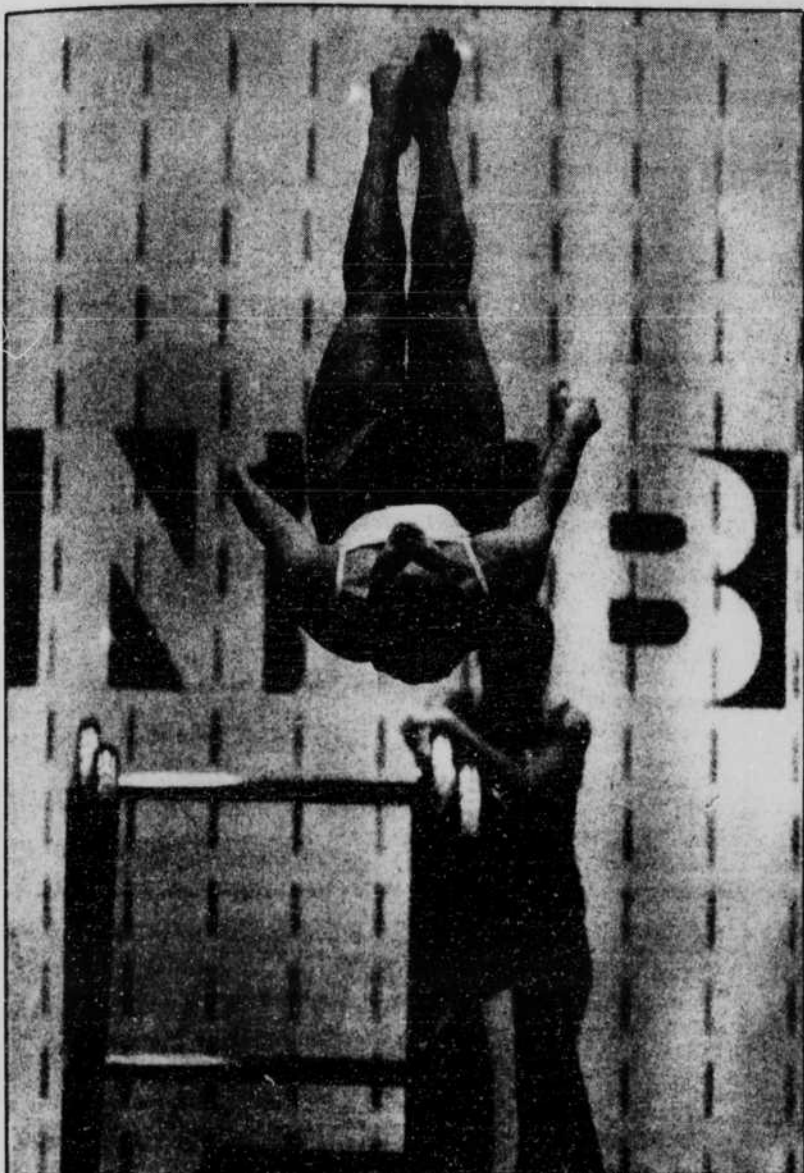


Kansas expected to swim away with title



Nebraska Becki Clark performs on the 3-meter board.

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A pre-meet tabulation that predicts a Kansas rout has not discouraged Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert.

Huppert said Wednesday that he is looking forward to the Big Eight championships even though tabulations by the Nebraska coaching staff indicate Kansas should win the women's portion of the meet by 100 points. He said he is not intimidated by the tabulation because he does not have a lot of faith in it.

"Paper doesn't mean a dog-gone thing," Huppert said. "It's whatever they do in the water that matters."

The Nebraska women and the Husker men will have an opportunity to see just what they can do in the water when the Big Eight championships begin today at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The meet will run through Saturday, with preliminary competition scheduled for 11 a.m. and finals at 6 p.m.

Huppert said the Nebraska women need a total team effort in order to defeat Kansas, Iowa State and Missouri for this year's title. He said the Huskers can not afford to have any lapses in the meet.

"It's going to take a team performance from top to bottom," Huppert said. "If we win, it's going to be because we got a total team effort and we dominated the last day."

Huppert said Iowa State and Missouri will play vital roles in determining who wins the title. He said both teams could be spoilers by knocking Nebraska and Kansas athletes out of scoring contention.

Huppert said he does not expect Iowa State or Missouri to be in contention for the team title.

"Unless Kansas and Nebraska fall flat on their faces, I don't think Iowa State is going to be in the team race," Huppert said.

