

Track team gets last chance to qualify

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Time is running out.

The deadline for collegiate athletes who have not qualified for the national indoor track meet March 10-11 in Indianapolis is this weekend.

The Bob Devaney Sports Center will be one of several sites across the country offering athletes one last opportunity to better a NCAA qualifying standard this weekend when it stages the last chance qualifier meet Saturday. The meet, which features free admission, begins at 11:15 a.m., with the final event scheduled for 3:10 p.m.

"We're just giving those athletes who may still have a chance of qualifying an opportunity to do so," Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said.

Nebraska has nine individuals who have bettered NCAA qualifying marks this season. Pepin said he would like to see that list expand.

"The most important thing this weekend is to see if we can't pick up a few more qualifiers for the NCAA meet," he said. "We're down to the wire, but we've got several athletes who are real close to qualifying. So it's going to be a big weekend for them."

Nebraska's Mark Perry tops the men's list of athletes who have already qualified for the national meet. Perry will compete in the 55 and the 200-meter dash.

Nebraska's Bobby Jelks and Regis Humphrey also have qualified. Jelks will join Perry in the 200-meter dash, while Humphrey has qualified in the 800-meter run.

NU will duel KSU in tourney

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Kansas State women's basketball coach Matilda Mossman likes the Wildcats draw in the Big Eight Tournament.

Except for one thing.

The Wildcats, who are 17-10 overall and 7-7 in the Big Eight, don't have Amy Stephens.

Kansas State will have to face Stephens and sixth-seeded Nebraska, in the tournament's first round Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan.

In other first-round matches, Missouri will face Iowa State, regular-season champion Colorado faces Oklahoma and Oklahoma State will take on Kansas.

"I don't think we match up very well with Nebraska because we don't have Amy Stephens," Mossman said.

Stephens, a 5-foot-8 guard from Alliance, leads the Big Eight in scoring while averaging 22 points a game.

In addition to Stephens, Mossman said the Wildcats also have had problems in the past with Nebraska's inside game. Center Kim Harris, a 6-1 senior from Decatur, Ill., is averaging 13 points and 7.1 rebounds a game, while sophomore forward Ann Halsne averages 9.9 points and 5.1 rebounds.

"In the past, they have Harris and Halsne," Mossman said. "One's a physical player and the other is a finesse player. Throw Stephens in there and they're tough to stop."

Despite those problems, Mossman said she likes the bracket the Wildcats are in. The winner of the Nebraska-Kansas State game will face either Oklahoma State or Kansas Sunday. The finals are scheduled for Monday.

"My impression of the Big Eight draw is that there's no easy draw," Mossman said. "Look at the fact that every team beat each other with the exception of Colorado. It doesn't matter if you play the No. 2 seed or No. 7 seed. This is a new season for everyone."

Colorado finished the regular season with a 14-0 Big Eight record, the first time a team finished undefeated in conference games. The Buffaloes, who are ranked 10th nationally, finished their season with a 24-3 record overall.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said she also likes the bracket Nebraska is

The top qualifiers for the Nebraska women are Linetta Wilson and Yvonne van der Kolk, who have each qualified in two events. Wilson has reached the qualifying mark in the 200 and 400-meter dash, while van der Kolk exceeded marks in the 800 and mile runs.

Nebraska's Toyia Barnes, Joanne Gomez, Renita Robinson and Meredy Porter also have qualified. Barnes qualified in the shotput, while Gomez and Robinson will compete in the triple jump. Porter will compete in the long jump.

Pepin said that all of the Nebraska athletes will not be competing at the Sports Center this weekend. He said he is sending athletes where the situation looks best for them to qualify.

"In some instances, like the women's mile relay, they are going to be in a meet where we know there are going to be good athletes to help pull them to a qualifying time," Pepin said. "It's whatever facilities enhance our opportunities best, either due to the facility or the competition that's at that facility."

Nebraska's mile relay team of Beth Webster, Tanya Lidy, Ximena Restrepo and Wilson will travel to Gainesville, Fla., for a last chance meet Saturday at the University of Florida. Webster will also compete in the 55-meter hurdles.

Pepin said long jumper Kim Guthrie, high jumper Shanta McGlothlin and distance runner Dieudonne Kwizera have all been close to qualifying this season. He said they will try to surpass their NCAA marks at the Sports Center because they consider it an advantage

not to travel.

Nebraska assistant coach Jay Dirksen said the number of athletes going to Florida was longer at the beginning of the week. But when the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis became available this weekend because of a cancellation, the list shortened.

Dirksen said the cancellation meant officials would be able to install the track a week early.

Dirksen said he will accompany several Cornhuskers to Indianapolis this weekend, including the men's 1600-meter relay of Mark Jackson, Ken Waller, Regis Humphrey and Dale Burrage.

The remaining Nebraska athletes who will compete in Indianapolis are distance runners Jacques van Rensburg and twin brothers Frank and Harald Graham. Fran ten Benschel will also compete in the 800-meter run and James Morris will compete in the triple jump.

Dirksen said there are several advantages to taking athletes to Indianapolis. He said that if they fail to qualify, the schedule is such that the athletes will arrive back in Lincoln in time to compete again at the Sports Center.

Dirksen also said the track in Indianapolis is considered one of the fastest in the world. He said if the athletes qualify, they will have an edge entering the NCAA competition because they will have already competed on it.

"Everyone we're taking has a chance of qualifying, but you never know," Dirksen said.

Pepin said qualifying boils down to the individual's self image.

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