

Women Huskers to face OSU, fight for Big 8 lead

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

The Big Eight women's basketball standings show a three-way tie for first place between Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Nebraska.

That will change Sunday. Nebraska, 14-6 overall and 5-2 in the Big Eight, will travel to Stillwater, Okla., to face 16-4 and 5-2 Oklahoma State in a 3 p.m. game.

Kansas State will play host to Missouri, winless in the conference, on Saturday, so the Lady Cats are likely to go 6-2. The next day, either the Cornhuskers and the Cowgirls will become 6-2 with at least a share of the lead and the other will become 5-3.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the Huskers' 76-67 win at Missouri Wednesday night earned them the right to play the Cowgirls.

"I thought if we didn't win, we might as well not show up," Beck said. "We had to win at Missouri to jockey us into position to compete with Oklahoma State."

Now, Nebraska has to earn the win.

The Huskers, who defeated Oklahoma State 67-64 earlier in the season, have not won in Stillwater since 1986, but that isn't bothering Beck.

"There are a lot of 'never-haves' that we're doing," Beck said, "because I think these kids think they can win anywhere."

Wednesday's win was the first for the Huskers under Beck at Missouri. And the Huskers have already won twice as many road games (four) as in the last two seasons combined.

A big part of that success comes from the Husker leaders on the court. Beck said the presence of seniors Ann Halsne, Kristi Dahn, Kelly Hubert and Shawn Taylor has given Nebraska "a little more maturity on the floor."

Both teams can score. The teams are first and second in the Big Eight in scoring and in field goal percentage. The two teams are not mirror images, however.

Nebraska, led by Karen Jennings' 18.6 points and 7.7 rebounds a game, has only one other player averaging in double figures.

All five Cowgirl starters, led by

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Basketball standings:

Oklahoma State	5-2	16-4
Nebraska	5-2	14-6
Kansas State	5-2	12-6
Kansas	4-3	13-6
Iowa State	4-3	9-10
Colorado	3-4	12-8
Oklahoma	2-5	8-12
Missouri	0-7	7-13



Basketball standings:

Nebraska	4-1	18-2
Missouri	4-1	12-6
Kansas	3-2	14-4
Oklahoma State	3-2	14-4
Oklahoma	3-3	14-6
Colorado	2-3	12-6
Iowa State	2-3	8-13
Kansas State	0-5	10-8

Nee: OSU strength in physical defense

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

The Cornhuskers will host one of the toughest visitors in the nation Saturday.

Tied for second behind Nebraska in conference road wins, Oklahoma State comes to Lincoln for the 1 p.m. tip-off after winning at Colorado on Wednesday, 76-66. The Cowboys, 14-4 overall and 3-2 in the Big Eight, are tied for third in the conference, while the 11th-ranked Huskers are leading at 18-2 and 4-1.

"Just because we're playing at home, you can't expect that we're going to win," Husker coach Danny Nee said. "One of the better road teams in the country, they play the same way on the road as they do at home."

And that's physical, Nee said. "They're one of the most physical teams in the country," Nee said. "They played very good man-to-man defense, and they have one of the best players in the country inside in Byron Houston."

The 6-foot-7, 235-pound Houston,

who averages 24 points and 10 rebounds a game, had a career-high 35 points against Nebraska a year ago. Husker center Rich King says Houston might be better this year.

"He's 6-foot-7 but he plays like a package of dynamite," King said. In fact, he may be as explosive as last year's Big 8 player of the year, Doug Smith, King said.

"Doug Smith is taller than him, but he can play just as rugged and as tough as Smith, if not more," he said.

With four returning starters, Houston's assist man, newcomer Sean Sutton, may be the difference between this year's and last year's team.

"They've put a person at the point guard spot that knows what the coach wants," Nee said.

Probably because that coach is his dad, Eddie Sutton. Sutton is in his first year at Oklahoma State after coaching at Creighton, Arkansas, and Kentucky.

"They're an improved basketball team," Nee said. "The addition of a coach that's been to the Final Four,

See MEN on 8

Record scares coach

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Oklahoma's wrestling team is in the middle of one of its worst seasons in years, and that has Nebraska coach Tim Neumann scared to death.

The Sooners, 3-11, include at least six freshmen on their starting roster. Neumann's teams are 3-0-1 in their past four meetings with Oklahoma, including two wins — 29-12 and 28-11 — against the Sooners last season.

