



Rain dispels coach's expectations

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth liked his team's chances of winning the 23-team Florida State Invitational this weekend.

But Wolforth's judgment is left only for speculation as heavy rains forced the tournament in Tallahassee, Fla., to be canceled.

Nebraska did play six games and won its pool with a 4-1 record. The sixth-ranked Cornhuskers' loss was a 3-1 setback to Miami of Ohio in the opening game of the tournament.

The Huskers picked up a non-tournament game with 20th-ranked Florida State on Sunday. Nebraska lost to the Seminoles 2-1 to move its record to 9-4.

Nebraska's victories in pool play were over Furman 1-0, Connecticut 6-1, Southern Illinois 3-1 and Nicholls State University of Thibodaux, La., 3-1.

Wolforth said he thought Nebraska was one of the three best teams entered in the tournament, with Florida State and No. 9-ranked Southwestern Louisiana being the other two.

"I thought we had a very good chance of winning the whole thing," he said.

Although Wolforth did not think it going in, he said he also thought the Huskers competed in the toughest pool of the tournament.

Wolforth said he was disappointed with the way the Huskers opened the tournament against Miami of Ohio. Husker coaches spent a week telling the players that this was a tournament Nebraska could win, he said.

"We kept stressing how important it was that we win this tournament," he said. "And we came out extremely flat in the first ball game. That really bothered me because all week we had kept stressing it."

Wolforth said the Huskers did bounce back by playing their best game of the year against Connecticut.

"We really got after them," he said. Nebraska pitcher Stephanie Skegas,

who threw a no-hitter against Furman, remains unbeaten this season. Her record is 7-0.

"She's tough," Wolforth said about the junior from Torrance, Calif. "She's been the big surprise to me this season."

Pitcher Marie Bowie, 2-4, who has been slowed by tendinitis in her throwing arm, showed signs of improvement this weekend, he said.

Bowie pitched in the loss to Florida State but Wolforth cited Husker defensive errors as the difference in the game.

"She deserved to win that ball game and we just didn't help her," he said.

Q: Team A is called for a three-second lane violation. Team B is awarded a throw-in at a designated spot along the baseline. The ball is handed to B-1 for the throw-in. B-1 moves three steps laterally in an attempt to secure the ball to B-2. Is there a violation in this situation?

A: Yes. Traveling would be called on B-1.

The thrower must keep one foot on or over the designated spot until the ball is released. The designated spot is interpreted to be three feet in width and is established when the ball is given to the thrower.

The thrower may move several steps directly backward to avoid the in-bounds pressure by the defense.

Questions or comments should be sent to Jim Vranicar, a senior advertising major who has worked as an official for the Office of Campus Recreation for three years. Vranicar may be reached at the Daily Nebraskan, 1400 R St., 34 Nebraska Union, Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0488.

Wins move NU closer to NCAA tournament

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team earned wins against Wichita State and Tulsa on Friday and Saturday in Wichita, Kan., despite two singles losses by No. 1 player Matthias Mueller.

"That was the biggest disappointment of the weekend," Cornhusker coach Kerry McDermott said of Mueller's defeats at Wichita. "He let his teammates down, and that's usually not like him."

Mueller has been ranked as high as 32nd this season, but dropped to No. 74 in the latest rankings.

"I can't figure him out," McDermott said. "Mentally, he wasn't there."

Against Wichita State on Friday, the Huskers led 5-1 after the singles competition. McDermott pulled Mueller from the doubles lineup because of Mueller's lack of intensity, he said, and jumbled the rest of the lineup.

Nebraska lost two three-set matches in doubles and won in straight sets at No. 3, giving Nebraska a 6-3 victory against the Shockers.

The next day, after the Huskers beat Tulsa 5-1, McDermott said he and Wichita State's coach agreed to skip the doubles because of bad weather and a lack of interest.

The wins against the two Missouri

Valley teams ensures the Huskers a berth in the NCAA tournament, providing they win the Big Eight. If the Big Eight champion loses to the Missouri Valley champion, the Missouri Valley team would get the berth.

Wichita State, a contender for the Missouri Valley title, gave Nebraska good singles competition, McDermott said. The Huskers responded with strong outings, he said.

Ken Feuer, who recently had been coming close but losing matches at No. 2 singles, made up for Mueller's upsets with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win Friday against Darren Frian and a 7-6, 6-3 victory against Dean Orford on Saturday.

"Ken showed me this weekend

that he's getting hungry as we get closer to Big Eight matches," McDermott said.

