

NU swimmers capture Big Eight title

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

An attitude change helped the Nebraska women's swimming team end a two-year drought and claim this year's Big Eight title.

Nebraska swimmer Michelle Butcher said the Cornhuskers used a determined attitude to end Kansas' two-year reign as conference champions. She said that attitude was critical because it prevented Kansas' psychological warfare from taking its toll.

The Huskers claimed their conference crown on Saturday at Ames,

Iowa, by tallying 654 1/2 points. Kansas finished second with 610, while Iowa State was third with 363 1/2, and Missouri was fourth with 234.

Butcher said Nebraska's attitude this year was a sharp contrast to the sentiments that the Huskers felt before last season's Big Eight meet.

"People believed that we could win it this year," Butcher said. "Last year, they wanted to win it, but they didn't really believe they could."

Butcher and Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert said Kansas tried to dash the Huskers' title hopes by employing a variety of mind games. They said the mind games

included an abundance of cockiness and taunts that were meant to punish opponents mentally.

Huppert said the Jayhawks entered the meet in a cocky fashion, then appeared surprised as Nebraska battled them on a nearly even basis after the first day of competition on Thursday. He said Kansas appeared to be more and more surprised as the meet progressed because the team began to realize that its chances of winning were becoming more remote.

Huppert said he was not impressed by the 15th-ranked Jayhawks.

"Kansas, I thought, looked flat in certain events," Huppert said. "They

just had a few kids swimming well."

Huppert said Nebraska had a variety of individuals swimming well, including Butcher. The freshman from Alpine, Calif., was named the meet's outstanding performer after capturing Big Eight titles in the 500- and 1,650-yard freestyles and the 400 individual medley.

Butcher finished the meet with Big Eight records in the freestyle events and also set a multitude of school records that Huppert had not finished tallying by Sunday afternoon.

But believe it or not, she said she was not overly pleased with her performance.

"I didn't do as well as I wanted," Butcher said. "My time in the mile (the 1,650) was 16:26 (minutes) and I would love to get it under 16:20."

Nebraska also received boosts from senior Carole Johnson, who won her fourth-consecutive Big Eight title in the 100 backstroke, Jenell Garcia and Kristen Neuenfeldt, who won the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle events and Amy Aarsen, who captured the 1- and 3-meter diving titles.

The Huskers 400-yard freestyle relay team of Neuenfeldt, Mindy Matheny, Lynne Braddock and freshman Christine Frederick also finished first.

Loss drops Cornhuskers into tie for seventh place

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team lost the battle for sixth place in the Big Eight to Iowa State on Saturday, losing 84-78 to the Cyclones at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Iowa State, now 13-14 overall and 3-11 in the Big Eight, took the lead for good with 8:37 left in the second half and held on for the win in the teams' regular-season finale, which was scarred by 87 free-throw attempts.

The Cornhuskers, 10-17 and 2-12, hit 32 of a Sports Center-record 47 free throws, and fouled out four Cyclones. But they still couldn't avoid their seventh-straight loss.

Nebraska led for most of the first half, but Iowa State's Tynnetta Rasheed threw in a 30-foot shot at the buzzer to put the Cyclone's up 45-43 at halftime.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the buzzer-beating shot took all the momentum away from the Huskers.

Even with the lead, though, the Cyclones almost self-destructed with the following fouls: Lynne Lorenzen's fourth, with 17:30 left; Laurie Decker's fourth, 16:58; Leslie Maple's third, 15:07; Shelly Coyle's third, 13:47; Ward's fourth, 12:56; Maple's fourth, 12:36.

The Huskers trailed 57-54 after the last foul.

When the Cyclones worked themselves into foul trouble, Beck said, her squad had trouble concentrating on running the offense while working

to draw fouls. Nebraska was able to take the lead twice, but no Cyclones fouled out until 6:16 left in the game. But by then, Coyle and Decker were taking charge.

Iowa State played three seniors, four juniors and two sophomores, compared to Nebraska's assortment of three juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen. Beck said the game's 65 fouls frustrated the younger Huskers.

One Iowa State senior who stayed steady throughout the game was Coyle. She led Iowa State with 22 points and 10 rebounds, and made 10 of 13 free throws.

"She's a great player -- a hard, hard worker," Beck said. "She wanted this a little more than we wanted it."

After taking the lead for good, 63-62, the Cyclones went on a 10-4 run. Decker keyed the streak with two three-point shots.

"She was a shooter, and we fell asleep," Beck said. "We had some young people that didn't do a very good job defensively."

