

# Coaches agree NU-OU game still important

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

Team records and national rankings have not claimed any of the luster surrounding the Nebraska-Oklahoma game, Sooners coach Gary Gibbs and Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said Monday.

Nebraska, which is ranked No. 6 in the Associated Press poll with a 9-1 record, will face the unranked, 7-3 Sooners in a battle that both coaches said is one of the best in college football. They said the contest remains hot even though Oklahoma is in the first year of a two-year probation that will keep it out of the bowl

games. "I don't think it's lost its luster," Gibbs said. "Over the years, this has proven to be one of the great rivalries in college football. Our players are excited and up for the challenge."

"There's still a lot at stake -- a lot of pride. It will be an excellent football game."

Osborne agreed. "There's still a lot of memories," he said. "There's more than a fair amount of history between these two teams. It's going to be a tremendous ball game."

Osborne said he has been impressed by Oklahoma.

"I think Oklahoma's very good," Osborne said. "After looking at the

film, we've been very impressed. Defensively, they're very good -- they'll probably be the best overall defense we'll face."

"At this stage in the season, they're playing very well. They're a top-10 team right now, I think. If they started their season over in these last few weeks they'd definitely be among the best teams in the country."

Gibbs said he is equally impressed with Nebraska.

"Nebraska is a great football team," he said. "They're every bit as good as Colorado is. (Gerry) Gdowski and (Ken) Clark are playing very well for them and they have a defense with good speed and quickness."

"They're a typical Nebraska football team and as good as any other team in the country."

Osborne said Oklahoma defensive tackle Scott Evans is as good as any player in the country. Evans, a 6-foot-3, 260-pound junior from Edmond, Okla., was an All-Big Eight selection last season and may earn higher honors this year, Gibbs said.

Evans was the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Week two weeks ago.

"Scott Evans is as dominant a defensive player as there is," Osborne said. "He's as good as we've seen in a long time."

Gibbs said two other key players for Oklahoma are freshman quarter-

back Steve Collins and I-back Dewell Brewer.

Brewer, a freshman who was recruited heavily by Nebraska, replaced the injured Mike Gaddis and the suspended Ike Lewis in the Sooners' I-formation offense. He responded by earning the Big Eight's Offensive Player of the Week honor after rushing for 187 yards against Kansas State Saturday.

Collins took over Oklahoma's vacant quarterback spot at the beginning of the season, and returned from a hand injury to lead the Sooners to two straight wins.

"Collins is doing a real good job of controlling the offense right now," Gibbs said.

## Volleyball team hosts Iowa State

# Players hope tonight's home game isn't the last

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

It may be an evening of goodbyes tonight at the NU Coliseum when the Nebraska volleyball team takes on Big Eight opponent Iowa State.

Provided the Coliseum is not the site for any postseason play, the match will signify the end for a pair of Cornhusker seniors as well as the building itself.

With renovation of the Coliseum as part of Phase III of the Campus Recreation Center slated to begin in January, this could be the last athletic event ever staged in the Coliseum as it now stands.

The first match is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students will be admitted free if they show their student IDs.

The Coliseum was opened in 1926, and the Husker men's basketball team's last game in the building was in 1975. Ironically, that game also was against Iowa State.

The volleyball team moved into the Coliseum in 1977.

In commemoration of the last regular-season event ever at the Coliseum, ticket prices for the match have

been reduced to \$1.

"This building has a lot of history," Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said. "Wilt Chamberlain's played in this building."

Chamberlain played at the Coliseum in the 1957 and 1958 seasons, when he was a starting center for Kansas.

The match also is designated as senior recognition night for Huskers Virginia Stahr and Carla Baker.

Stahr, who redshirted her freshman year, said she has thought about the personal significance of this match.

"It has crossed my mind," she said. "In fact, I just talked to a friend of mine who mentioned it and I thought 'Oh wow, it doesn't seem possible.' It seems I've been here forever."

"The fans have been great and it's getting better. I'm going to miss that ... just all the spirit that goes on during matches."

Stahr said she is confident that this will not be her last match at the Coliseum.

"I'm pretty sure we'll have a first-round match here," she said.

"We've had it every year here."

