

NU wrestlers will duel Oklahoma tonight

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska has never defeated national wrestling powers Oklahoma and Iowa State in dual meets during the same season. Earlier this season, the Cornhuskers defeated Iowa State. Tonight, Nebraska and Oklahoma have nearly equal chances for victory, according to the teams' coaches.

Eleventh-ranked Nebraska, which beat Iowa State 19-14 in a Dec. 10 dual in Lincoln, will face the No. 8 Sooners in a Big Eight dual at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla. The match begins at 7:30.

Beating the 8th-ranked Sooners will be tough and possibly climactic, Husker coach Tim Neumann said.

"If we wrestle up to our capabilities, the outcome will come down to the heavyweight match," Neumann said.

Oklahoma coach Stan Abel said his team will enter as a slight favorite tonight -- very slight.

"On this side of the fence, I'd say we're the favorites," Abel said. "But being favorites in this case isn't a big deal. It will come down to performance more than athletic ability. Whoever performs best will win."

Nobody won last year's Okla-

homa-Nebraska dual -- the teams battled to a 15-15 tie at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Nebraska, which trails in the teams' series 23-3-1, upset the Sooners two years ago in Norman, 25-16.

For the Sooners to regain the series' edge, they will have to beat a Husker team that is at its best right now, Neumann said.

"I feel we're as good as we can be at this time," he said. "If they beat us, it will be because they're better than us."

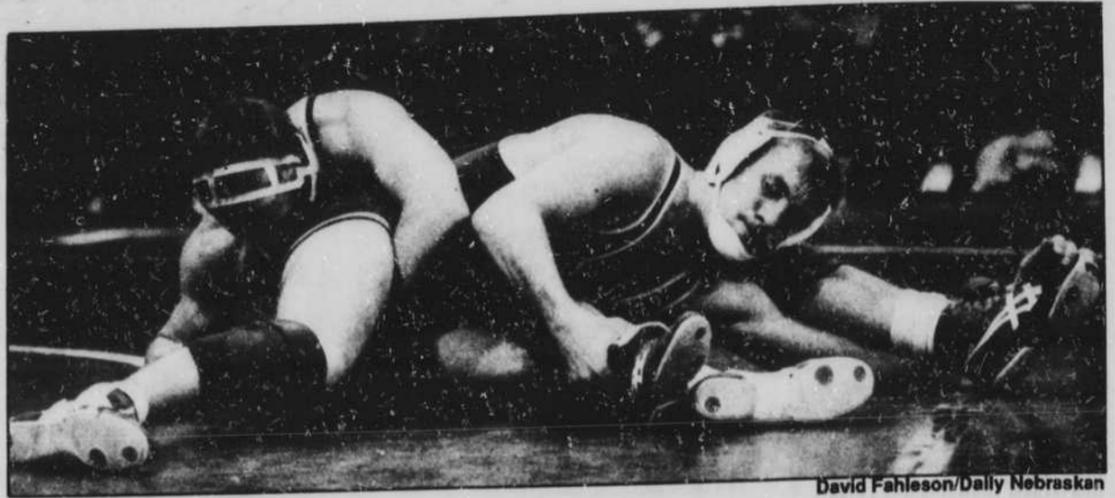
Neumann and Abel agreed the Sooners will be favored in seven weights: 118, 134, 142, 158, 167, 177 and 190 pounds.

"Two or three of those matches could go either way," Abel said.

Neumann said the 158-, 167- and 177-pound matches are the keys to a Husker win.

At 158, Nebraska's Jeff Coltvet, 23-7-1, will face Brandon Dennington, also 23-7-1. Nebraska 167-pound senior Scott Chenoweth, 21-7-2, will battle Baron Blakley, 19-4. And at 177, 1987 Big Eight champion Cody Olson of Nebraska, 17-11, will dual 29-2 Junior Meek.

"We need to win at least two of those three matches," Neumann said, "and maybe three of those three."



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Jeff Coltvet (right) battles Iowa State's Tom Burton.

If the match is decided at heavyweight, Neumann gives Nebraska the edge. Nebraska sophomore Sonny Manley, 19-13-3, will face Carl Presley, 8-10-2.

"Sonny's favored. If you (compare) common opponents, Sonny's beat people that have beat Presley," Neumann said.

Presley's size may be a problem for Manley, Neumann said. Manley stands 6-foot-4 and weighs 275-pounds -- the NCAA limit for heavy-

weights. Oklahoma enjoys a 5-2 edge against Nebraska in the number of rated wrestlers. Chris Bolin is ranked No. 8 at 118, T.J. Sewell is No. 3 at 134, Joe Reynolds is No. 5 at 142, Blakley is No. 8 at 167 and Joe Stafford is No. 3 at 190.

Nebraska will counter with tenth-ranked Jason Kelber at 126 pounds and Coltvet, who's No. 12 at 158.

Ratings aside, Abel said Oklahoma will have its hands full with the

Huskers. "Nebraska's got a real fine wrestling team," Abel said. "If we had to wrestle Oklahoma State next week instead of last week, we wouldn't be guilty of looking ahead, I'll tell you that. I think it will be a very fine wrestling match."

Those were Neumann's sentiments exactly.

"One takedown could decide (the match)," he said. "That's the way it's going to be."

3 NU wrestlers make Big 8 honor roll

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Three Nebraska wrestlers were named to the 1989 Lee Jeans academic All-Big Eight wrestling honor roll.

Layne Billings, a 142-pound sophomore with a 16-8-3 record, tops the list with a 3.653 grade point average in math education.

