

## Pepin optimistic for season but won't make predictions

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The returning All-Americans include Linetta Wilson in the sprints, Renita Robinson in the triple jump, Sammie Resh in the 3,000-meter run and Toyia Barnes in the shot put. Wilson qualified for the NCAA indoor meet in the 400-meter run with a time of 54.94 seconds at the Saskatchewan Indoor Games.

The top recruits for the Nebraska women are Yvonne Van Der Kolk, a middle-distance runner from Illiver-sum, The Netherlands, Nora Rockenbauer, a javelin thrower from Budapest, Hungary, Ximena Resrepo, a sprinter from Columbia, South America and Frank tenBensel, a distance runner from Arapahoe.

Pepin said the Nebraska men will also be bolstered by the return of two All-America selections and a solid recruiting class. The returning All-Americans include Regis Humphrey in the middle distance events and James Morris in the triple jump.

The top recruits for the Husker men are James Cob, a sprinter from St. Louis, and Kevin Coleman, a weight specialist from Elgin, Ill.

"We have some real outstanding athletes who didn't compete last year," Pepin said. "But this year they will and it's almost like having a new recruit coming in."

Pepin said he's optimistic about his new recruits. He said he does not want to make any bold predictions about them because he has not seen them compete enough on the collegiate level.

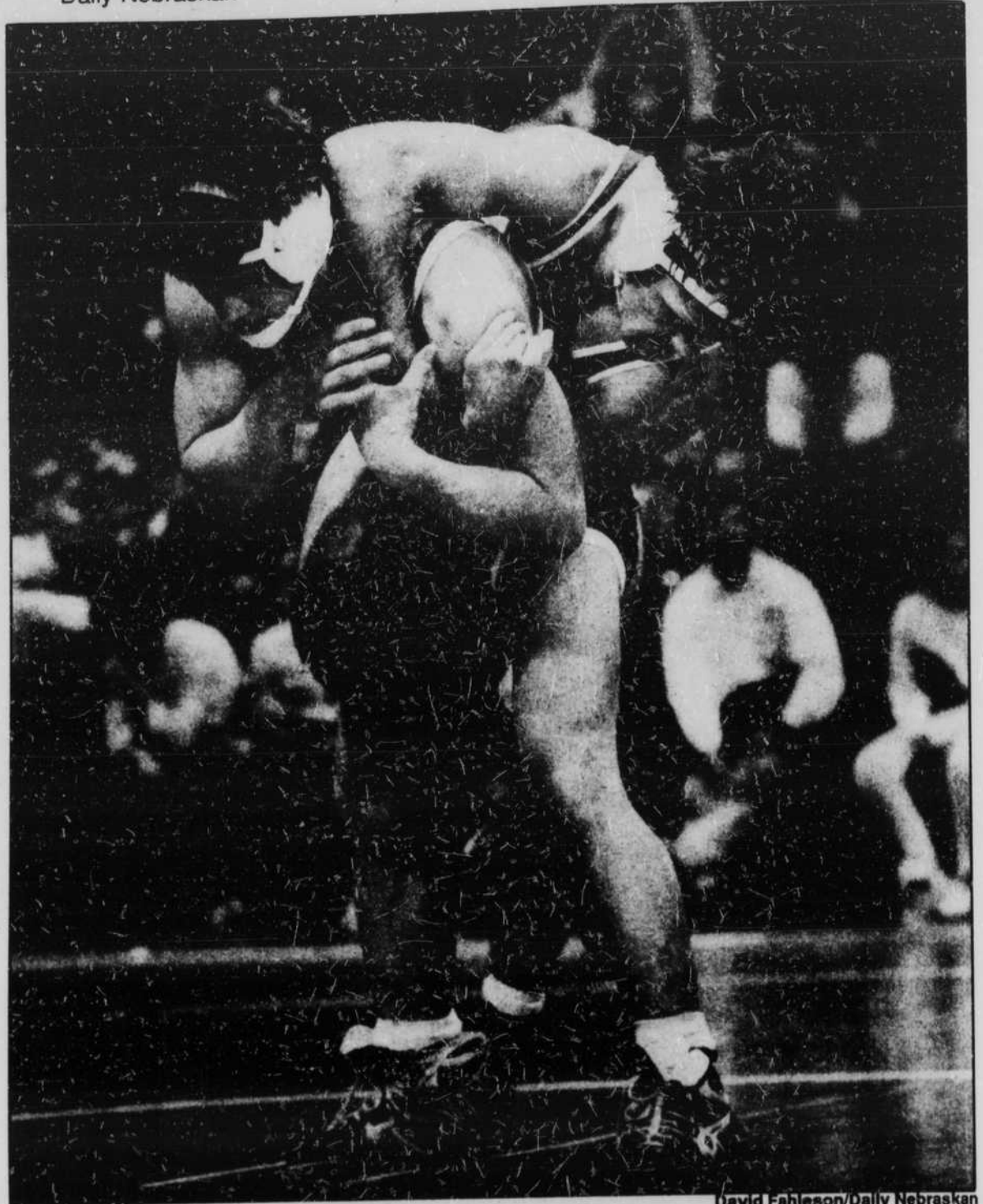
"I'm a bit conservative in telling just how good the young athletes really are," Pepin said.

