

Beck guards against high expectations

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck prefers silent sanity over midnight madness.

Beck said she is taking a silent approach toward this season because she wants to guard against expectations that are too high. While the Nebraska men's team opened its season by having a game in the middle of the night, Beck's team is slipping into



Beck

the season unnoticed. "I've kind of kept it that way," she said.

Beck begins her fourth year at Nebraska hoping to bounce back from a disastrous season last year.

Last season, Nebraska was picked to repeat its performance as Big Eight champions but slumped to a tie for sixth in the conference with a 14-14 record.

Beck said she takes some responsibility for the downfall because she set up the team's killer schedule. She said her high-strung attitude also put extra pressure on the team.

"At the time I didn't understand the growing progress," Beck said.

In the meantime, the Cornhuskers

grew further away from their 1988 NCAA bid.

This year the Huskers have a more conservative outlook, Beck said.

"We have expectations, but not extremely high," she said. "We don't have any Big Eight goals or national goals."

Beck said she is comfortable with her team. The Cornhuskers added six freshmen and three transfers, including junior college All-America selections Kristin Dahn and Kristine Kincaid and freshman Karen Jennings.

Dick Vitale's Basketball magazine rated Jennings as the fifth-best freshman in the U.S.

Even with all the new players, Beck said, the team is focused, and

the attitude and work ethic have been great.

"If we never win a game, I'd like the players I'm working with," she said.

Captain Ann Halsne and Kim Yancey key the returning Huskers. The 6-foot-1 Halsne is the only returning starter, and Yancey will take charge of the offense at guard.

"I'm really, really proud of (Yancey)," Beck said. "She's out-working Amy Stephens."

Stephens set the standard for getting the most out of her ability last season when she limped around on a bad heel but still earned All-Big Eight honors. Beck said Yancey is further along than Stephens was as a

sophomore.

"Now she just has to put it into a game," Beck said.

With the top returnees and the recruiting class ranked as one of the top 10 groups in the country, the Huskers have the potential to return to the level of two seasons ago.

But Beck is comfortable starting in the middle of the pack.

"Last year we went after things, and people went after us," Beck said. "It was crazy, like Final Four pressure."

This year, she said, the team only is looking for steady improvement.

"We want to work hard and do what's expected," she said. "I like it kind of quiet."



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska fullback Bryan Carpenter plows through the Iowa State defense as Doug Glaser blocks.

Osborne says national championship won't concern him during CU game

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A national championship will not weigh heavily on Nebraska coach Tom Osborne's mind when the Cornhuskers face Colorado Saturday in Boulder, Colo.

Osborne said he is not overly concerned about the top ranking even though the Nebraska-Colorado game will have national championship implications. He said he cannot worry about the illustrious ranking because there are so many variables that surround it.

Some of those variables will be tested when the second-ranked Buffaloes face third-ranked Nebraska in a game that will be nationally televised by CBS (Channel 3). The winner of the contest will have an inside track to the Orange Bowl and will stay alive in the national championship picture.

Osborne said teams have to be good and lucky to win a national championship, and also must receive the necessary votes. He said top rankings are hard to control because sometimes teams are good and lucky, but they don't receive enough votes to win the national title.

"It's just something that happens," Osborne said.

Osborne said he does not know what is going to happen when Nebraska faces Colorado. He said he does know that the Buffaloes are a good, solid team that has run its record to 8-0 by relying on balance.

"I think they're a fine football team," Osborne said. "They're very solid."

Osborne said one of Colorado's main strengths is its offensive line. He said the Buffaloes' line, which is anchored by 6-foot-8, 295-pound right tackle Mark Vander Poel, helps open things up for quarterback Darian Hagan, tailbacks Eric Bieniemy and J.J. Flannigan, and fullback Erich Kissick.

Osborne said Hagan is a good scrambler who hurts opponents with his passing. Hagan, a right-handed signal caller who throws equally well left handed, is averaging 20.9 yards per completion.

Osborne said Nebraska cannot afford to take Colorado's passing game lightly.

"A lot of people might not think too much about their passing game," Osborne said, "but they've got a tremendous yards-per-completion ratio."

Osborne praised the play of Hagan. The sophomore from Los Angeles, who was recruited by Nebraska, was given the starting quarterback job when the late Sal Aunese was diagnosed as having inoperable stomach cancer last summer.

"Hagan has played very well," Osborne said. "Whenever he can get a chance to get some daylight he's a great thrower."

Osborne said Bieniemy and Flannigan add two more dimensions to Colorado's offensive attack. Bieniemy is questionable for the Nebraska

game because of a broken bone in his right leg.

Last week, while filling in for Bieniemy, Flannigan rushed for 103 yards during Colorado's 20-3 win against Oklahoma. Flannigan was the tailback who muffed an apparent touchdown when he fumbled in the open field during the Huskers' 7-0 win against Colorado last season.