The Cornhuskers are ranked fifth, and Oklahoma is nowhere to be found in the latest Amateur Wrestling News coaches' poll.

Neumann still is worried. "It's going to be scary to go down there," he said. "It's been a dismal year so far (for them), and their guys are going to wrestle us with no pressure at all."

Nebraska still is recovering from injuries suffered in the past three weeks. In one match two weeks ago, Nebraska had only Sonny Manley still in the lineup from the start of the season.

In 24 duals last season, Husker starters missed 13 matches because of injury or illness. Through 12 duals this season, starters have missed 29 out of 120 matches.

"I don't think I've ever been around a team that has been hit with the injuries like this one," Neumann said.

But the injured Huskers are returning. All-American Scott Chenoweth came back from a rib injury last week, and Corey Olson also will return against

the Sooners.

"It's like every time we're able to get someone back, it's another shot in the arm," Neumann said.

Neumann said the Sooners are aware of the injuries.

"They know we're beat up, even with Chenoweth and Olson in there," he said. "They'll look at this dual as a little of a salvation if they can beat us. It would make a bad season a lot better for them."

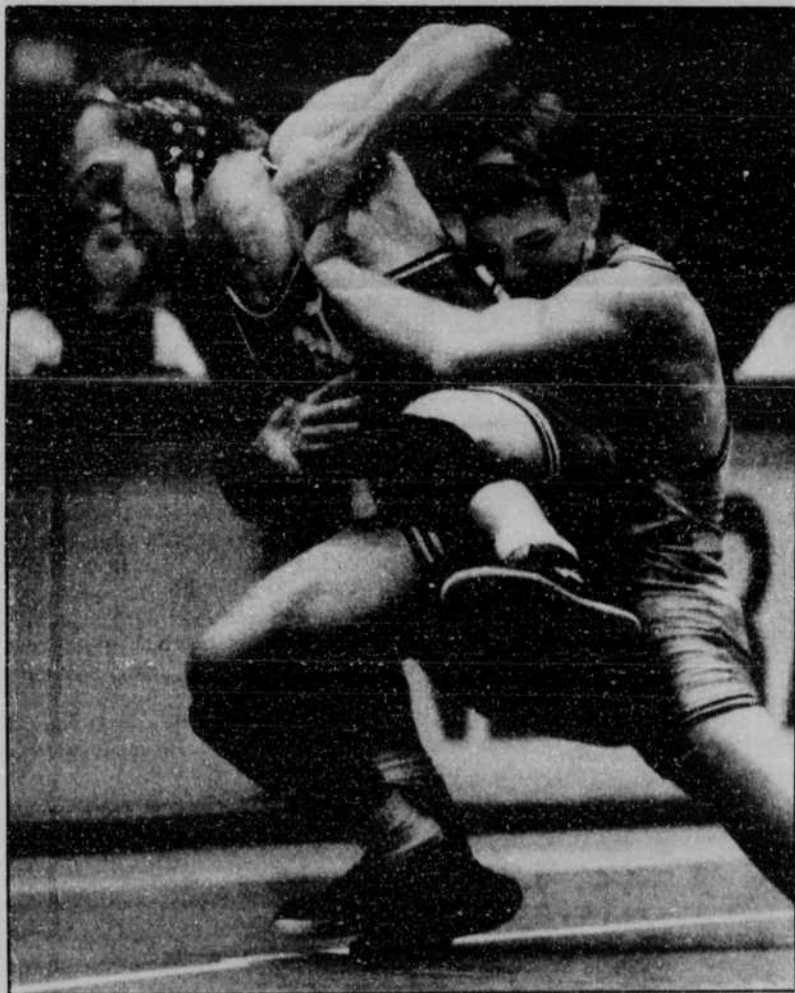
Neumann said his team's morale is good heading into the dual — the first meet in nine days for Nebraska.

"There have been so many times we've gone to Oklahoma just hoping to survive, let alone win," he said. "We have no intention of looking past them, because they might be a little down this year. It's still Oklahoma, and one of the things we have tried to accomplish with our program is to make it competitive with the top programs in the country."

"I think we've done that, but we can't just sit back and be satisfied."

