

Blue Devils

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Duke did have quite an effect on this year's final by knocking off the team that everyone from experts to casual fans knew would be there.

When Kansas left the court after beating North Carolina in the opening semifinal game, it would have been easy to assume the Jayhawks were thinking about the Runnin' Rebels and how they would handle the team with 34 wins in as many games and a 28-point average margin of victory.

"I thought Duke had an edge from a player's standpoint because of the humiliating loss," Kansas forward Mark Randall said.

"I picked Duke," front-courtmate Mike Maddox said.

Even if it was Sunday-morning quarterbacking, the Jayhawks were not disappointed in losing the chance at beating UNLV and were apprehensive at facing Duke.

"I would have been relieved if St. Mary's Sisters of the Blind had beaten Vegas, but I don't think I'm going to sit up here and say I'm relieved to play Duke," Kansas coach Roy Williams said.

There weren't any injuries on or off the court in the semifinal wins, and the matchups taking shape are interesting.

Randall, who had 16 points and 11 rebounds against the Tar Heels, will most likely go against Laettner, who had 28 points against UNLV, 20 in the first half when he went inside to draw fouls and open things up for the cutters and slashers in the motion offense.

The two know each other well from an extended summer as teammates on the U.S. national team which was coached by Krzyzewski.

"He really worked on his moves down low this summer and then I saw him this year a couple of times and he was hitting three-pointers," Randall said. "Last night he had a great game. He hit the free throws to clinch it and I heard he had a great first half. He's just a great player."

Laettner returned the compliments. "He makes players better and he's as big a reason why they are where they are," Laettner said. "Whoever checks him has to be ready."

Now college basketball has to get ready for an unexpected champion.

Will it be Duke — finally? Or will it be Kansas — again? The Jayhawks' second and most recent title was in 1988, when Maddox was a freshman and Randall a medical redshirt.

Krzyzewski didn't say if he had made any early tournament predictions, but he had one for tonight.

"These teams match up fairly well," he said. "I see a very close game. Very close."

Florida not all fun 'n' sun

Coach: Tour a learning experience

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team came up with only three of expected five wins in five matches last week in Miami.

The Huskers lost to Southwest Missouri State 5-4 and to Florida International 6-3, in between managing wins over Miami-Dade and Palm Beach junior colleges as well as Barry University.

The other scheduled match for Nebraska against Boca Raton was cancelled because of a scheduling conflict.

"This trip was a good learning

experience as a whole," Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said. "The main thing we learned is that if we don't work together as a team, we're going to lose, no matter who we play."

Despite the losses, McDermott said the Cornhuskers gained some good from the matches.

"We learned on this trip that no matter who we play, we can't look ahead," McDermott said. "I think this will also help strengthen our team unity, as well as our overall attitude."

McDermott said that not only did the outdoor competition prepare his team for conference play, it also solidified his lineup for the upcoming

Big Eight season.

No major changes occurred in the lineup. Joey Salerno earned the No. 4 singles spot, Karl Falkland will play No. 5 and Anthony Kotarac No. 6. Salerno and Kotarac will team at No. 2 doubles.

Kotarac, though, might not be able to compete against Oklahoma State on Saturday after sitting out the week with an ankle injury. Senior David Moyer will replace Kotarac if Kotarac is unable to play.

Nebraska will take to the road this weekend to play the defending Big Eight champion Cowboys on Saturday and Oklahoma on Sunday.

Softball team takes fifth in invitational, splits doubleheader with San Jose State

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team split a doubleheader with San Jose State Saturday night to close out the Cornhuskers' spring trip to San Jose, Calif.

Nebraska won the opening game 4-1 in 10 innings. Stephanie Skegas got the complete-game victory, allowing seven hits to go 6-2. The Huskers scored three times in the 10th inning on hits by Ann Halsne, Denise McMillian, Kristin Davidson and Kris Vucurevic and a two-run single by Michelle Cuddeford.

San Jose State defeated Marie

Bowie and the Cornhuskers 3-2 in nine innings in the second game on a ninth-inning sacrifice fly.

Before the San Jose State doubleheader, the Huskers tied for fifth in the Bud Light National Invitational Softball Tournament and split a doubleheader with Santa Clara.

After going 2-1 in pool play at the Bud Light tournament, the Huskers lost 1-0 to Missouri and 7-0 to Michigan in the championship bracket.

Nebraska, 9-7, will play Creighton in Omaha Tuesday. The doubleheader will begin at 5:30 p.m.

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