McDermott said he will finalize the bottom third of his lineup next week, before the Huskers play in a tournament in Alabama.

Troy Larsen filled the No. 6 spot last fall, then lost the position when the team moved to indoor competition.

But playing outside affects Dave Moyer and Anthony Kotarac a different way, McDermott said. They rely on hard serves and volleys, he said, and will have to adjust to the weather and the slower courts.

McDermott said he expects that adjustment to take a couple weeks.

Chicken Heads rank first in Class C pecking order

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor
and Chris Hopfensperger
Staff Reporter

The Chicken Heads used a full hen house to keep a disturbing streak alive for the Tall Boys.

Chicken Heads captain Tom Stephens said his team used superior depth to defeat the Tall Boys 64-56 and claim the Class C independent intramural basketball championship. The win gave the Chicken Heads the No. 1 ranking in the Class C poll and prevented the Tall Boys from snapping a string of also-ran finishes that

for the Chicken Heads, while Steve Brown had 10.

Stephens said Thompson could have done better.

"Our main stud Brian didn't have one of his best games," Stephens said. "His hair looked good, though."

Stephens said he was not surprised by his team's balanced scoring or his team's success.

"We knew we had some good talent," Stephens said. "We have a lot of big fugs on the team."

Tall Boys captain Ken Sedlak said those "fugs" hurt his team by playing an up-tempo game. He said the Chicken Heads' fast break took its toll.

"We've had trouble all year getting back on defense," Sedlak said. "That caught up with us here tonight."

The Tall Boys never caught up with the Chicken Heads after Steve Kerkman hit a 15-foot jumpshot early in the first half. Kerkman's shot gave the Chicken Heads a 13-12 lead and set the tone for a fast-paced first half. At halftime, the Chicken Heads led 34-31.

The second half was more of the same. The Chicken Heads repeatedly took 5- and 6-point leads before the Tall Boys battled back. The Chicken Heads finally put the game away when, protecting a 53-51 lead, they went on a 9-3 run that pushed their lead to 62-54 with 27 seconds left.

Sedlak said the Tall Boys second-half rally attempt was hurt by cold shooting. The Tall Boys' scoring effort was led by John Sullivan and Kent George, who tallied 18 and 14 points.

Sedlak said he was pleased with his team's effort.

"I thought we played pretty good," he said. "We just couldn't get the shot to fall late."

Stephens said a lack of guard productivity hurt the Tall Boys. The Tall Boys guard contingent combined for 10 points.

"Other teams that we played had better shooters," Stephens said. "They just liked to go inside."

We have more depth than other teams. We can go eight-to-nine deep and wear most teams out by the second half.

Stephens
captain of Chicken Heads

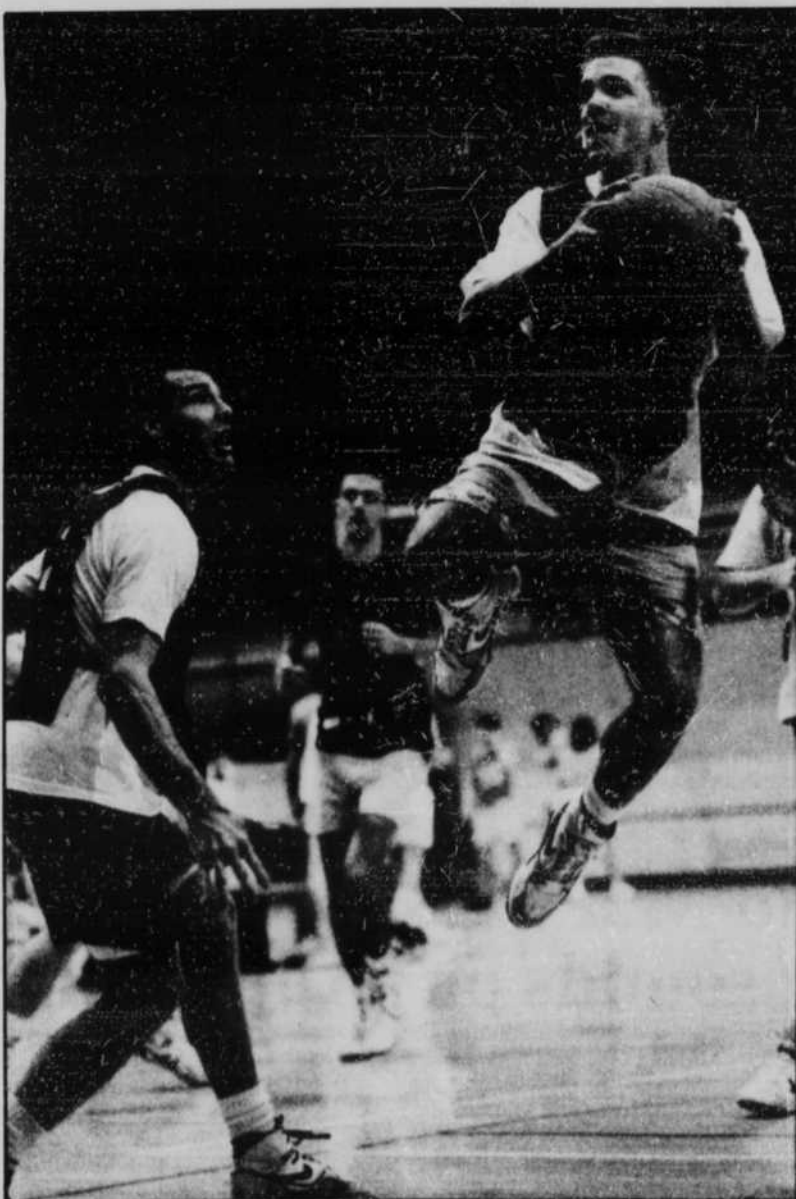
date back to their days at Lincoln Pius X High School.