Osborne said Colorado runs some plays that are very similar to ones used by Nebraska.

"I wouldn't say they necessarily copied our offense," he said, "(but) the two teams resemble each other."

"There's a lot of similarity on defense, too."

Osborne said Colorado's defense is strong up front. He said the Buffaloes' secondary uses zone coverages to try to shut down opponents' passing games.

"They don't get involved in a lot of man to man," Osborne said. "They don't want to."

Osborne said Colorado's zone defense has worked this season as the Buffaloes have defeated several teams that are rich in college football tradition. In addition to defeating Oklahoma, the Buffaloes beat Texas, Illinois and Washington.

Osborne said Colorado has played a tougher schedule than Nebraska. While the Cornhuskers opened their season by facing Northern Illinois, Utah, Minnesota and Oregon State, Colorado faced the three non-Big

See TITLE on 8

NU women's tennis team ends season this weekend

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team will begin its last competition of the fall season today at the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association regional tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Six Cornhuskers will play in singles in the tournament which runs through Saturday, and Nebraska coach Gregg Calvin said all six also will play doubles in the one-flight, single-elimination event.

"We wanted to make sure all six had a chance to concentrate in practice and have a tournament at the end," Calvin said. "Originally, we were planning on only taking four."

Ildiko Guba, Ann Flannery, Nancy Tyggum, Rachel Collins, Meghan Quinn and Tina Coutretsis will play for the Huskers. Tyggum and Collins, Guba and Flannery, and Quinn and Coutretsis will team up in doubles.

Calvin said 76 individuals are entered in singles, with about half as many doubles teams. He said his team has a chance to play against the top players in the country.

Arkansas and Minnesota gave some indication of the quality in the region, he said, but at the ITCA tournament the Huskers will see players from Oklahoma State and Brigham Young, which are two of the top-10 teams in the nation.

"It's nice because you can gauge where you're at," Calvin said. "You can see the nationally ranked team

and see how far you have to go."

Nebraska also will see all the other Big Eight teams except Iowa State. Calvin said the meet should include many teams, like Kansas State and Oklahoma, similar to the Huskers.

Guba is seeded in the top 18, Calvin said, and the top two doubles teams, both undefeated, also should be seeded.

Nebraska placed one individual and one doubles pair into the quarterfinals last year.

"If we could duplicate that -- even with one person -- that would be great," Calvin said. "We also want every player that goes to win a match."

He said success at the ITCA tournament should mean a national ranking for any of his players. Last year, Tyggum and Doneta Holmen defeated two seeded teams on the way to the quarterfinals, and by the end of the year they were in the top 25.

"The only way to (get ranked) is to play the good teams and beat the good teams," he said.

The singles finalists and the winner in doubles also get an all-expense-paid trip to the National Indoors in February, he said.

"The neat thing is, it gives our players a chance to have a win against players from teams ranked ahead of us," he said.

Success depends largely on the draw, he said, so he is expecting players to do their best against evenly matched opponents.

"We want to have some good results and some competitive play," he said.

Tennis team takes second at weekend tournament

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

Second place at the Drake Indoor Tournament was good enough for the Nebraska men's tennis team to re-establish itself in the region, Coach Kerry McDermott said.

The Cornhuskers lost 5-4 to Colorado in the finals Sunday, but McDermott said he was pleased because his team defeated Utah, 8-1, in the first round and Southwest Missouri State, 5-4, in the semifinals of the 10-team tournament.

"It was a great tournament to beat the teams we're expected to beat," he said.

McDermott said being runner-up showed that the Huskers have recovered from losing four seniors from last season. He said since he became the Huskers' coach, he has worked to construct a strong program, not an occasionally strong team.

"We developed a name in our region, and we're always in the top three or four," he said. "We want to keep that together."

He said the Huskers, along with Colorado, Kansas and Wichita State,

will be invited to the National Indoor Regional Team Tournament, which will be at Wichita, Kan., in two weeks.

And despite the loss to the Buffaloes, McDermott said he was pleased with the Huskers' effort.

"I guess I've never been displeased with a loss like that," he said.

The two teams were tied 3-3 after the singles. Matthias Mueller at No. 1 singles, Ken Hagan at No. 2 and Troy Larsen at No. 6 had won for Nebraska, while Steve Barley, Scott Randolph and Joseph Rahme had lost at Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

In the doubles competition, McDermott said he was disappointed in Barley and Randolph, the No. 2 team. He said the pair was up 40-0, with three break points, in the seventh game of the first set.

But the Huskers failed to capitalize, and Colorado took the match, 6-4, 6-1.

The No. 3 team of Rahme and David Moyer was to tie the match again, but the contest slipped away when Mueller and Feuer lost for the

See SECOND on 8