The Cyclones hit 30 of 40 of their free throws.

Ann Halsne led the Huskers with 17 points, 11 of which came in the first period. Kristi Dahn scored 16 and Karen Jennings added 10.

The loss dropped the Huskers into a seventh-place tie with Oklahoma. A coin toss will decide whether Nebraska will play Missouri or Kansas State in the first round of the Big Eight tournament Saturday in Salina, Kan.

Colorado Buffaloes for seventh place in the Big Eight with a 9-16 and 2-10 record.

"The defense was the difference in the game," Nec said. "We just didn't play it well enough."

Nec said Nebraska was competitive throughout the contest, as it repeatedly shrunk Iowa State's lead before seeing it increase again. The Huskers, after trailing by a 50-37 count at halftime, cut Iowa State's lead to six midway through the second half but could not get any closer.

Nec said Nebraska's inability to overtake Iowa State was a direct result of defense.

"We kept getting in striking distance," he said, "but we didn't play good enough defense."

Nebraska was led by forward Ray Richardson, who tallied 18 points. Rich King tallied 16 while making his first career start at forward, while Dapreis Owens had 14 and Richard van Poelgeest had 10.

The Huskers' next game is Wednesday, when they face Colorado. The game, which will be Nebraska's final home contest of the season, begins at 7:35 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



David Fahlsen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Ethel Edwards accepts the baton from Julieanne Campbell.

NU women win 11th-straight title; Cornhusker men earn second place

By Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

When the Big Eight Indoor Track and Field Championships concluded, the Nebraska women had won their 11th-consecutive team title, the Cornhusker men finished second and Tamas Molnar was a very happy man.

Molnar, a sophomore from Nyiregyhaza, Hungary, said he was happy even though the Nebraska men didn't defend their conference title. He had finally beaten Iowa State's Frankie Atwater in the 400-meter dash.

Molnar said he wanted to defeat Atwater on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center because he lost to the Iowa State runner two weeks ago at the Frank Sevigne-Husker Invite.

"Two weeks ago, time was the thing I cared about," Molnar said. "I wanted to run a qualifying time. Now that I already had the time, I wanted to beat him."

He got what he wanted. As Molnar and Atwater rounded the final turn in the 400, they were running side by side. With the crowd on its feet and screaming, Molnar pulled ahead of Atwater.

"He almost got me at the same place he passed me two weeks ago," Molnar said. "But I was strong."

Molnar led the race in a national qualifying time of 46.42 seconds, a Big Eight meet record. He also won the 200 in 21.3 sec-

onds, a national qualifying provisional mark.

Provisional marks are set up by the NCAA to ensure that there will be a full slate of competitors at the national meet even if not enough people reach the actual qualifying standards.

Dave Harris, assistant track coach and Molnar's personal coach, said

He (Molnar) sets a goal for every race and really expects a lot of himself. He's running for himself, his teammates and also for Hungarian records.

Harris
assistant track coach

Molnar wants to perform his best in every race he enters.

"He sets a goal for every race and really expects a lot of himself," Harris said. "He's running for himself, his teammates and also for Hungarian records."

Kevin Coleman won an individual championship in the shot put with a provisional national qualifying throw of 56 feet, 3 1/2 inches. Huskers Jeff Hooper and Kent Wells took the second and third places in the shot put.

Molnar's victory helped the

Nebraska men finish second with 120 points. Iowa State claimed the title with 156 points, while Kansas State was third with 73 and Oklahoma fourth with 55 1/2.

Kansas finished fifth in the men's competition with 47 points, followed by Colorado with 36, Missouri with 20 1/2 and Oklahoma State with 18.

In the women's competition, Nebraska continued its Big Eight dominance by winning this year's title with 128 points. Kansas State finished second with 93, followed by Oklahoma with 89, Iowa State with 68 and Oklahoma State with 54.

Colorado finished sixth in the women's race with 46 points, while Missouri was seventh with 33 and Kansas eighth with 16.

The Nebraska women were led by Sammie Gdowski, who won the 3,000 and 5,000 and was named the most valuable female athlete of the meet.

Gdowski set Big Eight and track records for the Sports Center with her time of 16:11.61 minutes in the 5,000.

Junior Meredy Porter equaled her lifetime best jump of 6 feet, 3/4 inch while winning the high jump. Porter was the returning high jump champion.

Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said Porter's win was a great effort.

"She was behind the Colorado girl and then had to tie her lifetime best to win," Pepin said.