Stephens said depth has been an asset for his team throughout the season. The Chicken Heads displayed this depth at the tournament, recovering from a 2-3 mark in the regular season by posting six straight wins.

"We have more depth than other teams," Stephens said. "We can go eight-to-nine deep and wear most teams out by the second half."

The Chicken Heads wore out the Tall Boys on Sunday night at the NU Coliseum using a balanced scoring attack that relied on eight players. The Chicken Heads' attack was led by guard Brian Thompson, who tallied a game-high 29 points.

Forward Jim Austin added 11 points



Melissa McReynolds/Daily Nebraskan

The Tall Boys' Tom Bobrowski leaps in the air as the Chicken Heads' Jim Austin defends.

The Chicken Heads-Tall Boys box

Chicken Heads -- Jim Austin 4 2-3 11, Steve Brown 5 0-0 10, Vince Harmon 2 0-0 4, Steve Kerkman 2 0-1 2, Scott Shafer 1 1-1 3, Doug Stephens 0 1-2 1, Tom Stephens 1 0-0 2, Brian Thompson 10 8-10 29. Totals 25 12-17 64.

Tall Boys -- Tom Bobrowski 2 0-0 5, Scott Cooper 2 0-0 4, Kent George

6 2-2 14, Mike Hall 0 0-0 0, Tim Hartmann 1 3-6 5, John Sullivan 8 0-0 18, Ken Sedlak 5 0-4 10. Totals 24 5-12 56.

Three-point goals -- Chicken Heads 2 (Austin, Thompson 1), Tall Boys 3 (Tom Rooney 2, Bobrowski 1). Fouled out -- Sedlak, George. Technicals -- none. Officials -- John Villwok, Gary Tichota, Jason Skiff. A - 3.

TOP TEN BASKETBALL

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. Running Reptiles | 7-3 |
| Independent A champs | |
| 2. Law I | 11-0 |
| Independent B champs | |
| 3. Beta A-2 | 7-1 |
| Frat A champs | |
| 4. A Team | 7-2 |
| Independent A runner-up | |
| 5. The Edge | 6-3 |
| Independent A 3rd place | |
| 6. SAE B | 10-0 |
| Frat B champs | |
| 7. Beta A-1 | 6-2 |
| Frat A runner-up | |
| 8. The Dribblers | 6-0 |
| Open league champs | |
| 9. Law II | 10-2 |
| Independent B runner-up | |
| 10. Sig Ep A-3 | 6-1 |
| Frat A 3rd place | |

BEST OF THE REST

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Sigma Nu B-2 | 9-1 |
| ATO A-1 | 7-1 |
| The Jays | 4-2 |
| The Bruisers | 9-1 |
| The Former Gers | 8-1 |
- # Class C Finals

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. The Chicken Heads | 8-3 |
| 2. Phi Psi | 9-1 |
| 3. Tall Boys | 9-2 |
| 4. Sig Ep C-2 | 8-2 |
| 5. The Untouchables | 6-3 |
| 6. The Birds | 7-3 |
| 7. Harper 7 | 9-1 |
| 8. Mod Quad | 7-1 |
| 9. Sig Ep C-1 | 5-4 |
| 10. Sweet | 7-1 |

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan