

Swimming teams win over Iowa State

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz refused to make any predictions about his team's chances in the Big Eight after seeing the Cornhuskers crush Iowa State 74-39 Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

Bentz said he could not use the meet as a fair measuring stick of how dominant Nebraska will be this year because he expects each team in the Big Eight to be competitive. He said the Huskers, who have captured nine straight Big Eight titles, should expect a tough challenge each time they swim



Bentz

against conference competition.

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert said his team already knows it will face a tough challenge when it competes against Big Eight competition. He said the Huskers learned this when they posted a 64-49 victory against Iowa State on Saturday.

The Husker women also dropped a 192-108 decision to Minnesota Friday in Minneapolis, Minn.

Huppert said the most pleasing aspect about his team's performance was its ability to come back from its loss to Minnesota. He said the Huskers did not show any effects of the loss to the Golden Gophers while competing against Iowa State.

"I'm very pleased with the way they turned around Saturday," Huppert said. "Our kids did a super job.

That's pleasing."

Huppert said Nebraska placed itself in a vulnerable position entering the meet against Minnesota because it had beaten the Golden Gophers each of the last three years. He said Minnesota used superior depth, plus the revenge factor, to defeat Nebraska.

"I think our inexperience showed," Huppert said, "but if we can leave a meet feeling like we learned something, that's what counts."

Huppert said the top performers for the Nebraska women were Carole Johnson, Lynne Braddock and Allison Barker. Johnson swept the meet's 200-yard backstroke competitions, while Braddock claimed a pair of 50 freestyle titles. Barker, a sophomore from Cambridge, England, won the

200 butterfly competition against Iowa State.

Bentz said the top performers for the Nebraska men were Tom Stus and Ryan Bell. He said Stus looked "awfully good" while winning the 200 butterfly in 1:54.24, while Bell won the 1,000 freestyle in 9:35.72 and the 200 freestyle in 1:42.46.

Bentz said Bell's performance was the best of the day for Nebraska. "Not only did he win," Bentz said, "but he swam reasonably good times."

The Huskers' performances against Iowa State were hampered by the Cyclones' pool, which is well-kept but not fast, Bentz said.

"It's a reasonably good facility. It's adequate," he said, "but it's not all that big."

Bentz and Huppert said their

squads will welcome the upcoming open weekends. The Husker men will take a week-long break from competition before facing Utah on Feb. 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Arizona State and Stanford on Feb. 4 in Tempe, Ariz.

The Nebraska women will return to action on Feb. 4, when they face Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark.

Bentz and Huppert said they aren't worried about taking a break from competition midway through the season.

"Early in the season it might have been a problem, because we have eight straight weeks of practice and that tends to be a little boring," Bentz said. "But we'll relish this break because it will give us a chance to rest a little bit even though we have to work especially hard."

Former guard reminisces about NU football

The bench on the Memorial Stadium sideline is still warm at the spot occupied by my butt for the last two years. There is still some blood from a scraped knee near the south 20-yard line.



Mark Antonietti

I left with a Big Eight championship ring, two watches, a slight limp, two souvenir jerseys, three pairs of turf shoes and all the gray T-shirts I could carry. I also managed to smuggle out some memories.

While the memories are still in my

head, here are some notes on what I'll miss most about Nebraska football.

I'll miss running through the tunnel and onto the field -- an experience that never failed to give me a solid adrenaline/beta-endorphine buzz. I'll miss the feeling of contact on an open field block, chasing down a defensive back and having that split second of impact when everything turns white, then comes into focus again.

I'll miss the travel, too. Since I've been here, we've traveled to California, Arizona, New York City, Miami, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and, of course, Norman, Okla. On some occasions, I even made it out of the hotel long enough to see these places.

Usually, though, time was spent like coaches spend their time -- in two worlds. One world is a dark cave where images flicker on a screen,

forward and backward -- films. The other world is a stadium. Stadiums with different sizes, colors, bands and exit signs, but all measuring 100 X 53 yards.

I'll miss the bowl trips when I did get away and see things: The art deco district in Miami, Miami Beach with its fat, leather-skinned old men and tanned, topless Euro-peoples and "Woodies by the Beach."

I'll miss seeing people I saw day in and day out. Some became friends, others became acquaintances, all became fixtures in a place in which I spent 40-plus hours per week. I'll miss people talking to me because I'm on the team, even if it's only to try to badger me into telling them whether we'll beat the spread this week or if Steve's shoulder is better, or "Why can't Tom Osborne revamp the offense or get a new hairstyle?"

I'll miss breaking the huddle and running up to the line thinking about Malaysia, malaise or an old girlfriend (maybe that's why I didn't win the Outland: a lack of concentration). Hell, I'll even miss two-a-day workouts, when I ached in muscles that I never knew I had and would wake in the middle of the night to coaches' whistles heard in a dream.

