

Women 'silently second' Huskers take No. 2 slot

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

After spinning its wheels in last place last year, the Nebraska women's basketball team has raced toward the top of the Big Eight rankings this season to little fanfare.

The Cornhuskers, who finished 10-18 overall and 2-12 in the conference in 1989-90, took sole possession of second place in the Big Eight Wednesday night by running over Missouri, 87-60, in front of fewer than 2,000 people.

"We're silently second," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said, referring to the lack of publicity surrounding the women's ranking.

On Sunday, the Huskers have a chance to win second place outright when they meet Oklahoma, one of the teams they left at the starting line of the conference race.

Beck said the Huskers' turnaround was a combination of factors, including the introduction of freshman Meggan Yedsena.

"I think Meggan's a key and (sopho-

more Karen) Jennings' improvement is a key," Beck said. "You need to get a couple of key players and build around the nucleus."

Beck said the team also has benefitted from having four seniors' experience on the team and the improvement of role players like Sue Hesch, Kelly Hubert and Carol Russell.

"Everybody is finding their niche," Beck said.

At 9-17 overall and 3-9 in the Big Eight, the Sooners are in seventh place in the league, but because of a scheduling error the Sooners will not play a full 14-game conference schedule.

Oklahoma's game at Iowa State that was scheduled for Wednesday was cancelled because the Sooners slated too many games this year.

NCAA rules, limiting college teams to a 28-game regular season schedule, count postseason conference tournaments as one game. Thus the Sooners, with 26 games so far and a game remaining at Iowa State and one at home against the Huskers, would have exceeded the limit by participating in the Big Eight tournament.

The conference solved the problem by calling off the Sooners-Cyclones match up. The cancellation will not affect the two teams' schedules, but for seeding purposes in the Big Eight tournament Oklahoma will take a loss and Iowa State will be awarded a win.

Beck said she thought the Sooners should not have canceled a game until they exceeded the 28-game limit. That would have barred them from the conference tourney.

"They definitely benefit from (the decision)," Beck said. "They get a week to rest before they play us and they get to play in the tournament."

Beck said she was upset with how the arrangements were handled. None of the coaches were informed of the decision until Tuesday, when league commissioner Carl James made the announcement.

"We can't change the decision, but I think it was kind of insensitive that we were left out of the decision-making," Beck said. "I don't think the men's coaches would be left out of something like that."

Rec Scoreboard

Results from Wednesday's games.

Men's basketball

Fraternity C

Phi Kappa Psi 73, Pi Kappa Phi 32; Alpha Gamma Rho by forfeit over Delta Upsilon.

Independent B

The Strabes 81, Pure Athletes 43; Islanders 44, Sooba Alpha Bisque 39; Midnight Blue 86, Trousers 54.

Independent C

Mod Quad 66, NROTC II 28; C&S Express 79, The Quack Attack 47; Sweet by forfeit over Army ROTC; Red Raiders 60, Geem's Jammers 56; Thundering Herd 48, The Flintstones 38; Bus Drivers-Grote 55, HB 49; Swamp Rats II 57, Muthas 55; Untouchables 60, Bork Beards 55; Backcourt Surfers 44, Renegades 25.

Lightweight

Triangle 48, Chi Phi 1 45; Dawgs 47,

C&S Express 35; Phi Delta Theta 55, Chi Phi 2 44; Schramm 2 40, Vanilla Gorillas 36.

Small fry

Air Busquits 73, Sigma Nu 64; Dawgs 58, Sigma Phi Epsilon 49; Beer Nuts 98, Untouchables 77.

Soccer

Fraternity B

Farmhouse B 3, Lambda Chi Alpha 0; Delta Upsilon 5, Beta Theta Pi B2 3 OT; Sigma Alpha Epsilon 6, Acacia 1; Delta Tau Delta by forfeit over Beta Sigma Psi; Tau Kappa Epsilon 5, Phi Delta Theta 1.

Residence BC

Fury 5, Vicious Hell Hounds 3; Steamrollers 5, EX-PTG 4 OT; Oatmeal 4, Scorpions 0.

Residence/Independent A

Schramm 9 3, FCA 1; Roscoe Flow-ers by forfeit over International Stars I.

Coach: Oklahoma gymnasts tough

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Saturday night in Norman, Okla., the Nebraska men's gymnastics team will face what Francis Allen considers the toughest team in the nation "on paper."

But when Oklahoma's in the gym "I don't know what to tell you," Allen said.

Nebraska has beaten Oklahoma two out of three times this year, although Allen said the Huskers might not have, had Oklahoma competed with their best gymnasts.

"If you look at Brian Halstead, Jarrod Hanks and Jeff Lutz — if they're in the all-around and you've got a few of these other guys that Oklahoma

has, I'd say they're the strongest team in the country.

"For some reason, they've never put all three of those guys in the all-around."

And Allen hopes they don't compete with them Sunday.

"They're awfully good gymnasts, and I don't know why they're not using them," he said. "If they're hurt, that's fine with me, I hope they stay hurt."

