

# Kansas threatening to end NU's Big Eight domination

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

The bold statements are flowing freely from Lawrence, Kan.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said he is wary about his team's dual meet against Kansas because the Jayhawks have spent the season talking. He said the talk has centered on ending Nebraska's domination in the Big Eight.

The Cornhuskers have claimed the last 10 consecutive conference titles, a feat which Kansas hopes to end this year. In addition to the statements which Bentz admits he has noticed, the Kansas men's swimming guide states that "Nebraska has met its match" in the Jayhawks.

Nebraska would like to make Kansas eat those words on Saturday in Lawrence, but Bentz realizes that will not be an easy task.

Bentz said Nebraska needs full

concentration in order to defeat Kansas. He said the Huskers cannot afford to look past the Jayhawks, who have been a perennial second-place finisher in the Big Eight.

After facing Kansas, Nebraska will complete its dual season by squaring off against rival Iowa, then will compete in the Big Eight championships, the Iowa Invitational and the NCAA championships.

Bentz said he is impressed by the Kansas men. The Jayhawks completed their 1988-89 campaign by finishing 14th at the NCAA championships, and have compiled a 4-3 record this year.

"Kansas is pretty good," Bentz said. "They already have a couple qualifiers for the NCAA championships. They will be tough."

Kansas swimming coach Gary Kempf said the key to his team's success has been balance. He said the Jayhawks have relied on all 32 swimmers on their roster.

Kempf said Kansas is as strong and deep as it has ever been this season.

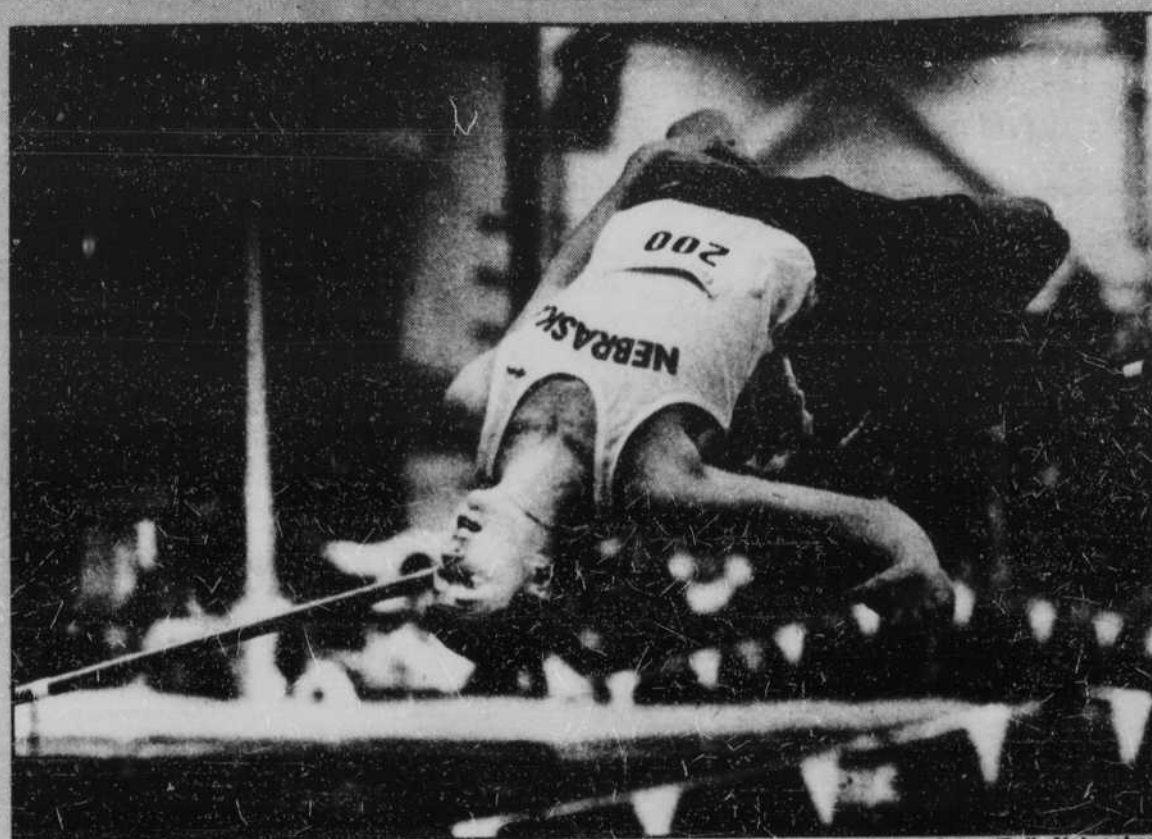
"We have a number of talented athletes to challenge for the conference title," he said, "and remain at a high national level."

Kansas is led by breast stroker Kevin Toller and backstroke Jeff Stout, both of whom earned All-America honors last season.

