

Date Bait.

Dominate

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Nebraska's next meet is Sunday, when the Huskers face Ohio State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Allen said Nebraska is confident about its chances against Ohio State. He said the Buckeyes strength lies in the all-around competition.


Allen said he hopes Nebraska will continue to draw big crowds this season. The Nebraska Sports Information office estimated that 537 fans risked missing the start of Sunday's Super Bowl in favor of attending the contest against Oklahoma and Iowa State.

Nebraska will face Houston Baptist on Feb. 18.



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Becki Clark competes in the three-meter diving competition.



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NU's Huppert gets 100th career win; swimming teams have tiring weekends

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert wasn't overly excited last week about the prospect of earning his 100th-career coaching victory.

Even after achieving the milestone Saturday, he still wasn't excited.

"It's always nice to have individual honors," Huppert said. "But the real credit should go to the kids and the assistants. They're the ones that made this possible."

Huppert recorded his 100th coaching victory when Nebraska defeated Southern Illinois 78-62 Saturday in Carbondale, Ill. The Cornhuskers gave Huppert his 99th career win by defeating Missouri 63-31 on Friday in Columbia, Mo.

Huppert credited his team's success to mental toughness. He said the Huskers overcame a tough schedule that required them to swim two meets

in less than 24 hours.

Huppert said Nebraska left Columbia at 11 p.m. Friday and arrived in Carbondale at 2:30 a.m. Saturday. They faced the Salukis at noon.

"It was an awfully long trip," Huppert said. "The kids wanted to shoot me by the time it was over. They were exhausted."

Huppert said he was never worried about his team's ability to handle the adversity.

"I knew we were going to be able to handle that," he said.

Huppert praised the performance of Nebraska's Michelle Butcher, who spent the weekend winning 1,000-yard freestyle titles. Butcher also competed in the 200-yard butterfly and the 400-yard individual medley.

Huppert said Butcher showed the effects of a busy weekend.

"The minute she got on the bus on Saturday, she fell asleep. She was exhausted," he said.

In the men's competition, Husker coach Cal Bentz recorded his 101st victory when his team defeated Missouri 65-45. The rest of the weekend wasn't as successful for the Nebraska men's team, however, as it finished last in the prestigious Dallas Morning News Invitational and dropped a 63-50 decision to Southern Illinois on Sunday.

Bentz said his entire team was exhausted after its long weekend. The Huskers began their weekend by splitting up and traveling to Columbia or Dallas, then competed as a team against Southern Illinois.

Steve Keller, who finished last in the consolation finals of the 500-yard freestyle, did not help Nebraska, as the Huskers finished sixth in the meet. Michigan won the competition with 316 points, followed by U.S. National with 307, Texas with 297, UCLA with 296, Southern Methodist with 238 and Nebraska with 210.

Coach says wrestlers were fired up but 'came up short' against Cowboys

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Coach Tim Neumann saw exactly what he expected Thursday night against Oklahoma State's wrestling team in Stillwater, Okla. -- great athletes, good depth and lots of fans.

Unfortunately for Neumann and his No. 4-ranked Cornhuskers this combination spelled a 21-12 defeat at the hands of the No. 1-ranked Cowboys before a crowd of almost 2,300 at Gallagher-Iba Arena.

Whatever problems the Huskers had, Neumann said, lack of intensity wasn't one of them.

"That was the most fire our guys have shown all year," he said. "We were up to the challenge, but we just came up short. We wrestled as well as we could have."

The highlight of the night for Nebraska came in the 126-pound match, in which Nebraska's Jason Kelber, ranked No. 3, defeated top-ranked Kendall Cross 5-4. It was the second time this season Kelber defeated Cross.

Kelber led Cross 5-2 with 10 seconds left in the match, but let Cross escape. Instead of backing away to let the clock run out, Kelber shot in to

grab Cross's legs. Kelber nearly got taken down but got out of bounds and let the clock run out.

Cross was awarded two points for the escape and for Kelber's technical violation.

The win tied the team score 3-3, but the Cowboys won five of the next eight matches to defeat Nebraska.

The Huskers beat Cal-State Fullerton 33-8 in a dual earlier in the day. Nebraska's lineup against the Cowboys included two starters -- Kelber and Scott Chenoweth (167) -- who were slowed with ankle injuries.

A third starter, Layne Billings (142), did not compete because of a dislocated rib.

Paul Herrera dropped weight to move down from 150 to fill in for Billings. Herrera defeated ninth-ranked Eric Wilson 11-4.

Oklahoma State's depth was a key in the dual, Neumann said.

In the last three years, Nebraska has drawn the second-, third- and eighth-best recruiting classes in the nation. The Cowboys have gotten the top-rated class in each of those years.

"A good example is at 134," Neumann said. "Oklahoma State has four guys at that class that would be All-Americans. Three of them have beaten (Nebraska starter) Dave

Droegemueller this year, and he's a pretty good wrestler."

Injuries also hurt the team, Neumann said.

"When Chenoweth gets hurt for us, he has to wrestle anyway, at less than 100 percent," Neumann said. "When their starter gets hurt, they can just put in another guy that's close to an All-American."

"If it had been anyone other than Oklahoma State, Chenoweth wouldn't have wrestled."

Neumann said he doesn't think the Huskers' loss to Oklahoma State will have any effect on the ratings.

"The top four teams (Oklahoma State, Arizona State, Iowa and Nebraska) are pretty much set," he said. "Those are the teams with the best chance of winning the national title this year."

The loss to Oklahoma State was disappointing, Neumann said, but he and the other coaches and wrestlers refuse to let the setback discourage them.

"Before the dual, I thought we were one of the five teams in the country that had the best shot at winning the national championship," he said. "I still do. Thursday night did nothing to take that thought away from us."

Eliminate

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somewhat in this way, except CBA doesn't have anyone as talented as the top collegians.

Just as many people who watch collegiate sports now would watch the minor leagues. With roster stability (players become familiar), a little hometown loyalty and competitive play, people will attend. If actual quality of play was the only thing that

made people watch, high school sports would be held in empty gymnasiums.

I'm not against athletic grants because I'm a racist pig who wants to subjugate all inner-city poor who don't have the benefits of a suburban educational system. I know some people use athletics as a way out of poverty, and as a way to an education -- and they still could.

Students with money and the desire for an education could go to college and play club sports, just like the Nebraska Bugeaters used to do when

they were taking on Lincoln High in football. Those who have to go professional right out of high school to earn money could attend college during the off-season.

Outrageous, I know. So I have one other alternative; one I prefer, and one which is more outrageous than the one just suggested. But I have run out of space, so that suggestion will have to wait until next week.

Domeler is a junior news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.

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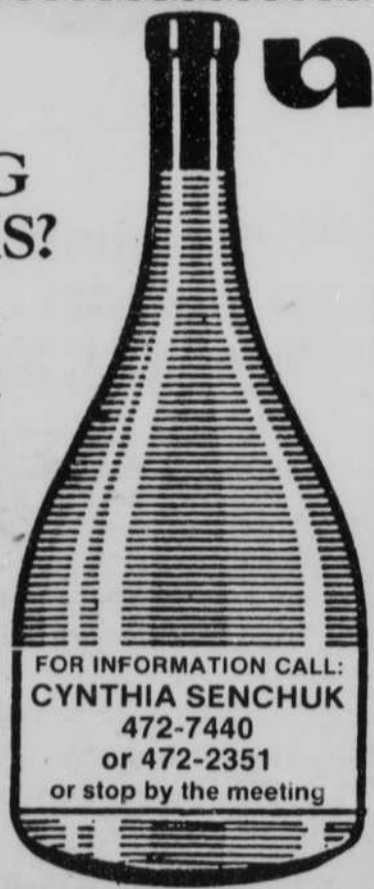
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