And the dreams! Don't get me started -- 30-yard line with third down and seven miles of Dante's inferno to go (you know the place: lakes of fire, disembodied faces ... the whole bit).

I got a strange sort of pleasure out of those days -- an intoxicating mix of pain, self-pity and hope that the prayers I had sent to the patron saint of PT had paid off.

The thing I'll never forget is walking off the field at the end of the

Orange Bowl Classic amid taunts of "fat-ass" and "baldy" directed at myself and other players by the Miami fans.

"We're No. 1!" they yelled, 10 feet away from me. "You're number two," I replied and laughed.

"Thank God these geeks hadn't been served beer," I thought. "It could have been worse."

As I neared the exit tunnel, the jeers faded away and I looked around me. It suddenly was quiet. I looked up into the stands, and for the first time in five years of college football, I was able to spot my parents in the stands. They waved. I waved back. I waved goodbye.

Antonietti is a senior English major from Chicago. He is a former Husker reserve offensive guard who transferred to Nebraska from Notre Dame and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.

Technical fouls provide momentum as Huskers down Cowboys 71-58

By Nick Hodge
and Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporters

Wyoming men's basketball coach Benny Dees probably won't listen to any more recommendations from the Nebraska student section.

After being assessed with his first technical foul, Dees said he took the advice of the Cornhusker students sitting behind the Cowboy bench and proceeded to get hit with two more technicals, giving him an automatic ejection.

Nebraska forward Beau Reid hit all six technical free throws to give the Huskers a 55-40 lead with 4:17 remaining as Nebraska went on to post a 71-58 victory at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Monday night.

"The students talked me into it (giving the referees a choke signal)," Dees said. "They said, 'Go tell him he choked.' I said, 'Thanks guys.'"

"I bet I had 200 students offer me a beer." Despite Nebraska's 15-point lead after Reid converted the free throws, Husker coach Danny Nee said the game's outcome was still in doubt.

"I did not think the game was over until I substituted with about a minute left," Nee said. "They could have come down and hit three three-pointers and they were back in the game. With the shooters they got, I think they're a very dangerous team."

Dees said he had encountered difficulties with Western Athletic Conference official Richard Ball in the past. Ball nailed Dees with the three technicals against the Huskers.

"We have had problems with him before. This didn't start tonight. What I don't understand is why the WAC Conference would send Richard Ball on the road with a split crew with Wyoming knowing the way we feel about him," Dees said. "I don't understand that. But, anyway, I thought he was horrible. But, I thought the two Big Eight officials were good -- sure did."

Nee said he wasn't concerned about Dees' problems with the officials.

"I have my own house to take care of and I'm barely surviving in there," Nee said. In the first half, Wyoming's slow-paced

offense had Nee wondering whether the Huskers would survive this game. The Cowboys, whose record fell to 9-9, unexpectedly started the game with a ball control offense despite their small, quicker lineup.

Dees said he changed his game plan to allow his "midgets" to compete with the taller Huskers.

"Nebraska's got a pretty good team -- big 'ole suckers in there," Dees said. "We kind of used (Nebraska) as a guinea pig."

Nee said he was "shocked" by the Cowboy's style of play.

"When they play like that, it's dangerous. With the three-point shooters they have, and then they keep milking the clock and a couple go in, it could really change the tempo of a game," Nee said.

Wyoming connected on 9 of 15 three-point shots, including three in the first half.

However, Nebraska guard Eric Johnson scored all of his points on two three-point buckets in the first half to enable the Huskers to lead 29-25 at halftime.

In the second half, Wyoming's six three-point baskets couldn't make up for the Huskers' inside scoring.

With the win, Nebraska raised its record to 12-7, including a 12-4 mark against non-conference opponents.

Nee said he was pleased with the progress the Huskers have made throughout the non-conference season, but he said he's looking for improvement against Big Eight teams.

"I was pleased in the respect that we ended our non-conference schedule 12-4 -- I feel good about that," Nee said. "If you told me at the beginning of the season we'd be 12-4 in the non-conference, I'd be happy about that. I just told the players that."

"Now, we've got to regroup. We've got four days to get back into the Big Eight Conference. There's no reason this basketball team can't get better."

The Huskers were led by Reid's 16 points, despite hitting 3 of 10 shots from the field. Center Rich King and forward Ray Richardson added 11 and 12 points respectively for Nebraska.



Wyoming's Kenny Smith and Nebraska's Richard van Pooelgeest wrestle for control of the ball. Nebraska won the game 71 to 58.

David Franz/Daily Nebraskan