Huppert said he refuses to let Nebraska carry any disappointments from a 5-7 season into the meet. He said Nebraska's record is misleading because eight of the teams that the Huskers lost to were ranked in the top 20.

"Sure it's disappointing to look at our dual record," Huppert said. "But I've said all season long that we wanted to challenge our athletes against top competition. I think we're a much-improved team going into the most important part of our season, and that's what we wanted."

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said his squad has also improved since the season began. He said the Huskers are hoping to use a simple formula to capture their 10th-consecutive Big Eight title.

"We're getting ready to swim as fast as we can," Bentz said. "We just have to go out and take it to the other teams and let the points take care of themselves."

Bentz said Nebraska cannot use its past success to win this year's title.

"We're not going to base our performance on what we've done in the past," he said. "We've had good success the last nine years and each meet has gotten better and better because there is a lot of great competition."

Bentz said Nebraska does not dwell on being the favorite in this

year's meet.

"It's the same story as always. Predictions can be made, but they don't mean a thing," Bentz said. "It's nice that everybody is thinking about us, but we have to concern ourselves with what we need to do."

The returning Big Eight men's champions who will compete include Kansas' Glenn Trammel in the 200-yard backstroke, Iowa State's Lee-Jay Strifler in 1-meter diving, Nebraska's Lewis Meyers in 3-meter diving, and the Huskers' Dan Novinski and Ryan Bell in the 200 and 500 freestyles. The remaining returning champions include Nebraska's Jacob Kruger in the 400 individual medley and 1,650 freestyle, Thomas Stus in the 200 butterfly, Sean Frampton in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes and Mike Irvin in the 200 individual medley.

Bentz said he is expecting big things from Irvin.

"As far as I'm concerned, there aren't any performers better than he is," Bentz said. "Anybody who thinks they are going to beat him had better tighten his suit up because Mike is going to swim fast."

Nebraska diving coach Jeff Huber said he is expecting equally good results from his athletes. He said Nebraska's Lawrence Roddick, Becki Clark, Julie May, Amy Aarsen and Meyers combine to form the best group of divers he has coached during his 11-year Husker career.

"I think the women have a realistic shot at the top three spots," Huber said. "There's no question that Lewis (Meyers) and Lawrence (Roddick) are two of the best in the country."

Gymnastics teams to be tested on the road this weekend

By Mike O'Malley
Staff Reporter

A pair of tough road tests await the Nebraska men's and women's gymnastics team this weekend.

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen and women's coach Rick Walton said their squads are ready for the challenges that await them. The Nebraska men will travel to Columbus, Ohio, to face the 4th-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes on Saturday, while the Cornhusker women will face Alabama, Georgia and Penn State in the Bulldog Classic Sunday in Athens, Ga.

Walton said the Nebraska women will have to battle three talented teams and a supportive crowd that will be fueled by a natural rivalry. Alabama is the defending national champions, while Georgia claimed the No. 1-ranking two years ago.

Alabama and Georgia are both members of the Southeastern Conference.

Walton, who coached at Georgia prior to coming to Nebraska in 1983, said he knows what it's like to compete against the Bulldogs on their home floor.

"They compete well at home and have turned in some pretty respectable scores," Walton said. "They'll have a pretty big crowd for this meet because of the big rivalry between Alabama and Georgia."

Alabama women's gymnastics coach Sara Patterson said she does not expect any record scores to be set in the meet even though it will be highly competitive. She said the Crimson Tide, which achieved the highest team score of the year by tallying 194.30 points earlier this season, might be fatigued on Sunday because they face Oklahoma Friday in Norman, Okla.

"It's going to be a rough travel weekend," Patterson said. "This will be a difficult weekend for us. It's going to take a very good performance to compete."

Nebraska's Jeaneane Smith said the Huskers are not backing away from the tough competition.

"If we're consistent, we'll score," Smith said.

Nebraska's Lisa McCrady said the 10-1 Huskers can't dwell on their past accomplishments if they are going to do well.

"We have to look forward," McCrady said. "We can't look back and be happy. We have to move on."

Nebraska assistant women's gymnastics coach Peggy Liddick agreed.

"We'll have to be better than good," Liddick said. "Georgia's judges will help them out, so we have to be five-tenths better than them, so when we get three-tenths under-

scored, it won't matter."

Walton said he isn't setting any high expectations entering the meet.

"Our purpose is to go down and hit a high percentage of routines," Walton said. "We want to hit 22 to 24 of the routines. If we do that we should have a good meet."

Allen said the 3rd-ranked Nebraska men also want to hit a high percentage of their routines against Ohio State. He said the 4th-ranked Buckeyes will show Nebraska how good they are.

