

Nebraska's Jason Kelber grimaces in pain while competing against Oklahoma State's Kendall Cross at the Big Eight championships. Cross defeated Kelber 14-7 to claim the conference's 126-pound crown.

Top four finish won't be easy

By Chuck Green

Senior Reporter

he said.

Finishing 17th at last year's NCAA restling championships didn't sit well with Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann. It would sit even worse this year,

Neumann, finishing his fifth season as Nebraska's coach, has set the goal of having his No. 4-ranked team finish among the nation's top four at

the NCAA Wrestling Championships on Friday through Sunday in College Park. Md.

extremely well to be in the top four, but we've been there all season long," have to look at getting people into the The second-pla

best teams in the country and have done very well."

Nebraska has been ranked fourth in the Amateur Wrestling News and National Wrestling Coaches' Association polls since early December.

Neumann hopes to maintain that ranking past this weekend's competi-

But, he said, it won't be easy. "But," he said, "being ranked "We are going to have to wrestle fourth was a dual ranking. When you "But," he said, "being ranked

going to make any kind of serious

The Huskers made a serious run at the Big Eight championship March 11. But Oklahoma State, ranked No. 1 for much of the season, won the conference title for the fourth consecutive year. The Cowboys topped Nebraska 80.25-70.50.

Oklahoma finished third (67.50), Iowa State fourth (57.75) and Mis-

The second-place finish was Ne-

Neumann said the Big Eight championship meet showed how far Nebraska's program has advanced in the last few years.

'I think by placing second in the Big Eight and being as close to Oklahoma State as we were shows how close we are to reaching our potential as a team and with the program," he injury during the conference tourna-

But, Neumann said, the Huskers'

performance could have been better. "We had a couple of letdowns that

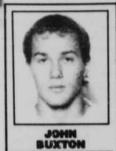
finals. If we're going to finish that braska's best since 1950, and the hurtus in the conference meet that we "Obviously, we're looking to finish that high, we have to get at least two ish higher, because we've pushed ourselves all season long against the "Obviously, we're looking to finish that high, we have to get at least two people into the finals and get great ourselves all season long against the "India ourselves all season long against the obviously, we're looking to finish that high, we have to get at least two people into the finals and get great ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference.

India ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference in the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performances from the others if we're the conference ourselves all season long against the performance ourselves all season long against the conference ourselves all season long against the performance of the conference ourselves all season long against the conference o doing all season long.

One of the letdowns came in the 126-pound championship, in which Nebraska's Jason Kelber lost 14-7 to Oklahoma State's Kendall Cross. Kelber had beaten Cross three times earlier this season.

Kelber, who was slowed by a knee

See HIGH HOPES on 17



WEIGHT 118 10 DUAL RECORD 15-8-2



WEIGHT 126 NCAA SEEDS DUAL RECORD DUAL RECORD 18-2



WEIGHT 134 **NCAA SEEDS** None 11-11-2



PAUL HERRERA WEIGHT 142 NGAA SEEDS DUAL RECORD 19-5



WEIGHT 150 RICAA SEEDS None **DUAL RECORD** 11-6

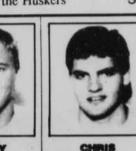


SCOTT WEIGHT 167 NCAA SEEDS **DUAL RECORD** 15-2



COREY WEIGHT 177 NGAA SEEDS

17-5



CHRIS WEIGHT 190 **DUAL RECORD DUAL RECORD**

21-2



JOE MALECEK WEIGHT Heavy Weight **DUAL RECORD** 21-1-2

Source: Nebraska Sports Information Office.