

UNL considers athletic scrutiny program

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln athletic department is considering joining a society which would place its program under scrutiny while providing additional benefits for student-athletes.

Al Papik, the assistant athletic director for administrative/academic services, said Nebraska is interested in instituting at least part of the options offered by the Center for Study in Sports and Society. The society consists of four options which deal with everything from a degree com-

pletion program to a race-evaluation project.

Papik said Nebraska is interested in the center's degree completion and self-study programs. The self-study program would require the Cornhusker athletic department to complete an evaluation of itself, then would allow nine other peer institutional members to come to Lincoln and complete their evaluations.

Papik said Nebraska could benefit from a multitude of evaluations.

"It would help us strengthen any areas of concern," he said, "because it would focus on the whole spec-

trum."

Papik said the degree-completion program would give student-athletes who have not graduated but have used up their eligibility a chance to continue to go to school while still receiving financial assistance. He said that financial assistance would be in the form of a scholarship that would cover the costs of tuition and fees.

Currently, Papik said some student-athletes find themselves in a bind because NCAA rules prohibit them from receiving scholarship assistance after they have been in school for five years. NCAA rules state that student-

athletes may receive aid for a sixth year if they take a year off from competing and attending school during their collegiate careers.

Papik said student-athletes would be required to participate in an out-reach program if Nebraska joins the center and they receive additional assistance. He said some examples of the out-reach program are motivational speeches on substance abuse and the importance of education.

"It's a trade-off," Papik said. "They have to give something back."

Papik said the Nebraska athletic department already has participated

in one aspect of the program, which consists of a national student-athlete day. He said Gov. Kay Orr joined 47 other governors from across the United States by declaring a national student-athlete day last year.

Papik said athletic department officials must meet with UNL administrators, faculty and coaching staff members and personnel from the office of admissions and advising before the center can be instituted. He said he does not know when Nebraska will become a member.

"We don't have any timetable set," Papik said.

Big Eight receives own Vitale-style award lists

Spring is time for awards and rankings, and rankings have been kind to the Big Eight this season.

For the past nine weeks the No. 1 basketball team has been from the conference. Al McGuire called the

1. Justus Thigpen, Iowa State
2. Jean Derouillere, Kansas State
3. Adonis Jordan, Kansas
4. Pekka Markkonen, Kansas
5. Keith Moody, Nebraska

The Traci Lords Award

The most fun-to-watch players:

1. Doug Collins, Iowa State
2. Kevin Pritchard, Kansas
3. Terry Woods, Iowa State
4. Byron Houston, Oklahoma State
5. Doug Smith, Missouri

The Goose Gossage Award

Players to have at the end of a close game:

1. Steve Henson, Kansas State
2. Kevin Pritchard, Kansas
3. Anthony Peeler, Missouri
4. Lee Coward, Missouri
5. Terry Woods, Iowa State

The Ronald Reagan Award

Players who have fallen from view and become hard to remember when thinking about the John Wooden Team:

1. Steve Henson, Kansas State
2. Shawn Vandiver, Colorado
3. Victor Alexander, Iowa State
4. Terrence Mullins, Oklahoma
5. Richard Dumas, Oklahoma State,

who was kicked off the team in mid-season for allegedly relapsing into substance abuse.

The 1988 NCAA Final Award

The best games between conference teams:

1. Missouri 92, Oklahoma 90 in Columbia, Mo., Feb. 18
2. Missouri 95, Kansas 87 in Columbia, Mo., Jan. 20
3. Kansas State 93, Iowa State 90 OT in Ames, Iowa, Feb. 17
4. Missouri 72, Oklahoma State 71 in Stillwater, Okla., Jan. 16
5. Oklahoma 107, Missouri 90 in Norman, Okla., Feb. 25

The conference's best recognition should come in the next four weeks in the NCAA tournament. Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri all have a chance to follow Michigan, Kansas, Indiana, Louisville, etc., on the list of NCAA champions.

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Paul Domeier

Big Eight the best conference in the country. Two or three of the NCAA's regional No. 1 seeds should come from this league.

