

NU women picked to take championship



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Toyia Barnes competes in the shot put.

By **Darran Fowler**
Staff Reporter

The year was 1983, and the Nebraska women's indoor track team accomplished what no other women's squad in the Big Eight had ever done.

That was the year that the Cornhuskers became the first Big Eight women's track team to win four-consecutive conference indoor crowns.

That tradition has continued, as the string of consecutive titles has now stretched to nine -- all in this decade. The Huskers, who have the same winning-string in outdoor track, could capture their 10th title at the Big Eight championships this Friday and Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The women's portion of the meet on Friday begins at 9:30 a.m. with the 60-meter hurdles and the pentathlon. The men's events begin at 6 p.m. with the long jump competition.

Saturday's events begin at 1:30 p.m. with the men's pole vaulting competition. The competition will conclude at 5:10 p.m. with the running of the 1,600 relay.

"I don't know how much 10 in a row means to the kids," Pepin said, "but I think they have a lot of confidence." Pepin has guided the Husker women to eight of their nine championships. He also led the Nebraska women to three-straight national indoor titles from 1982 through 1984.

Pepin said he doesn't spend much time thinking about past championships. He said the only time he spends reflecting is at the start of a new season.

"Those victories are short-lived because success for a coach can change in a hurry," Pepin said. "For someone like me, hours after the (Big

Eight) meet, I'm already trying to figure out how we can have a better team next year."

The Nebraska men have been equally impressive since Pepin took over for the late Frank Sevigne in 1984. The Husker men have captured three of the last four Big Eight titles. Their lone blotch during that streak was a 3rd-place finish in 1986.

Pepin said Nebraska is different from other Big Eight schools because the coaching staff emphasizes the entire men's and women's programs. He said Nebraska looks for balance in indoor and outdoor track as well as cross country.

"It starts with outstanding athletes," Pepin said. "If you don't have great athletes, I don't care how good the coaches are, you aren't going to have success and continued success."

"It's the accumulation of a lot of things but it has to start with good athletes."

Pepin said he recruits athletes who fit in with the program's philosophies and system.

"We don't only have good athletes, but we have athletes who are interested in getting a degree and interested in academics," he said.

Pepin said he also credits Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney for his success. He said Devaney has supplied the program with its financial needs.

"An athletic director can either be a friend or a foe to a program as to whether it is going to be given the opportunity to be successful," Pepin said.

Pepin said he expects both teams to meet strong challenges this weekend even though they have been tabbed as the favorites entering the meet. A poll of the conference's eight coaches picked the Nebraska women

to edge Missouri and Kansas State for the title, while the Husker men were narrow favorites over Iowa State.

The Nebraska women were tabbed the pre-meet favorites after receiving seven 1st-place votes and 49 total points. Points were awarded on a one-through-seven basis, with seven points awarded to teams receiving 1st-place votes.

Missouri was tabbed second in the women's competition with one 1st-place vote and 41 points, followed by Kansas State with 39, Iowa State with 30, Oklahoma with 22, Oklahoma State with 19, Colorado with 16 and Kansas with 8.

The Nebraska men received six 1st-place votes and 48 points, followed by Iowa State with two 1st-place votes and 43 points. Oklahoma was picked to finish 3rd with 34 points, followed by Kansas State with 33, Kansas with 22, Colorado with 21, Missouri with 14 and Oklahoma State with 9.

Pepin said he would have voted for the Nebraska men and women if the poll would have allowed him to do so. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

"Whether or not the other coaches selected us to win the meet or not, in some cases it doesn't mean quite as much, because you can't vote for your own team," Pepin said. "So, some of those coaches may have felt like their teams could well have won the meet."

"At the same time, the most important thing to me is not whether or not they think we can win, but whether or not our athletes feel we can win the meet."

Pepin said he is optimistic about his team's chances.

See **PEPIN** on 8

Hastings inducts Osborne into hall of fame

By **Mark Antonietti**
Staff Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne returned to his alma mater Wednesday to be inducted into the Hastings College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Osborne, a three-sport standout at Hastings in football, basketball and track, joined eight others and the undefeated 1954 Broncos football team as the charter members of the newly founded Hall of Fame.

