

Huskers hope to win at Iowa despite injuries

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska wrestling team will go after its sixth-straight dual win Friday night in some adverse conditions.

The Cornhuskers, 8-4-2 and ranked No. 10 by Amateur Wrestling News magazine, will face 9-5 Northern Iowa in a 7:30 p.m. dual at West Gym in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

"If you've ever seen West Gym, you'd see it's like wrestling in a snake pit," Nebraska coach Tim Neumann said. "Their crowd will keep informing you that you're not very well-liked during the match."

Neumann said he remembered one visit to Cedar Falls in which a

Herbie Husker doll was hung from a basketball goal with blood coming from its mouth.

Two years ago, Northern Iowa pounded Nebraska 32-11 before a crowd of about 3,000 that Neumann said "was constantly on us."

"Every time we stood up, sat down, looked at each other, they'd comment about us," he said. "It was a nightmare."

Neumann said he hopes this year's team will react like the 1984 Huskers. That team downed Northern Iowa 32-19 in front of the Panthers' home crowd.

"That was kind of nice -- shutting them up," Neumann said. "That's what I hope happens this year."

Nebraska's 1984 victory was its

last against the Panthers, who have defeated the Huskers four-straight years, including a 25-15 decision last season at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

'That was kind of nice -- shutting them up.'

--Nee

In addition to having to face a raucous crowd, the Huskers will have to battle a rash of injuries. Nebraska 118-pound wrestler Terry Cook is out with a broken thumb, Dave Droegemueller is out at 134 with a

bad ankle and Cody Olson is sidelined at 177 with a neck injury.

Cook suffered his injury during a Jan. 20 dual against Clemson's Donnie Heckel and is expected to return for the March 5 Big Eight Championships. Droegemueller injured his ankle Tuesday while walking down the steps at his apartment and will be out two or three weeks, Neumann said.

Neumann said Olson will also be out two or three weeks.

Jim Sanchez, who has a 14-12 record, will replace Cook; Mike Hemann, 8-2, will fill in for Olson; and Shane Snyder, 3-4, will start at 177.

Neumann said he's confident going into Friday's dual despite the

injuries.

"Anytime you go into a dual with a team like Northern Iowa, you like to have your best lineup," he said. "But this is the best lineup we have with the injuries."

Northern Iowa, meanwhile, will benefit from the return of 158-pound senior Chris Lembeck, an All-America selection last season. Lembeck, ranked No. 3 during the preseason, has been out the Panthers' dual lineup since injuring his ankle during their season-opening dual against Iowa.

In addition to Lembeck, Northern Iowa is led by heavyweight Joel Greenlee, ranked No. 2 in the nation with a 33-0 dual record. Greenlee, a senior, has never lost a match during a dual, recording a 54-0-3 mark.

Husker swimmers take their talents on the road again

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A high-powered Nebraska men's swimming team will be the team to beat when it takes to the road facing four teams this weekend.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said the weekend is one of the toughest that the Cornhuskers have ever faced in terms of travel because they will square off against four teams in three days.

The 6-1 Huskers, who are tied with Florida for the seventh spot in the latest NCAA poll, open their trip by facing Brigham Young tonight at 8 p.m. in Provo, Utah. Nebraska will travel to Salt Lake City to face the Utah Utes in an 8 p.m. meet on Friday, then will face 10th-ranked Arizona State and 5th-ranked Stanford in a double-dual meet beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday in Tempe, Ariz.

The Nebraska women's swimming team will also take to the road this weekend when it faces No. 17 Arkansas on Saturday in Fayetteville.

Bentz said the Nebraska men know everyone will be out to beat them.

"We have to deal with the fact that anytime we get in the pool, someone is going to try to knock us off," Bentz said. "It's an enviable position that you want to move forward but when you get there you have to deal with all the problems and all comers."

Bentz said he is as concerned about Brigham Young and Utah as he is about Arizona State and Stanford. Nebraska has split its only two meets against Utah and defeated Arizona State en route to winning the team title at the 1987 Husker Invitational. Stanford owns a 1-0 series lead against Nebraska, having defeated the Huskers 74-39 seven years ago in Palo Alto, Calif.

"Utah and BYU are not going to lay down for us, and in some respects those are the meets that can cause the most problems because you have to really focus your efforts," he said. "We have three competitions against four teams, and finishing with two teams in the top 10 makes it especially challenging."

Huppert said he knows the Nebraska women will be in for a tough challenge when they face Arkansas. The meet marks the seventh time in 11 dual meets that the 5-5 Huskers have faced a nationally-ranked team on the road.

"We've been challenging this type of team all season long and that's the only way we're going to get any better," Huppert said. "We have a young team that coming into the season had little experience. Our record might not show it, but I think our team has responded very well to this point, and the experience is going to pay off."

Huppert said the meet is important because the Big Eight Championships are approaching. The Huskers, who dropped a 116-101 decision to Arkansas last year in Fayetteville, will face Kansas in a dual meet Feb. 11 prior to competing in the conference championships on March 2-4 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



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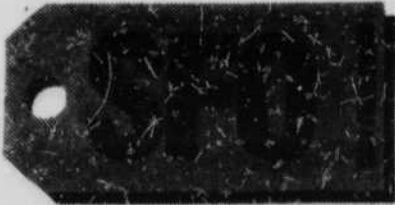
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