Baker said she hasn't given much thought about this being her last match.

"I guess it'll be pretty exciting for us if it is the last one," she said. "I just haven't thought about it much because we've just been so busy."

"But boy, now I'm getting all sentimental."

Baker said the team's focus will be on Iowa State. Nebraska, which defeated the Cyclones earlier this year in Ames, Iowa, is 20-3 and 9-0 in conference matches.

"We'll just be thinking about the Big Eight," she said. "It will be a good match with Iowa State because we went five games with them last time and they're improving."

Nebraska is competing with Illinois and Minnesota to stage a first-round Midwest Regional game at home.

Illinois beat Nebraska in five games last Saturday.

"That's the worst thing about the Illinois loss in that I don't know how much that's going to hurt us," Stahr said. "The longer we play here the better."

Despite the loss, Nebraska is still

in a good position to be selected as the tournament's site, Baker said.

"Coach Pettit told us there is a good chance for the regional to be here even though Illinois beat us," she said.

***'The fans have been great and it's getting better. I'm going to miss that ... just all the spirit that goes on during matches.'***

--Stahr

Baker, who hails from Winona, Minn., naturally prefers having the regional in Lincoln, but she said Minnesota would not be a bad selection either.

"That would be great," she said. "Illinois is kind of like Lincoln in that there's a lot of people ... a huge

crowd and a lot of noise.

"I don't want to go to Illinois because we've been there the last two years. I don't want to go there at all."

The Huskers have suffered two losses in eight days. Nebraska also lost to Texas Nov. 3.

Baker and Stahr said the team's attitude is positive, and that the losses may prove beneficial.

"Some teams go undefeated and then when it comes to crunch time in the (NCAA) tournament, they just choke," Stahr said. "We just need to take a deep breath now and go on."

"I think it's good that we haven't peaked yet. I think you're going to see a situation where we just start getting better."

Stahr said an indicator of the Huskers avoiding a dubious attitude was displayed in the fifth and deciding game against Illinois.

Nebraska trailed Illinois 11-3, before battling back and tying the score at 11. Illinois went on to win that game 15-12.

"It was really good for us to make that final run," she said. "We totally came back and we were in a position to win that match."

# New Zealand national team first Cornhusker opponent

By Paul Domeier  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team will face a competitive opponent tonight when the Cornhuskers face the New Zealand national team.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said she knows the Auckland, New Zealand, squad is competitive because she watched it drop a 69-55 decision to Kansas State Friday.

"To be honest, K-State could have lost that game," Beck said,

"and they were picked to win the Big Eight."

The New Zealanders then defeated Wichita State Saturday, and faced Kansas in a late game Monday night. They'll get their third crack at a Big Eight opponent when they face Nebraska in a 7 p.m. game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student IDs will be admitted for free.

Beck said New Zealand's impressive start hasn't caused her to worry much about her scouting trip to

Manhattan, Kan. She said she over-scouted last year, worrying too much about what the opponents did and not enough about what the Huskers were doing.

Beck said that realization has forced her to concentrate on simplicity when Nebraska plays its first scrimmage game of the year tonight.

"That's why you won't see 15 or 20 defenses," she said.

After the exhibition against Auckland, the Huskers will face St. Louis Nov. 24 in the opening round of the Wimmer's Invitational. If the

Huskers win that contest, they probably will play Georgia in the finals.

Nebraska's next game then will be against Iowa. Georgia and Iowa are preseason top-20 teams.

To get ready for the early challenges, Nebraska will play to win while also trying to improve, Beck said.

Beck said she has three goals for tonight's game: to play intense defense, to rebound well and to not commit unforced turnovers. She said the defensive intensity is especially

important.

"If you don't have that right now, you're going to have problems," she said.

Beck said the Huskers will start 5-foot-6 Kim Yancey, 5-6 Kristi Dahn, 6-1 Carol Muller, 6-1 Kelly Hubert and 6-1 Ann Halsne. She said she will use at least 10 players against New Zealand.

"I'm not going to hesitate to use the bench," she said. "We're going to have to do new things and get new excitement into the games."

## sports SHORTS

### 100th-season items not selling well

The 100th season of Nebraska football kicked off with the sale of a variety of merchandise, but it has yet to net many returns.