Pepin said Nebraska continued its preparations for the Big Eight's indoor season by staging the Nebraska Open Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. He said the goal of the meet was to prepare his teams for the Big Eight and national meets.

The highlight of the Nebraska Open occurred when senior sprinter Mark Perry qualified for the NCAA meet by completing the 55-meter dash in 6.21 seconds.

"What I saw was flashes of good athletes and good performances," Pepin said. "Some kids were competing (at the collegiate level) for the first time and were really nervous."

Pepin said the next couple meets are important because they will provide Nebraska with some strong competition. He said the Nebraska men will be tested when they face Arkansas on Feb. 4, while the Husker women will be tested when they compete in the Frank Sevigne-Husker Invitational on Feb. 10 and 11.



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Mike Hemann (on top) battles North Dakota's Cory Leopold. Hemann defeated Leopold 3-1 as Nebraska beat the Fighting Sioux 41-3.

## NU wrestlers will take no surprises; coach doesn't see Notre Dame win

By Steve Sipple  
Staff Reporter

The Notre Dame wrestling team won't catch Nebraska by surprise this season.

The 16th-ranked Fighting Irish will go after their second-straight dual victory tonight against 14th-ranked Nebraska in a 7:30 p.m. match at the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center in South Bend, Ind.

Last season, Notre Dame stunned Nebraska with a 21-18 dual victory at Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Fighting Irish, 4-2 at the time, took the Huskers by surprise, Nebraska coach Tim Neumann said.

But tonight, the Fighting Irish enter the match with a 6-0 dual record and the attention of the 7-4-2 Cornhuskers.

"Last year, I think that they weren't expected to win the match," Neumann said. "This year, I honestly don't think they can win."

Neumann said he didn't know Notre Dame was undefeated.

"I didn't realize that. I'll be darned," he said. "I guess we're the underdog then."

Neumann said the dual's 134-pound match between Notre Dame's Jerry Durso and Nebraska's Dave Droege Mueller will be one of the

match's highlights. Durso, ranked 8th with a 21-3 record will face Droege Mueller, who is ranked No. 17.

"That match should be a dandy," Neumann said.

Another of the dual's best matches will feature a Nebraska wrestler against a former Husker recruit. Neumann said he recruited Notre Dame's Todd Layton, a 150-pound wrestler with a 16-5 record. Layton will face 17th-ranked Paul Herrera tonight.

Nebraska will go after its fifth-straight dual win without its starting 118-pound wrestler, Terry Cook. Cook suffered a broken thumb on his right hand during a 20-7 victory against North Dakota's Greg Schmitz Sunday at the sports center. Nebraska defeated North Dakota 41-3.

Neumann said Cook underwent surgery Monday to repair the thumb and should return to the Huskers' lineup in time for the March 5 Big Eight Championships in Ames, Iowa.

"He's depressed," Neumann said. "He's had a tough year as far as bad breaks."

Cook returned to Nebraska's lineup last Friday and scored victories in duals against North Dakota State and Clemson. He made his return after recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery and bone spurs in his neck.

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## OU recruits will redshirt, expert says

EMFINGER From Page 7

West Covina, Calif., defensive lineman Gerry Irons of Woodlands, Texas, lineman Lance Larson of Moorhead, Minn., wingback Vernon Powell of East St. Louis, Ill., safety John Reece of Jersey Village, Texas, tight end Billy Wade of Spring, Texas, linebacker Darren Williams of Chicago and Omar Soto, a fullback who is transferring from Arizona Western Junior College.

Emfinger said the state's top player is Anderson, with Hoskins

following close behind. He said Bryant trails both of those players in terms of skill.

Emfinger said NCAA probations that were placed on Big Eight rivals Oklahoma and Oklahoma State did not affect Nebraska's recruiting. He said Oklahoma and Nebraska will both have strong recruiting years, while Oklahoma State will suffer slightly.

Oklahoma was banned from television for one year and placed on probation that includes scholarship reductions for two years for recruit-

ing violations. Oklahoma State's probation prohibits them from appearing on television for two years and reduced their number of available scholarships for three years.

"Oklahoma is still Oklahoma. All recruits will do now is go up there and redshirt," Emfinger said. "I think probation is going to affect Oklahoma State because now they won't have the most fabulous class they've ever had. But they'll still do all right because they do a great job of evaluating players and letting them develop."

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