David Brown. Brown, a 5-foot-10 senior from Darlington, S.C., is averaging 18.2 points per game this season.

Brown also leads the team in three-point shooting, connecting on 18-36 shots.

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