Robert Boerigter, the director of athletics at Hastings, said that all the

inductees had two traits in common.

"All excelled while on the campus and also distinguished themselves after graduation," Boerigter said. "Tom Osborne did both of these."

Osborne was a 1959 magna cum laude graduate at Hastings. He was a four-year letterman in football, basketball and track, and was named the Omaha World Herald state college athlete of the year as a senior.

After graduation, Osborne played professional football for the Washington Redskins and San Francisco 49ers. He later earned a master's

degree and a doctorate in educational psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Osborne joined Bob Devaney's coaching staff at Nebraska in 1962 as an assistant coach. He took over the coaching duties in 1973 and has led the Cornhuskers to 16 straight top-10 post-season rankings.

Boerigter said the Hall of Fame will induct 10 members in each of the next 10 years, and then reduce the number of two per year.

Joining Osborne as inductees were:

- Frank Prince, a 1916 Hastings

graduate who competed in football, basketball and track.

- Thurlo McCrady, who was a three-time all-conference selection as a quarterback.

- Patty Sitorius, a 1981 graduate who competed in track, volleyball and basketball.

- Lynn Farrell, Hastings' long-time basketball coach and athletic director. Farrell finished with 462 coaching victories.

- Art Stevenson, who earned Little All-America football honors in 1939. Stevenson went on to play for

the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League.

- Chuck Stickels, an All-America basketball selection.

- Tom McLaughlin, who earned eight letters in basketball, football and track.

- Bill Becher, a three-year tennis singles champion who also earned all-conference honors in football and basketball.

- The 1954 football team, which compiled an 8-0 regular-season record.

Cyclones coach hopes to capture the Big Eight title

By **Mark Derowitsch**
Senior Reporter

At least one Big Eight women's basketball coach wouldn't mind if her team finished in the cellar of the conference.

Iowa State coach Pam Wettig said she hopes the Cyclones avoid finishing eighth even though the consequences of a last-place finish wouldn't be too bad. The last-place team will face Colorado in the first round of the Big Eight post-season tournament March 4, at Salina, Kan.

Iowa State will face Nebraska on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa. The loser could end in a three-way tie for 6th place in the Big Eight, while the winner could finish as high as 4th.

"I'm not sure, but I wouldn't mind it," Wettig said. "Colorado has had a good season, but we've always played well against them."

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the Cornhuskers don't want to finish last in the conference.

"After the Iowa State game, I'm worried about the Big Eight tourna-

ment," Beck said. "We just want to do the best we can."

Wettig said she'll be rooting against the Buffaloes throughout the tournament. Colorado has already clinched the regular-season Big Eight title, and is ranked No. 10 nationally with a 23-3 record overall.

"I hope someone other than Colorado wins it," Wettig said. "Even if Colorado doesn't win another game, they're going to the NCAA tournament. In order for anyone else from the Big Eight to make the tournament, they have to win the Big Eight tournament. And I hope that's us."

Wettig said the Cyclones, who are 14-12 overall and 5-8 in the Big Eight, have been plagued by inconsistency this season. She said she hopes that comes to an end against the Huskers, who are also 14-12 and 5-8.

"We've gone through such an up-and-down season," Wettig said. "If we get a good offensive effort, we slip up on defense. If we play great defense, then we can't buy a

See **BECK** on 10

OPPONENT	PTS	AS
Minnesota	15	6
Wisconsin-Gr.	35	1
U.S. Internat.	10	6
Montana	22	2
Drake	10	7
Long Beach S.	27	6
New Mexico S.	17	12
Wichita Sta.	24	6
Boston	27	2
Auburn	14	2
Iowa	29	7
Missouri-Kan.	16	1
Greighton	22	5
Colorado	26	1
Oklahoma Sta.	21	6
Kansas	23	5
Kansas State	17	4
Oklahoma	16	5
Missouri	14	4
Iowa State	15	4
Kansas	37	3
Oklahoma	40	4
Kansas State	34	3
Oklahoma Sta.	14	5
Missouri	36	2
Colorado	20	3

Stephens' Scoring Streak



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