Nebraska will counter the presence of Toller and Stout with Sean Frampton, Jan Bidman, and Ryan Bell. Bell is the Huskers' top performer in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:52.57 minutes, while Frampton leads Nebraska with a 57.40 second clocking in the 100 breast stroke.

Bidman leads Nebraska in seven of its 14 events, including the 500, 1,000, and 1,650 freestyles, the 100 backstroke, the 200 breaststroke, and the 200 and 400 individual medleys.

The Nebraska women's swimming team, 11-3, does not have another meet until the conference championships on Feb. 22-23.



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Tyson Smith skims the bar while competing in the high jump last weekend against Arkansas and Drake.

## NCAA qualifications stressed for Frank Sevigne Invitational

By Sara Bauder  
Staff Reporter

Track fans will see some of the best track athletes in the country at the Frank Sevigne Invitational today and Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said the meet is one of the year's premier competitions, with 62 men's and women's teams competing. Because no team scores will be kept, he said the athletes will have opportunities to concentrate on their best events.

Today's competition will begin at 5 p.m. The opening-day event finals will include the men's 35-pound weight throw, high jump, pole vault, long jump and 3,200-meter relay.

The women's finals of the long jump, shot put and 3,200 also will be staged today.

Saturday's competition will be split into two sessions. The first, which will begin at 11 a.m., will include the women's 5,000 and triple jump, and will end with the men's 5,000 at 2:10 p.m.

The second session will start at 5 p.m. with the Special Olympic men's and women's 55-meter dash.

One ticket is good for both sessions Saturday, and fans presenting ticket stubs will be admitted free to the Nebraska-Missouri women's basketball game Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Sports Center.

All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student I.D. cards will be admitted free to both sessions and the basketball game.

Pepin said the goal of the Sevigne Invitational is to help as many athletes as possible qualifying for the NCAA Indoor Championships. Athletes qualify for the NCAA championships by meeting certain standards in each event.

Pepin said the competition in every event will be good.

"We have some absolutely tremendous fields in these events," he said. "Over the years in this meet, we've had about 34 countries represented, and about 30 Olympians."

"In the last couple of years, the meet has produced as many or more

national qualifiers as any meet in the United States."

Five of the 10 best women's indoor teams from last year, including the Cornhuskers, will compete.

The men's field will be lead by Texas A&M and Kansas, which finished among the nation's top-10 indoor teams last year.

Pepin said most of Nebraska's athletes will compete in one event, although a few will compete in two. He said the athletes competing in two events will have the events spaced far enough apart that their performances will not be affected.

Nebraska's injury situation on the women's team has improved, Pepin said. Sprinters Prema Govindan and Tranquil Wilson have returned to practice and will compete this weekend. Jumper Joanne Gomez and sprinter Susan Hedrick still are not back to full practice, he said.

Pepin said the lone casualty for the Husker men is high jumper Marc Rexroad, who is suffering from a sprained ankle.

## Strength

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football, basketball, track and softball.

"The new room individualizes an athlete's strength training," Epley said. "It provides many more services than the old room did."

Epley said the weight room will be a big help in terms of recruiting.

"I believe that we will see immediate results in recruiting," he said, "and we'll see results on the football field next year."

Epley said student-athletes need to make the weight room a success by taking advantage of it. He said the

responsibility to improve falls on the individual.

"If you want to get faster or stronger, this is the place to go," Epley said. "We want to make each player the best they can be. Now, it's up to the athlete."

## Missouri

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Buntin have saved their best for last. Buntin averages 15.5 points and 10.5 rebounds per contest, while Coward averages 11.9 points, 2.3 rebounds and 3.8 assists.

McIntyre averages 11 points, 2.7 rebounds and 3.2 assists per contest. Nee said all five of Missouri's starters are clutch players.

"They have five go-to guys," he said.

Nebraska has found a "go-to" guy in its last two games with guard Cliff-

ford Scales. During successive victories against Kansas State and Colorado that raised the Huskers' record to 9-11 and 2-5, Scales averaged 20 points while covering the opposing team's best guard.

Nee said he has been pleased with Scales' performance. He said the junior from Maywood, Ill., was hampered earlier in the season by a variety of injuries and an abundance of playing time.

"Between the flu, a twisted knee and a sprained ankle, he really got beat down last month," Nee said. "But now he's healthy, and I see him really turning it on in February."

## in brief

SPORTS

### KRNU radio to broadcast UNL wrestling

Tim Washburn, the sports director at KRNU radio (90.3 FM), announced that his station will broadcast Nebraska's wrestling meet against Northern Iowa on Saturday.

The meet, which features free admission for all University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student I.D. cards, begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The competition's play by play will be provided by former Cornhusker wrestler Wallace Dawkins.



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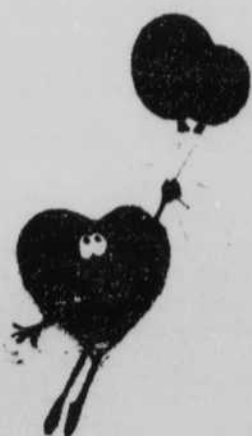
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