A conference that looks so good by the numbers deserves its own Dick Vitale-style-year-end lists. Here they are:

The John Wooden Team

The all-conference team:

1. Doug Smith, Missouri
2. Anthony Peeler, Missouri
3. Kevin Pritchard, Kansas
4. Byron Houston, Oklahoma State
5. Skeeter Henry, Oklahoma

The Gary Leonard Award

The most-improved players:

1. Nathan Buntin, Missouri
2. Rich King, Nebraska
3. Terry Woods, Iowa State
4. John McIntyre, Missouri
5. Clifford Scales, Nebraska

The Orlando Magic Award

The best newcomers:

1. Jackie Jones, Oklahoma
2. Jean Derouillere (pronounced Delaware), Kansas State
3. Ricky Calloway, Kansas
4. Travis Ford, Missouri
5. Carl Hayes, Nebraska

The Dave Sieger Award

The best players not among their teams' top four scorers:

1. Jeff Gueldner, Kansas
2. John McIntyre, Missouri
3. Mike Maddox, Kansas
4. Terry Evans, Oklahoma
5. Rodell Guest, Colorado

The Baskerville Holmes Award

The best names:



Daily Nebraskan file photo

Nebraska's Jill Rishel slides in under the tag in action last fall.

Wolforth credits high tournament finish to 'fantastic' coaching jobs by assistants

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth credited a pair of assistant coaches for a second-place finish at the Aggie Invitational this weekend in College Station, Texas.

The unranked Cornhuskers lost to No. 8-ranked Long Beach State 8-0 in the championship game Sunday to finish with a 5-2 record in their season-opening competition of the spring.

More than the players, the Hus-

kers' success over the weekend was because of solid jobs done by assistant coaches Lori Richins and Lori Sippel, Wolforth said.

Both coaches did "fantastic" jobs of preparing Nebraska for the tournament, he said.

Richins coordinated the Huskers' defense, while Sippel worked with pitchers Stephanie Skegas and Marie Bowie.

With the exception of the title game, Wolforth said defensively Nebraska "played as well as any team in the country can."

Sippel's guidance helped Skegas, a junior, earn the most valuable pitcher award. Skegas went 4-0 in the tournament.

The Huskers' five wins were by shutouts.

"I figured that we had the potential to shut down people," Wolforth said, "but I don't know if I would have used the word shut-out."

"It was a combination of good pitching and fantastic defense."

See NEBRASKA on 8

Tennis team reaches one goal, falls short of another

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team fell short of one goal and reached another this weekend in a tournament in Corpus Cristi, Texas.

The Cornhuskers finished 18th in the 24-team HEB Invitational. Nebraska missed the team's first goal, a top-12 finish, by losing 5-1 to North Carolina in the first round, but made its second goal of a 2-2 dual record.

Husker coach Kerry McDermott said his team didn't play well the first day, as it was competing outside for

rankings because of that win. With the opening loss, Nebraska was left in the bottom third of the bracket, battling for 17th place. The Huskers rolled over Baylor, 8-1, in the second round.

"Baylor wasn't very strong," McDermott said, "but it was a good confidence-builder."

The Huskers downed California-Santa Barbara, 5-4, on Sunday. Each of the Husker victories came in three-set matches. The teams were tied after the singles, and Nebraska took two of three doubles for the win.

"It was a good team effort, and

everybody was pumped up afterwards," McDermott said.

Texas A&M deflated Nebraska the next day with a 5-1 win over the Huskers. The lone victory against the Aggies came in three sets at No. 3 singles from Steve Barley, who McDermott said played well all weekend.

"We had a poor effort in singles," McDermott said. "I thought we could win two of the top three and one of the bottom three."

McDermott experimented with his doubles teams throughout the tournament, using six different combina-

tions to go 5-1 in the matches. Only one of the duos came from the regular Husker lineup.

The biggest problem of the weekend was the play at Nos. 5 and 6 singles, McDermott said. Numerous players have been battling for the two positions, and four players combined to go 1-7 in Texas. McDermott said the competition in practice may be overshadowing the team duals for his lower players.

"They're not as confident as they talk," he said. "They just want to get the spot so they play."