Nebraska's probable lineup:

- 118 — John Buxton (16-4-1, ranked No. 7 in the country)
- 126 — Jason Kelber (22-2, No. 2)
- 134 — Matt Lundquist (6-6-2)
- 142 — Layne Billings (4-4)
- 150 — Todd Enger (16-11-1)
- 158 — Jamie Penning (5-13)
- 167 — Scott Chenoweth (9-3)
- 177 — Corey Olson (19-3, No. 2)
- 190 — Tommy Robbins (10-8-3)
- Hwt. — Sonny Manley (13-8-1)



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's John Buxton struggles to escape from Wyoming's Lanny Schneider in a match last week. With Corey Olson returning to the Nebraska lineup Saturday, Buxton will be moving back to his normal weight class, 118 pounds.

NU track teams face injuries, stiffer opponents

By Matt Herek
Staff Reporter

The competition in Saturday's track and field triangular will be a step up from what the Cornhuskers have faced so far this season, according to Coach Gary Pepin.

Nebraska will host men's teams from the University of Washington and Kansas State University and the women will entertain teams from Rice University and Kansas State.

Pepin said the Huskers will be facing several national-caliber athletes as well as some All-Americans.

Another hurdle the Huskers will have to overcome in order to rack up points will be injuries.

Sprinter Tamas Molnar, who is out with a pulled hamstring, may compete, but on a limited basis, Pepin said.

The injuries of Molnar and others will cost the Huskers points, but Pepin said the team could go all out to win the meet at the risk of people being hurt. He said the team has not entered athletes in events because this meet is not a major focal point in the season.

The Huskers are not under a lot of pressure to win, but he said the team will perform well alongside some tough head-to-head competition.

Effects of budget cuts remain uncertain

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

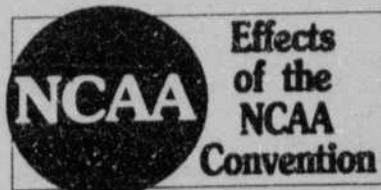
Almost a month after the NCAA Convention, Nebraska athletic department officials remain uncertain of how new rule changes and budget cuts will affect Cornhusker athletics.

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs, said his main concern is how much money actually will be saved.

"I don't know overall that it's going to make a major difference financially," Fouraker said. "It will certainly help, but I don't know for sure what the effects are going to be."

The changes that will affect Nebraska's athletic department the most include budget cuts in recruiting and coaching staff size.

One change is a 10 percent, across-the-board reduction of scholarships.



Division I football scholarships will be reduced from 95 to 85 by 1995.

The number of evaluations and personal contacts of recruits by coaches also was reduced.

Coaches currently are allowed to contact a recruit off-campus 14 times a year in football and six times in all other sports. Coaches also are permitted to visit high schools as often as they wish for evaluation of players.

The number of personal contacts was cut to three per year and evaluations to four per year, with only one

during the May football evaluation period and no more than one per week at any time.

In addition, the size of the coaching staffs will be reduced for many sports.

Al Papik, assistant athletic director for compliance and administrative services, said the first step in the staff reduction is to meet with Nebraska's coaches and decide what measures need to be taken.

Combining positions and redefining coaching titles are among the possibilities, Papik said.

One problem with the budget cuts, Fouraker said, is that they are directed at the big-revenue sports, like football and men's basketball, and that they appear to be unfair to some programs with smaller budgets, like wrestling and gymnastics teams.

Papik agreed, but said he had heard more optimistic stories at the convention.

"I was educated a little at the convention," he said. "Some athletic directors said the budget cuts were the only thing that saved some of their non-revenue sports programs. For example, one guy told me that because they are going to cut 10 scholarships from football, they'll be able to keep the baseball team (which allows 14 scholarships)."

Papik said he knows of only a handful of Division I schools whose athletic departments aren't experiencing financial problems.

Fouraker said he was pleased overall with the cuts, but that more obvious cost-reduction measures could be initiated.

"One thing that nobody talks about

is the complete squad size," he said. "I've been leaning toward cutting the size of the squads — like the football team — by a few players."

Papik said he expects more academic issues to surface at next January's convention, along with more financial issues, particularly concerning student-athletes' income allowances and permission to hold some form of part-time employment.

Overall, Papik said, he thinks the cuts are keeping athletics in the right direction.

"This year's convention showed that the NCAA is right in that if college athletics truly are educational," he said, "athletic departments should try to have broad-based programs with several sports, rather than just one team that carries the weight of all the others."