

Title is at stake for two schools

By The Associated Press

Colorado against Nebraska: It won't just be the biggest game ever played in Boulder, Colo. At stake could be a shot at a national championship.

Since second-ranked Miami lost 24-10 to ninth-ranked Florida State Saturday, Colorado and Nebraska should move up a notch each in the poll and be Nos. 2-3 behind Notre Dame when they meet Saturday at Boulder.

Third-ranked Colorado beat Oklahoma 20-3, and No. 4 Nebraska beat Iowa State 49-17 Saturday, while the Irish beat No. 7 Pittsburgh 45-7. Notre Dame, Colorado and Nebraska all are 8-0.

The Colorado-Nebraska winner almost certainly will win the Big Eight and a trip to the Orange Bowl, where the logical matchup would be against Notre Dame, if the Irish remain No. 1.

"That win means a lot to this program," Colorado coach Bill McCartney said.

"It now puts us in position to play the biggest game ever played in Boulder."

The only other ranked unbeaten team is Alabama, at 7-0 after beating No. 14 Penn State 17-16.

Colorado beat Oklahoma for the first time since 1976 and at Norman, Okla., for the first time since 1965. The Buffaloes held Oklahoma to 167 total yards.

Although Colorado quarterback Darian Hagan had 107 yards rushing and J.J. Flannigan, subbing for injured Eric Bieniemy, had 103, the Buffaloes' 20 points were their fewest of the season. Colorado has scored 40 or more points five times.

Colorado's final points came after an Oklahoma fumble at its 9. Hagan scored on an 8-yard run with 3:26 left.

Iowa State coach 'totally fed up'

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

Gone was the Iowa State coach Jim Walden, who three weeks ago had joked about hearing the sound of "Godzilla one, Godzilla two, and Godzilla three" approaching while preparing for Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

In his place sat a coach who was frustrated to the point of anger after seeing his team drop a 49-17 decision to Nebraska Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Walden silently entered the field-house room set aside for interviews. He began quietly, then worked to a boiling point.

"Well, there's not much to say," Walden said, "just a bigger, stronger, more deep football team that one day I'd like to be even close to."

"We're tired. This is our third straight week of this type of competi-

tion."

Walden paused. He looked down at the floor, glanced up at the crowd of reporters, then after a long silence started again.

"We're not capable of me answering your questions gentlemen," he said, his face growing increasingly red and his voice increasingly louder, "cause what you want me to say is that we got beat by a good team. We did."

"But I can't tell you how frustrating it is to keep trying to play against this type of competition with what I'm having to do it with."

Then Walden quit holding back. "You can call it whining -- you can call it any goddamn thing you want," he said, "but I call it injustice and I am sick of it."

"I am sick of having to come over here and play Nebraska and not be able to compete against them and

have them run over my guys because they should. Not because they're better, or because they've got 10 times more guys to pick from than I do.

"They've got 75 more guys and I get sick of doing it for the last three weeks."

"I've watched walk-ons and freshmen go out there and try to stop five-year seniors on great teams," Walden continued, "and take nothing away from Nebraska and Tom -- he's not my problem."

"But the problem is it's a damn shame you guys have to watch it. And you have to keep asking me stupid questions about why we don't do better, 'cause what you're watching is a great team playing against j.v.'s. And it's not fair."

Walden stopped again momentarily, then looked back up into the lights from the television cameras.

"So I'd like to brag on Nebraska -- I'd like to tell you they were every-

thing I thought they were gonna be. They ran us over like I thought they were going to and they won the game exactly like I thought they should have.

"And I don't give a damn who wins the Colorado-Nebraska game -- so don't ask it."

"Is there anything else you want now?" Walden asked.

The room was silent. "Thank you," he snapped, rising to his feet. "I've had enough."

On the way out of the room, Walden stopped.

"I don't want that down there like I'm mad at you," he said, pointing at one reporter's legal pad. "I'm not."

The coach's anger again reached fever pitch.

"I'm just totally fed up to here with watching my guys get run over by good kids. It's not fair," he shouted, "and I shouldn't have to put up with this shit."

Cross country team captures title

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's cross country team repeated as Big Eight champions Saturday at Ames, Iowa, while No. 1-ranked Iowa State ran away with its third straight men's crown.

The Husker men's team finished second with 68 points to the Cyclones, who placed four individuals in the top five -- including champion John Nuttall -- en route to a final score of 22.