Joining Billings are 126-pound sophomore Jason Kelber, who has a 3.5 GPA in biological science; and 134-pound senior Mike Hemann, who has compiled a 3.303 GPA in mechanical engineering. Kelber, ranked No. 10 in the nation, is 26-9. Hemann is 11-3-1.

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann said the three wrestler's grades reflect the entire team's class-

room effort.

"During the first semester we had 25 guys who averaged a 2.9 GPA," Neumann said. "I think only one starter had under a 3.0. We have some students."

Neumann said he emphasizes academics.

"We've really tried to follow through with the study table, tutors and all that stuff," he said.

If a Husker wrestler misses a class,

he is punished with a 4 a.m. practice the next day, which is supervised by Neumann, he said.

"That's why it's not a real fun practice," he said.

Neumann said Nebraska should have had a fourth wrestler named to the honor roll. Jeff Coltvet, a senior with a 23-7-1 record, earned a 3.1 GPA in electrical engineering, but wasn't among the Huskers nomi-

nated for the award because of a staff error, Neumann said. Coltvet has been named to the list the previous three years.

Neumann said the Big Eight has been notified of the error.

Iowa State led the Big Eight with four first-time selections, followed by Nebraska with three and Oklahoma State, Oklahoma and Missouri with one member each.

Huskers renewed confidence to be challenged Saturday

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Forward Ray Richardson hopes Nebraska's days of playing not to lose are over.

Richardson, a junior on the Nebraska men's basketball team, said the Cornhuskers will be playing with new confidence for the rest of the season.

The Huskers, who are 15-12 overall and 3-8 in the Big Eight, will get a chance to show that confidence Saturday against Iowa State.

"We're just going out and playing

hard," Richardson said. "The harder we work, the more good things are going to come out of it. We haven't been playing well all year, but we just decided to go out thinking we're going to win some more games down the stretch."

Richardson, who transferred from Hiwassee (Tenn.) Junior College, is the main reason the Huskers are playing better, Coach Danny Nee said.

"Coach Nee just keeps telling us not to give up, that we'll start winning," Richardson said. "He says our record doesn't matter, that we're still a good team. But he told us if we don't work hard, things won't fall for us."

Hopefully, things will fall together for the Huskers against Iowa State, Richardson said.

The Cyclones, 14-9 overall and 5-6 in the Big Eight, have won three-straight games, including a 97-89 win against defending NCAA champion Kansas Wednesday night.

"They're a good team and they're getting better and better," said Richardson, who had the flu and missed Iowa State's 88-76 win against the Huskers at Ames, Iowa.

"They've been beating up on a lot of good teams lately," Nee agreed.

"I like their basketball team," he said. "I think they are improving."

Iowa State coach Johnny Orr said the Huskers also have improved this season.

"I know it's going to be hard to beat Nebraska," Orr said. "They always play tougher in Lincoln than

they do when they're on the road."

The Cyclones are led by center Victor Alexander, who is averaging 19 points and 8.7 rebounds per game.

The harder we work, the more good things are going to come out of it.

--Richardson

"He's done more than I thought he would," Orr said. "He's having a great year."

Orr said the road hasn't been very good to the Cyclones this year.

"When our team gets behind on the road, they tend to throw in the towel," he said. "We get beat because we're not loose."

Richardson said the Huskers are playing loose, especially at home.

"We want to win at least two more games before the end of the year," Richardson said. "And I think that's a realistic goal."

Richardson is averaging 10 points per game coming off the bench this season.

"My job is to come in and pump the team up and get them going offensively," Richardson said. "When the bench does that, we play well."

Tip-off is scheduled for 1:07 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, and the game will be televised by Raycom (channels 3 and 10/11).

Beck: We need a road win ourselves

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basket. If we could put both together for one game, that would be such a thrill."

The Huskers have had a similar season, Wettig said.

"I think it's been a disappointing season for both teams," Wettig said.

"Before the season started, I think both teams thought they'd do better."

Wettig said both teams are capable of finishing the season on a good note.

"We're both capable of playing good basketball," she said. "Things just haven't fallen right for us."

Beck agreed.

"I just think we need a road win for ourselves," Beck said. "I think it would definitely help us."

Iowa State is led by guard Carman Jaspers. Jaspers is averaging 19.5 points per game.

The Huskers are led by senior guard Amy Stephens. Stephens is averaging 22.4 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

Baseball opener postponed because of snow

The Nebraska baseball season opener against Minnesota that was scheduled for this weekend at Buck Beltzer Field has been postponed because of snow and wet conditions, officials from both schools said Thursday.

Nebraska baseball coach John

Sanders said he's attempting to reschedule the four-game series against Minnesota. The Golden Gophers are the defending Big Ten Champions.

If the games with Minnesota can't be made up, Sanders said he hopes to find some other teams for Nebraska to play.

Some possibilities include playing Creighton during the beginning of next week, or adding games against some Colorado teams next week, Sanders said.

Nebraska is scheduled to play a four-game series against Northern Colorado on March 4 and 5.

Campus rec activities approaching quickly

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Office of Campus Recreation announced Thursday that deadlines for three competitions are quickly approaching.

Craig Christensen, the Office of Campus Recreation's relations director, said any UNL student who wants

to compete in a track meet should report to the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Sunday. The field events will begin at 1:45 p.m., while the running events start at 2 p.m.

Christensen said people interested in competing should report to the

sports center track area at 1 p.m.

Christensen also announced that Monday is the deadline for a nine ball and a doubles racquetball tournament. He said people interested in entering either competition should stop by the campus recreation office, 1740 Vine St., or call 472-3467.

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