"I just do not think that if they're at full strength, a team can beat them."

But after defeating Minnesota by more than five points Feb. 10, Allen isn't quick to count his Huskers out.

"We're feeling pretty dam good," Allen said. "We murdered them on the first three events, and I really

thought we'd score over 280, but we let up."

Allen will throw everything he can at the Sooners.

Allen plans to compete Josh Saegert, who broke his leg in November, on the pommel horse. Saegert wasn't expected to return to the team this year.

"It's important to get him back in the lineup," he said. "He's going to give everybody a little lift, whether he misses or not, and I don't think he'll miss."

That boost could lead to a victory over the Sooners.

"If this team of mine happens to get hot, I mean as hot as they've been all year, I think we're unbeatable also."

"But I would go with Oklahoma five out of seven days."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rifle club takes honors in competition

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln rifle club finished third out of 14 teams in the international rifle competition and won the international air rifle competition last weekend at the College International Rifle and International Air Rifle Sectional Championship.

Northeast Missouri State won the international rifle event with

4,195 of 4,800 possible points, followed by Missouri-Rolla with 4,173 and UNL with 4,070 points. UNL's Wayne Patras and Kris Lutt finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

UNL had 1,328 of 1,600 possible points in the international air rifle competition. Missouri-Rolla was second with 1,290 points.

UNL bowling clubs roll to second place

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's and women's bowling clubs finished second in the Great Plains Conference competition last weekend. Both teams fin-

ished second behind Wichita State.

UNL's Larry Stepp, Paul Fleming and Kim Berke were named to the all-conference teams.

Big Eight

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beating Iowa State. They have a lot of upperclassmen in several events."

Iowa State has eight conference leaders heading to Columbia and returns two champions, Obinna Eregbu (55-meter dash) and John Nuttall (3,000 and 5,000).

Dirksen said the Cyclones are strong in the longer distances. They placed second at the NCAA championships in cross country last year and won the year before, he said. These events alone probably will give them the title.

"No one can touch their top three distance runners," Dirksen said. "They'll annihilate us in these events."

Another example of Iowa State's depth, he said, is in the field events. Dirksen said the Cyclones have a 26-foot and a 25-foot long jumper, two 7-foot high jumpers and two good pole vaulters.

"The only event I see that they have a

weakness in is the shot put," he said. "They'll probably place in just about everything else."

The Cornhusker men, who have never finished lower than third at either the Big Eight indoor or outdoor meet since Coach Gary Pepin took over eight years ago, have one returning champion in junior Tamas Molnar. Molnar, the 1990 200 and 400 champion, has been slowed by a hamstring injury but is entered in both events this year.

"Tamas is a fine athlete," Dirksen said. "He will probably be at the same level as last year. But his main disadvantage is the lack of race experience this year. He's only been fresh in maybe two meets."

Nebraska has one athlete with a top mark on the Big Eight performance list. Stephen Golding holds the all-time Big Eight best time in the 55-hurdles with a time of 7.19.

Dirksen said the men's team is in sort of a rebuilding year with many young athletes.

"We just don't have the balance that we've had in the past," he said.

Masters

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Oklahoma.

"We need to change more than we like because we need to be strong at the end of the year," Patterson said.

Patterson said Alabama is healthy, which will help her team in the four-week road trip that starts this weekend.

Arizona State isn't so lucky. The Sun Devils also will compete today, at California, before making the trip to Lincoln, but will be without top all-arounder Kelly Cyshiewicz, who fractured her ribs on the balance beam in practice.

Zeis said consistency has been the key to success all season and the Sun Devils will need it to be competitive this weekend.

Arizona State is 8-2 in duals this season and had a season-high score of 189.4 at home against Florida. The team is led by all-arounder Michelle Colavin, who Zeis said is having her strongest year.

Because Sunday will be Alabama's first trip to Nebraska and the first for Arizona State in four years, none of the teams really know what to expect.

"We are going in blind because we haven't seen them yet," Zeis said.

Patterson said despite not having seen Nebraska this season, she was impressed with the Huskers' performance in last year's NCAA championships.

Walton said this meet might foreshadow the national championship and gives top schools the chance to compete on neutral ground to see who is the best team.

He said the Huskers, 4-1 in duals, are motivated and feel no effects from last week's loss to Oklahoma.

He said he hopes the competition Sunday is as good as is expected and that it will bring out the best in Nebraska's gymnasts.

The team will add some new tricks, he said, but the key will be the same — decrease the number of falls and try to reach 190 points.

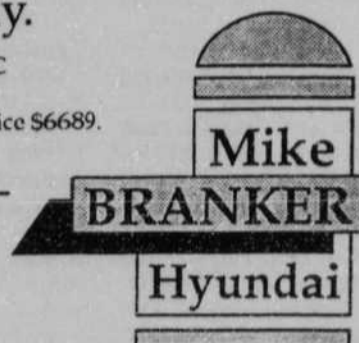
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