Gary Fouraker, the assistant athletic director for business affairs, said the sale of merchandise has been so bad that it was advertised at reduced prices during Nebraska's game against Kansas on Saturday. The items being sold range from autographed footballs to paintings.

"I would say it hasn't sold as well as what was hoped," Fouraker said. "Some things have gone real well. Some hasn't gone so well."

Fouraker said he has heard grumbings that the merchandise is priced too high. But, he said, that complaint is commonplace.

Fouraker said Nebraska decided to market the merchandise in hopes of raising enough money to build a new trophy display area.

Fouraker said Nebraska didn't intend to market the merchandise in hopes of making up for lost TV and bowl revenues.

The Cornhuskers expect to lose \$500,000 this year because NCAA sanctions will keep the Oklahoma and Oklahoma State football programs and the Kansas men's basketball program off the air. The Sooners and Cowboys also are barred from participating in any postseason bowl.

Fouraker said revenue isn't playing a big role in Nebraska's postseason bowl selection.

"They're talking about three different bowl games right now," Fouraker said. "They're looking at the Cotton Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl and the Citrus Bowl."

"Moneywise, there really isn't a difference between the Cotton, Fiesta, Orange and Sugar bowls. Those are all about the same in stature and money."

The Citrus Bowl, which is located in Orlando, Fla., pays each participating team approximately \$1.2 million. That figure is almost \$2 million less than the lucrative payment offered by the Cotton Bowl.

# Wrestling coach finds little to criticize

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln wrestling coach Tim Neumann tried to find things to criticize about his team's season-opening performance, but it was a difficult search.

Neumann said he was pleased with the effort turned in by the Cornhuskers, "but there's still work to be done."

Nebraska, ranked No. 6 in the Amateur Wrestling News preseason poll, beat Wyoming, 28-8, in a dual Friday night, then won seven of the 10 weight divisions at the 22-team Wyoming Cowboy Open Saturday in Laramie, Wyo.

"It's hard to be super critical when you win seven of the 10 weights, but if you don't be critical, you won't improve," Neumann said.

But, Neumann said, the Huskers "didn't wrestle particularly well" Friday night against the Cowboys. Mental errors were the main problem, "such as letting the opponent score in the last 10 seconds of the period," he said.

"We didn't wrestle with what you would call Division I intensity in the

first three weights," Neumann said. "If we would have been wrestling better competition, we might have been in trouble."

Neumann said some of the Huskers' intensity may have been lost because they were so excited for the start of their first dual of the season.

"In the first matches, they wrestled hard for about three minutes, then tired," he said. "I think they were so pumped up before the match, it just took a lot out of them."

In the finals of the Cowboy Open, though, "we looked like we thought we should," Neumann said.

"I think it was just first-meet jitters," he said. "One good example is Jason Kelber (Nebraska's 126-pound wrestler). He lost to Craig Walters Friday night, then beat him 6-0 the next night at the tournament."

Team results were not tallied at Saturday's tournament to allow red-shirted wrestlers to compete. If team scores had been kept, they would not have been able to wrestle and maintain their red-shirt status.

The Huskers had a "great attitude" during Sunday night's practice, Neumann said.

"They wanted to learn and improve on the mistakes they made," he said. "That kind of attitude will show as the season goes along."

Friday night's Husker winners included Jimmy Sanchez at 118 pounds; Layne Billings at 142; Paul Herrera at 150; Danny Harrison at 158; Scott Chenoweth at 167; Corey Olson at 177; Chris Nelson at 190 and Joe Malecek at heavyweight.

Saturday, Nebraska's tournament champions were John Buxton at 118 pounds; Kelber at 126; Billings at 142; Herrera at 150; Chenoweth at 167; Olson at 177; and Malecek at heavyweight.

Dave Droegemeuller, 134 pounds, finished third after losing his first match. Droegemeuller was pinned after he lost consciousness from a choke hold.

Harrison, 158 pounds, finished fourth, and Nelson lost the 190-pound championship match, 4-3, to Arizona State's Mike Davies, who was the NCAA runner-up two seasons ago.

Kelber was named the outstanding wrestler of the Wyoming Cowboy Open.