"I need to find out how my team is going to perform under pressure," Allen said.

Allen said Nebraska will be without junior Patrick Kirksey, who will be competing in the America's Classic in Jacksonville, Fla. He said Kirksey's absence means sophomores Ted Dimas and Brad Bryan have to perform well.

"It will be good for Ted Dimas and Brad Bryan," Allen said. "If we're going to win the NCAA (title), I have to count on Brad Bryan and Ted Dimas. We can't win an NCAA without them."

Allen said he is confident entering the meet.

"Ohio State is real good at home, but I really don't believe that they're as good as we are," Allen said. "If we hit and they hit, they won't beat us."

"On the other hand, if they 'hometown us' a little bit, it will change the ballgame."

Nebraska's Bob Stelter said the Huskers know they are in for a tough challenge.

"We're just going to have to go out and hit the majority of our routines," Stelter said. "Obviously that's going to be kind of hard. We'll just try to score as high as we can."

Emotional Kansas team downs Huskers

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said the Cornhuskers ran up against an emotionally high Kansas team in Lawrence, Kan., Wednesday night, causing the Huskers' 80-71 loss.

Pregame ceremonies honoring four Jayhawk seniors playing their final game in Allen Field House and former Jayhawk star Danny Manning and coach Larry Brown ignited Kansas, Nee said.

Despite the high-flying Jayhawks and 15,000 screaming Kansas fans, Nee said he was pleased by the Huskers' performance.

"We were never out of the game," Nee said during his post-game radio interview. "They made a 10-point run and we came back, but not enough."

Nee said Kansas is a difficult place to try and win.

"We were just not in sync," Nee said. "Kansas' pressure defense really got to us."

"We had to come down here and try to help our post-season chances. It's a really down locker room right now."

The loss, Nebraska's 11th-straight conference road loss, dropped the Huskers into 7th place in the Big Eight with a 4-9 mark and a 16-13 overall record.

Meanwhile, Kansas took over 6th place and improved to 18-11 overall and 5-8 in the conference.

Nebraska battled evenly with Kansas for much of the first half until Jayhawk forward Milt Newton took control. Newton scored seven straight points for Kansas to increase a one-point Kansas lead to eight at 31-23 with 4:17 remaining in the first half.

The Huskers scored the game's next five points. However, the Jayhawks held on to take a 39-34 halftime lead.

Kansas recharged its emotion at halftime.

Jayhawk center Mark Randall scored the first six points of the second half to propel Kansas to a 45-34 advantage. Another basket by Randall with 13:55 left increased the Jayhawk lead to 58-45.

Nebraska scrapped its way back to within four points of Kansas at 69-65 on a basket by guard Eric Johnson with 4:48 remaining in the game.

However, the Jayhawks made nine of 12 free throws in the game's closing minutes to seal the victory.

Forward Ray Richardson led Nebraska's scoring effort with 19 points. Center Richard van Poelgeest and forward Beau Reid each added 14 and 12 points respectively.

Van Poelgeest pulled down eight rebounds for the Huskers.

Newton and Randall shared game-scoring honors with 20 points each for Kansas. Jayhawk guard Lincoln Minor scored 11 points and guard Kevin Pritchard added 10 points.



By Craig Christensen
OCR Relations Director

The Top Ten

1. Hosers (5-0)
2. Spanish Flyers (5-0)
3. ATO A (5-0)
4. Sig Ep B-2 (6-0)
5. ATO B-2 (6-0)
6. Delt B-2 (6-0)
7. Fiji A (4-1)
8. Running Rebels (4-1)*
9. UNL TCOB (5-1)
10. BETA A (4-1)

KEY GAME OF THE WEEK

Beginning today, 325 teams will compete in the playoffs for 17 spots in the all-university tournament.

* forfeited because of an ineligible player.

Tough DN defense crushes Ice-Rocs; Hosers' challenged

After seeing his team post a 49-44 overtime victory against the Ice-Rocs, Daily Nebraskan player-coach Mike Kluck issued the ultimate challenge.

Kluck said the DN wants to face the Hosers. The Hosers have been ranked No. 1 all year, and finished the regular season 5-0.

"We don't think we could beat them. We know we could," Kluck said. "They aren't in the same class with us."

The DN closed out its regular season with a 4-2 record by using a late rally to defeat the 1-5 Ice Roc's. The DN trailed by as many as nine points midway through the second half, but used a strong inside game and a tough zone defense to secure the victory.

The game will be shown on Cablevision channel 5 tonight at 10 p.m. It will be rebroadcast Saturday at 11 a.m.