

Nebraska's Corey Olson puts the hurt on Northern Iowa's Rich Powers. Olson won the match by default. *David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan*

# NU wrestlers use Missouri dual as last tune-up before Big Eights

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's final wrestling dual of the season couldn't have come at a better time for Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann.

He's ready to get on with the Big Eight championships and NCAA tournament.

The Huskers will face Missouri on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The meet begins at 7:30 p.m., and all University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student ID cards will be admitted free.

The Missouri matchup is the last tune-up for the No. 4-ranked Huskers before the Big Eight championships, which will be March 11 at the Sports Center.

While Missouri has not been ranked this season, Neumann said he isn't about to look past the Tigers.

"It's getting to be difficult to focus on duals with the Big Eight and national meets coming up," he said. "We are going to train and work toward the Big Eight, but we still want to focus on being competitive."

Nebraska has not beaten the Tigers since 1987, when the Huskers won 22-15 in Columbia, Mo.

"They've gotten a lot better as the season has gone on," Neumann said. "The kids that have stayed with (Missouri coach Wes Roper's) program are starting to respond to what he is trying to build in themselves and the team. Since the Big Eight meet is coming up, Missouri's wrestlers will be ready for us."

"All we have to do is look back one year ago." Last year, the two teams wrestled to a 19-19 tie.

When the Tigers return to Lincoln for the conference championships in two weeks, they'll see a different lineup than the one they'll face Saturday night. Neumann said two of his key performers -- All-America selections Jason Kelber and Scott Chenoweth -- will skip Saturday's meet to rest for the tournament.

"We're at the time of the season that we've been pointing to all year, and we plan on being ready," Neumann said. "It seems like this season has gone by faster than any year I've been here, but when you look back, there are a lot of good things that have happened to this team."

A few good things that have happened include Nebraska's current ranking -- the highest in school history. The Huskers have coasted to a school-record 20-3-1 dual record, and are 9-3-1 against teams ranked in the Amateur Wrestling News top-20 poll.

The only losses on the mat have come against Arizona State and Oklahoma State, both of which were ranked

No. 1 at the time. The other loss was a forfeit to Iowa State after a controversial ruling against Arizona State.

Saturday's match against Missouri will be shown on a same-day tape delay by the Nebraska Educational Television Network (channel 12, CableVision channel 13).

**Notes:**

- The Huskers earned their 20th win Wednesday night in Des Moines, Iowa, by defeating Drake 31-12. Nebraska jumped to an early lead, winning four of its first six matches, before Drake's Mike VanderWoude pinned Dan Harrison at 4:04 of the 168-pound match.

Harrison, along with other starters, had moved up to a heavier weight class.

The Huskers went on to win the last three classes to post the win.

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**in brief**  
SPORTS

**Slots still open for outdoor adventures**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who are tired of having fun in the sun over Spring Break now have an alternative.

Craig Christensen, the relations director at the Office of Campus Recreation, said the OCR outdoor adventures program still has openings for a backcountry ski tour that features an abundance of cold weather. The program also has space for persons interested in furthering their tans by canoeing down the Rio Grande River.

The ski trip will consist of an escapade across the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming. Persons making the trip will be taught a crash course in survival, as they will be forced to climb mountains with altitudes as high as 13,167 feet and also will spend their nights in the frigid Wyoming air.

The cost of the trip is \$245.

The canoeing trip will take participants down the Rio Grande until the U.S.-Mexican border is reached. The cost of that trip is \$225.

Persons interested in either trip should sign up by Tuesday. Both trips will be held March 23-April 1.

**Cornhuskers face hard-luck Cyclones**

The Nebraska men's basketball team will meet a squad plagued by tough luck when it faces the Iowa State Cyclones on Saturday.

Iowa State coach Johnny Orr said his team has been hampered by hard luck this season. The Cyclones are 8-16 overall and 2-9 in the Big Eight, with nine of their losses coming by five points or less.

"It's just unreal," Orr said. "We come so close to winning and then strange things seem to happen to us. We just can't quit. We have to keep going."

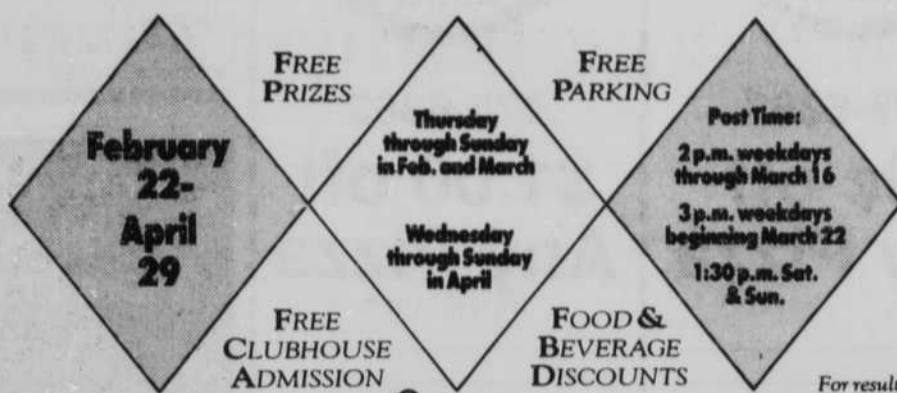
Orr's Cyclones will try to change their fortunes when they face Nebraska at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa. The game, which will be televised by Raycom (channels 10-11), begins at 1:10 p.m.



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