The Nebraska women captured their title with 43 points. Ninth-ranked Oklahoma State was second with 59, followed by fourth-ranked Kansas State with 64. Missouri was fourth with 131 points, followed by Colorado with 135, Kansas with 141, Iowa State with 163 and Oklahoma with 177.

In the men's race, Colorado finished in third with 92 points, fol-

lowed by Kansas State with 110, Kansas with 113, Oklahoma State with 128, Oklahoma with 182 and Missouri with 209.

Nebraska cross country coach Jay Dirksen praised the effort of the Cornhusker women.

"There was a real good example of a team effort on the women's side," Dirksen said. "The top six ran real well."

All-America selection Yvonne van der Kolk was the Huskers' top finisher in the women's 5000-meter race with a time of 17:19. That mark was 13 seconds behind individual champion Heather Garrett of Oklahoma State.

Garrett was followed by teammate Jackie Goodman and Missouri's Susan Bliss.

"I haven't figured it up, but I think we would have won even if Yvonne hadn't run," Dirksen said.

Nebraska's all-around effort included three more finishers in the top

10. Katie Fletcher finished sixth and Juliet Prowse and Fran tenBensel finished ninth and tenth respectively.

Dirksen praised the effort of Fletcher and tenBensel, who are a pair of redshirt freshmen. He said Prowse also deserved praise, as she ran her best race of the year.

The remaining top-20 finishers for the Huskers were Kelly Loos and Michelle Marthaler, who finished 14th and 15th.

"It's encouraging to have that kind of depth," Dirksen said. "That's really good to have for the national meet, assuming we make it."

The men's race came down to a battle for No. 1 between Nuttall and Nebraska All-America selection Joe Kirby, who finished second.

Dirksen said the two pulled away with more than a mile to go. Kirby led with approximately a half mile to go, but Nuttall used his closing kick to win with a time of 25:11.

Nebraska's other returning All-American, senior Jacques van Rensburg, finished sixth with a 25:40 clocking.

Dirksen said he was impressed by Kirby and van Rensburg.

"Kirby ran a great race," he said. "On a different day, he might have won. Jacques might have won. Any one of the top six might have won on a given day."

"There were some great runners at this meet: Five, six, maybe even eight guys from the top 10 will probably be All-Americans."

Dirksen said he was pleased with the meet.

"It was great," he said. "Our women were really impressive. That's the first time we've ever had four girls in the top 10."

"Everyone ran really hard. We had people who laid it on the line and ran their best from the gun."

"That's the kind of effort we need at districts and nationals."

Pettit: Line-up change made to prepare team for future

By Darran Fowler
Senior Reporter

Realizing that Nebraska was up against a struggling Missouri team, Cornhusker volleyball coach Terry Pettit experimented against the Tigers by giving several Huskers the opportunity to play.

Without a struggle, third-ranked Nebraska raised its record to 17-1 and 8-0 in Big Eight conference play by defeating Missouri 15-10, 15-2, 15-2 in front of 1,381 fans at the NU Coliseum Sunday afternoon.

The Tigers came into Lincoln riding a 14-match losing streak, and are now 4-19 and 0-8 in the Big Eight.

Pettit opened each game with a different starting line-up and also substituted randomly in giving all but one Husker playing time in the match.

Sophomore middle blocker Sara Hesch, who still is recovering from shoulder surgery, was in uniform but did not play.

Putting players in at various points of the match and having them assume different roles and situations will prepare the Huskers for the future, Pettit said.

Nebraska, which normally runs a 5-1 offense with setter Val Novak, ran a 6-2 against the Tigers whenever the Huskers' other setter -- freshman Val Vermeulen -- was inserted into the line-up at the same time as Novak.

Novak led the nation last week by averaging 14.08 assists per game.

Pettit said there may be a time later this season when the Huskers are

struggling with the 5-1, and may need to switch to a 6-2.

Also, by using Vermeulen as a setter in the 6-2, the Huskers can take advantage of Novak's hitting experience, he said.

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—Pettit

Novak had 373 kills last season at the outside hitter position.

"We weren't just messing around," he said. "We were getting people in situations where they might help us."

"Those are things that may come into play in matches down the road. On the whole, I thought we did a pretty good job."

Vermeulen, who recorded four assists and one service ace in the match, said she doesn't have any problems running the Huskers' offense.



Eileen Shannon and Virginia Stahr block a kill attempt by Missouri during Sunday's game.

Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan