

Highs and lows mark weekend tennis play

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team may have lowered its effort during last weekend's Colorado Invitational, but it still came away with some important victories.

Nebraska women's tennis coach Gregg Calvin said even though the Cornhuskers had trouble sustaining their intensity for the competition at Boulder, Colo., their effort still was good. He said although it wasn't as good an effort as Nebraska gave during the Husker Invite two weeks ago, it was acceptable.

"It was exceptional when we played at the Husker Invite," Calvin said. "It was good this week."

Nebraska played round-robin matches against Colorado, Texas Tech and New Mexico at the invitational. Calvin said if team scores would have been kept for the six singles and three doubles competitions, the Huskers would have defeated Colorado and Texas Tech 6-3 and New Mexico 7-2.

Calvin said the tournament showed Nebraska what it will have to do in April in order to be successful over the three-match week-

ends of the Big Eight season. He said the Huskers should be ready for those contests because they have improved this fall.

Calvin said one bright spot for Nebraska was Ildiko Guba. Guba compiled a 2-1 record at No. 1 singles, and defeated Colorado's Brigit Fink-Jensen 6-0, 5-7, 6-2. Fink-Jensen won the No. 1 singles title at the Husker Invitational.

The other bright spots were Tina Coutretsis and Ann Flannery. Coutretsis extended her winning streak to seven matches at No. 6 singles, while Flannery defeated Renee Marshall of Colorado, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, at No. 2 singles.

Calvin said Nebraska's success against Colorado was encouraging.

"Colorado has improved, but we still have the potential -- when we play good -- for all of our players to be a level or two above theirs," he said.

The only dark spots for Nebraska were Meghan Quinn and Rachel Collins. Quinn lost all three of her singles matches while operating on a tender knee, and Collins failed to record a victory even though she took all three of her opponents to three sets.

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team discovered this weekend that one thing is worse than an exhausting, three-day road trip: a three-day road trip that turns into a one-day affair because everyone loses in the first or second round.

The Cornhuskers began and ended their Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association tournament Friday in Wichita, Kan., when six singles and three doubles entries were bounced early.

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott said he was disappointed with the Huskers' performance at the tournament, which included Big Eight and Missouri Valley Conference teams. He said the competition allowed him to see where the Huskers, who finished second in the Big Eight last year, fit into the conference this season.

Kansas and Oklahoma are the cream of the conference, he said, with Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa State and Colorado battling for third.

"If we went in right now and finished third it would be a good year for us," he said. "If we finished higher than third, it would be a great year."

Matthias Mueller, Ken Feuer and Steve Barley, the top three players in the Husker lineup, won their first-round matches, and Barley and Scott Randolph started with a victory in the doubles. But those were the only Husker wins.

"I never felt good about anybody's individual play, except for maybe (Joseph) Rahme," McDermott said.

Rahme lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 to Rob Spears of Iowa State, but McDermott said Rahme played competitively and started out serving well.

McDermott said he thinks Nebraska's team players are part of the problem. Mueller and Feuer, he said, have trouble motivating themselves unless the event is a big dual meet.

"They come to an individual tournament and say, 'If I lose, it's no big deal,'" McDermott said.

"If it was a big dual they would fight like dogs. I'd like to see them fight like dogs even if it's an individual tournament."

in brief SPORTS

NU crew team finishes strong

A contingent of crew team members from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln recorded a lofty finish at a competition this weekend in Rockford, Ill.

Nebraska's Ron Vocoun, Scott Nelson, David Schmidr and Rob Mellion combined to earn the bronze medal in the men's varsity lightweight competition. The competition, which drew 34 collegiate teams, consisted of a 2.5 mile course that the Cornhuskers covered in 13:2.

Wisconsin won the competition's team title, while Harvard was second. Nebraska finished seventh in the team race.

NU rugby team beats Missouri

The Nebraska men's rugby team used a balanced scoring attack to whitewash Missouri 39-0 Saturday in Columbia, Mo.

The Cornhuskers, 4-0, received scoring from eight players, including Mark Palmer. Palmer led the Nebraska charge by tallying three conversions and a penalty kick.

The other players who scored for Nebraska included Mike Welch, Kevin McDonald, Mitch Lewis, Steve Thompson, Paul Riddle, Ryan Menze and Dean Glover.

Team spokesman Jim Wiggs said he was pleased with Nebraska's effort. He said Missouri defeated 12-ranked Kansas earlier this season.

"We heard (Missouri) was supposed to be pretty good," Wiggs said, "but we just blew them out. We had a good time."

Nebraska's next match is Saturday, when the Huskers face Kansas at 1:30 p.m. at the East Campus fields.

Wiggs said Nebraska is confident entering the Kansas match.

"That is going to be a good game," he said, "I'm pretty confident, though. We're pretty impressive this year."



Daily Nebraskan file photo

Nebraska's Nodjya Cook takes a swing with a wood. Cook along with her Nebraska teammates, competed in the Buckeye Invitational last weekend in Columbus, Ohio. Nebraska placed fifth in the 16-team competition.

NU women's golf team places fifth in Invitational

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

The Nebraska women's golf team earned some well-deserved rest after competing in the Buckeye Invitational last weekend in Columbus, Ohio.

Nebraska women's golf coach Robin Scherer said she was pleased with her team's final performance of the fall even though the Cornhuskers were suffering from mental fatigue. She said the fatigue resulted from traveling to compete in three straight road competitions.

That fatigue showed, as Nebraska finished fifth in the 16-team competition at the Ohio State Scarlet course with a 956 total. Furman won the competition with a 930 total, followed by Indiana with a 936 mark, Ohio State with a 947 total, Wake Forest with a 949 and Nebraska.

Brigham Young finished sixth in the three-day affair, followed by Minnesota, Penn State, Iowa State, Michigan and Southern Illinois. Bowling Green, Wisconsin, Kansas State, DePauw University of Greencastle, Ind., and Indianapolis rounded out the competition's field.

Scherer said she was pleased with Nebraska's fifth-place finish even though the Huskers were in third place after the opening round of competition. She said Nebraska showed that it is a force to be reckoned with by defeating Brigham Young.

The 17th-ranked Cougars finished with a 959 total.

"We beat BYU," Scherer said. "It was disappointing to finish poorly, but we still gave a good effort."

Scherer said poor finishes were not limited to Nebraska. She said the entire field appeared to have trouble during the competition's final 18 holes Saturday.

"We played really well the first 36

holes. We gave an excellent effort," Scherer said. "We struggled a little bit during the final 18, but all teams seemed to struggle on them."

Scherer praised the performances of Ann Guiberson and Susan Dougherty. Guiberson finished fourth in the individual competition with a 230 total, while Dougherty tied Penn State's Kristin Clark for 10th with a 235 mark.

In addition to Guiberson and Dougherty, Nebraska's other competitors were Joann Brooks, Nodjya Cook and Alysén Madsen. Brooks, who claimed a pair of individual titles earlier this year, tied Kristi Reuterfeldt of Minnesota with a 244 mark, while Cook finished 47th with a 250 total. Madsen tied a trio of golfers for 52nd place with a 252 mark.

Scherer said Nebraska's performance did not convince her that the Huskers are ready to be ranked among the top-20 teams. She said Nebraska is a legitimate top-30 squad, but needs to be more consistent to be ranked among the top 20.

Scherer said Nebraska will begin working on its consistency in three to four weeks, when it resumes light workouts in preparation for the spring season. She said Nebraska needs to take a break now because the Huskers are tired and have missed a lot of classes.

"We're going to take a break and recuperate," Scherer said. "Right now, it's important that we concentrate on the studies. We've got to continue to establish ourselves academically."

Scherer said she can not complain about Nebraska's fall performance. She said the Huskers will have a successful spring if they continue to work hard and improve.

"We gained some valuable experience, and we played some very good golf," Scherer said. "We're going into the spring with high expectations."

Oklahoma loses to NU volleyball team

By Darran Fowler
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team wanted to beat Oklahoma bad, and it did.

Nebraska defeated the Sooners 15-6, 15-12, 7-15 and 15-5 in a Big Eight match Saturday in front of a vocal crowd of 360 at Norman, Okla. Fifth-ranked Nebraska upped its record to 12-0 and 3-0 in the Big Eight.

Oklahoma got the better of Nebraska last year by beating the Huskers two out of three times, including

the Cornhuskers' last loss.

Nebraska's last defeat was last season when the Sooners knocked the Huskers out of the NCAA Tournament in Midwest Regional play.

Nebraska assistant volleyball coach John Cook said the Huskers wanted to beat Oklahoma "really bad," and that the Sooner fans' taunting of the Nebraska players during warm ups added fuel to the fire.

"Their fans are a little rude," Cook said. "That fired them (the Huskers) up. There was a little bit more fire in their eyes."

Nebraska hit .385 in the match,

marking the sixth time the Huskers have hit above .300 this season. Oklahoma hit .154, the 10th time this season an opponent has hit below .200.

Sophomore outside hitter Janet Kruse led Nebraska in kills with 15. Nebraska played good in the first two games but got complacent when losing the third, Cook said.

"Oklahoma played a little better and we backed off," he said. "The fourth game we turned it back on."

"We felt that Oklahoma would probably have a hard time playing with us as long as we played well."

He said Nebraska's attack and quickness doomed the Sooners.

"They're big and slow," he said. "They play Oklahoma brand of volleyball. They're a pretty good blocking team and they're a pretty good serving team but they don't scramble well."

Nebraska and Oklahoma will meet again Oct. 28 in a match at the NU Coliseum.

Cook said the Sooners will be an improved team.

"They are not a team we can take lightly," he said.