

# Tired Huskers to take trip to Creighton



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska's Chris Cresswell passes around Southern Cal's Duane Cooper during last week's Cornhusker win over the Trojans. Cresswell and the rest of Nebraska's team will face Creighton on Saturday in Omaha.

By Todd Cooper  
Senior Reporter

It's a good thing Omaha is only 45 minutes away.

After losing to Michigan State 101-78 Wednesday night, the Nebraska men's basketball team is a little road-weary, Cornhusker Coach Danny Nee said.

"The travel has gotten to the players," Nee said. Nebraska has played at Southern Utah and at Michigan State in the past week.

"It's been a long week, and they're tired."

But Nebraska will wake up when it meets Creighton at the Omaha Civic Auditorium Saturday, Nee said. ESPN will televise the game, which tips off at 11:30 a.m.

"It's another big game on the road for us," he said. "It's a chance to redeem ourselves from the loss and do it on national TV."

Nebraska will have to improve its defense to eliminate its road worries, Nee said. The Huskers have given up 101 points in their only two road games of the year, including the 106-101 victory over Southern Utah Saturday night.

"We've proven that we have a potent offense," Nee said. "But the key to our success is defense. We just have given up too many points in the past two road games."

The Huskers have allowed easy baskets, Nee said. Michigan State scored 68 points in the second half on 74 percent shooting from the field.

"Michigan State, basically, took it to us," Nee said. "We just didn't guard well — that's all there is to it."

Nebraska will be defending against a quick, smaller team in Creighton. The Blue Jays are 1-1 with a 62-56 victory over Colorado State after losing their opener 62-56 to Iowa State in Ames, Iowa.

"They're very quick, very aggressive and they shoot the ball well," Nee said.

The Blue Jays are led by guards Latrell Wrightsell and Duan Cole, who average 18 and 16 points a game, respectively. The two guards are

See HUSKERS on 8

## Wrestling coach says meet to indicate talent

By Chuck Green  
Senior Editor

Nebraska's first team wrestling meet of the season may be its toughest, at least until the NCAA championships in March.

The Cornhuskers, ranked 10th by Amateur Wrestling News, will compete against 44 other teams in the Las Vegas Invitational today and Saturday in Las Vegas, Nev. The meet will include eight of the country's top 10 teams.

Nebraska Coach Tim Neumann said the meet, annually regarded as one of the toughest and most prestigious regular-season meets, will give him and his wrestlers a good indication of where they are talent-wise this year.

"We haven't stressed the team score as much as we have the fact that some of our younger guys could jump into the national rankings by doing well in the meet," Neumann said.

John Buxton, ranked eighth in the 126-pound weight class, could move into the top five with a strong performance this weekend, Neumann said.

Other Huskers who could benefit from good showings in Las Vegas, Neumann said, include John Hiffernan (142), Rick Coltvet (150), Matt Lindland (158) and Rulon Gardner (heavyweight).

Nebraska's lineup, which includes only four returning starters, is filled with freshmen and junior college transfers. Neumann said he hopes good performances turned in at the UNO Open individual meet will continue in Las Vegas.

"Everyone's been progressing very well," he said. "We're probably as prepared physically and mentally as any team we've had."

The tournament will be at the Hacienda Hotel Resort and Casino, and will begin today at 8:30 a.m. The final rounds are scheduled for Saturday at 7 p.m.

Neumann said that because Iowa and Oklahoma State, the country's top two teams, will be present, the Huskers have a slim chance to capture the team title.

"We are not a threat to win the tournament because Iowa and Oklahoma State are both so strong," he said. "I would be disappointed if we didn't finish in the top six or seven in the team standings."

Neumann also said that with the large number of wrestlers in each weight class in the meet, it will be an important factor in Nebraska's success throughout the season.

"This is almost like the national meet in terms of seeding," he said. "The draws for us are going to be important. Since we do have so many unknowns, that could work for or against us."

## Huskers prepare to face 'the system'

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Senior Editor

This weekend the Nebraska women's basketball team will face what Coach Angela Beck calls "the system."

The Cornhuskers' next opponent, Beck said, will bring 18 years of basketball tradition with it, as well as the players on the court.

Nebraska will meet Wisconsin-Green Bay on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Wisconsin-Green Bay Coach Carol Hammerle, who posted her 300th career victory last season, has guided the Phoenix to nine 20-win seasons and 14 consecutive winning seasons in her 18 years at the helm.

"She's got five seniors," Beck said, "five kids that have been through 'the system.'"

"She is their program." Last year the Phoenix finished with a 22-6 record and just missed the NCAA Tournament.

This year Wisconsin-Green Bay is off to a 2-2 start, including a win over perennial powerhouse Georgia. The Phoenix beat the Bulldogs, 81-57, in Green Bay, Wis.

That win alone says more about the Phoenix than their record, Beck said.

"We're going to have to play our best basketball to beat Wisconsin-Green Bay," Beck said. "They're a picture-perfect defensive team."

Offensively the Phoenix isn't bad either. Led by senior Sandra Baerwald's 18.5 points per game, the team

### NU woman's probable starters

NU vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, in Lincoln

Nebraska (4-0)		PPG	RPG
G 24	Meggan Yedsena	5-8	So. 9.8 3.5
F 42	Sue Hesch	6-1	Sr. 5.0 4.8
C 51	Karen Jennings	6-2	Jr. 21.5 7.0
F 22	Rissa Taylor	6-1	Jr. 6.8 5.8
G 25	Sara Offringa	5-10	Jr. 8.3 4.3
Wisconsin-Green Bay (2-2)		PPG	RPG
F 11	Sandra Baerwald	5-10	Sr. 18.5 5.0
F 24	Dawn Schirmacher	6-1	Jr. 8.8 6.0
C 45	Lisa Wegner	6-2	Sr. 13.0 8.8
G 12	Sue Geiser	5-9	So. 4.0 2.3
G 33	Mariann Van Den Elzen	5-7	Jr. 8.8 5.0

Scott Maurer/DN

is shooting 43 percent from the floor. Center Lisa Wegner, a six-foot-two senior, is averaging 13 points and 8.8 rebounds a game.

The Huskers will have to play the whole game to beat the Phoenix, Beck said that is something Nebraska didn't do in its 62-56 win at Drake Wednesday night.

"We held on to our lead to win," she said. "We got real passive. We didn't play to bury them and that gave them a little juice."

The Huskers were given a little boost in the game by the play of

junior Nafeesah Brown. The transfer from Westark Community College contributed 21 points, nine rebounds and six steals for the Huskers.

"She really came on for us as a scorer," Beck said. "She showed a lot of versatility for us. It's what we've kind of needed."

Drake used "five players at times" to hold junior Karen Jennings, the Husker's leading scorer and rebounder, to one rebound, Beck said.

Despite the attention, Jennings managed to score 21 points.