

Officials overturn football forfeitures

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska football team will not have to forfeit two conference wins this season, the Big Eight Conference ruled in a meeting last weekend in Kansas City, Mo.

Conference members ruled that Nebraska's allowing fullback Omar Soto to compete with the team this year was the result of an inadvertent certification error.

The forfeits were implemented when it was disclosed that Soto had played during five football seasons. Last December, Soto admitted to a reporter at The Palm Beach (Fla.) Post that he had participated

in a preseason scrimmage at Mount San Jacinto Junior College in California, although he never was enrolled in the school.

Soto was ruled ineligible to play in the Cornhuskers' Orange Bowl game against Miami last Jan. 1.

Had Big Eight officials ruled against Nebraska, the Huskers would have had to forfeit wins against Iowa State and Oklahoma.

Soto also played against Colorado State and Utah State. James O'Hanlon, Nebraska faculty representative, said last week that Nebraska would get in touch with those two schools this week and offer to forfeit the games.

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Husker gymnasts work to achieve national ranking

By Robert Birkeland
Staff Reporter

In each of its past three meets, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team has increased its season-high score. For the Cornhuskers to climb up in the national rankings, they need to make it four in a row.

Tonight the Huskers will travel to Logan, Utah, for the Utah State Invite.

"The next two weekends are crucial to get high scores so our average will be 189 or higher," Nebraska coach Rick Walton said.

Walton said the meet would show how the Huskers compare with other teams in their region.

"The goal this weekend is to win against teams that are in our region," Walton said. "If we want to get some credibility we are going to have to beat them."

Southern Utah, Boise State, and Utah State will be the other three teams at the meet.

Walton said Boise State and Utah State had scored higher than the Huskers this season.

Last weekend the Huskers upset No. 11 Auburn with a season-high score 189.55.

"We got a lot out of last weekend by just winning the meet," Walton said. "We got a good score and also beat a team that was ranked."

Walton said the Huskers needed a higher score than last weekend so that last week's score can be used in national rankings.

"The way this system works, you keep throwing your high and low scores out and counting the average of the middle scores," Walton said. "We cannot count last week's score of 189.55 until we score higher."

With the meet being on a Monday the Huskers have had seven days between meets.

Walton said the gap between meets allowed the gymnasts to have one complete day off.

"The day off will show," Walton said. "We have people who now feel better and they will be able to get caught up in school."

"At this time of the year sometimes a day of rest is better than three days of practice."

Baseball team blanks Jamestown

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team improved its record to 10-3 Friday with a 22-0 win over Jamestown (N.D.) College.

Eight Cornhusker pitchers combined to hold Jamestown to one hit. That hit came with two out in the ninth inning. Jason Pflughaupt, 1-0, picked up the win.

Nebraska batters pounded out 23 hits and were led by Marc Sagmoen, who tied the school record with six hits, narrowly missed breaking the record in his last at bat with a long fly ball to the right field fence.



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska's Chris Cresswell defends against Oklahoma guard Brent Price during the Cornhuskers' 107-85 loss in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament Friday in Kansas City, Mo. The Huskers will play Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday in Cincinnati.

Huskers

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The Huskers, who fell to 19-9, 7-8, hit 27 of 81 from the field, and 24 of 31 from the free-throw line for a 77 percent average.

The Sooners scored the first two points of the game, but the Huskers answered and the game was tied 11-11 with 16:25 left in the first half.

Oklahoma then went on a 14-2 run to take the lead at 25-13 with 13:12 left. The Huskers answered back with a 18-2 run of their own to take a 31-27 lead with 7:44 left in the half.

The teams then battled to a 40-40 tie at the 2:39 mark, but Oklahoma went on a 9-3 run led by Angelo Hamilton's two three pointers in the last two minutes of the half to give the Sooners a 49-43 halftime lead.

Nec said the six point-halftime deficit didn't worry him.

"I didn't feel 'Oh God we're down six and we can never recover,'" Nec said. "I felt very comfortable that we had an opportunity to recover during the game."

In the second half, Oklahoma's lead was cut to four points at 51-47 just 50 seconds into the half, but the Huskers never got any closer.

"I felt we could shoot better in the second half, but I didn't plan on all those kids fouling out," Nec said.

Nebraska center Derrick Chandler

fouled out of the game with 15:41 left in the second half. Husker guard Michael Hughes also fouled out with 12:50 remaining.

Tubbs said Chandler's exit from the game helped the Sooners' inside game.

"I felt a critical point was when Chandler left the game," Tubbs said. "He just kicks us."

The Huskers were led by Eric Piatkowski's 18 points. Seniors Dapreis Owens and Carl Hayes both scored 17 points in their final Big Eight game.

Nec said the team's youth hurt its chances against the more seasoned Sooner squad.

Nebraska 43
42-85

Oklahoma 49
58-107

Nebraska — Hayes 6-14 3-5 17, Chubick 4-8 2-2 10, Chandler 2-7 0-1 4, Johnson 2-9 4-4 10, Piatkowski 4-16 10-11 18, Owens 6-13 5-8 17, Hughes 0-1 0-0 0, Cresswell 3-11 0-0 9, Glock 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 27-81 85.

Oklahoma — Patterson 8-14 1-2 19, Webster 8-13 7-7 23, Sallier 7-12 2-4 16, Evans 4-6 2-3 13, Price 5-9 6-8 18, Yanish 1-3 0-0 2, Vann 2-6 0-1 5, Gallien 1-2 0-0 2, Hamilton 3-8 1-2 9. Totals 39-73 107.

Three-point goals — Nebraska 7-29 (Hayes 2-6, Johnson 2-5, Piatkowski 0-9, Cresswell 3-8, Glock 0-1), Oklahoma 10-14 (Patterson 2-2, Evans 3-4, Price 2-4, Vann 1-1, Hamilton 2-3). Assists — Nebraska 15 (Cresswell 5), Oklahoma 17 (Evans 7, Price 6). Total fouls (dq) — Nebraska 22 (Hughes, Chandler), Oklahoma 24 (Sallier). Turnovers — Nebraska 16 (Hayes 3, Chandler 3, Owens 3), Oklahoma 16 (Hamilton 4, Webster 4). A — 16,870.

NCAA

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Club to watch CBS' broadcast of the brackets.

Cheers filled the room when Nebraska was announced as the eighth seed in the Southeast Regional. Connecticut is the ninth seed.

The Huskies, 19-9, tied for fifth in the 10-team Big East. At one point, Connecticut was ranked as high as fifth in the Associated Press poll, but fell completely out after losing eight of its last 11 games.

Connecticut last lost in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament Friday, falling to St. John's 64-59 in overtime.

Despite the Huskies' recent struggles, Owens said he still respects Connecticut as one of the nation's top teams.

"They're still a great basketball team with great players," he said. "I know they've had some injuries, but I'm sure they'll be ready to play."

Nec agreed, but said his primary focus will not be Connecticut, but getting the Huskers ready to play.

"We've got all the things that we deserve," Nec said. "Now, we've got to live up to the expectations and earn our stripes. We're going to go into Cincinnati and be ready to play."

NOTES:

— Nec said his players have put last Friday's 22-point loss to Oklahoma in the Big Eight Tournament behind them. "The only thing we've got is bruised egos," he said. "We got embarrassed on Friday, and we know that."

— The biggest surprise in the 64-team field, Chandler said, is that 25-4 Wisconsin-Green Bay, a team Nebraska beat, didn't make the field. "They looked like an NCAA team to me," Chandler said.

— Nec said the fact that six Big Eight teams (Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Missouri and Iowa State) made the tournament is a "tribute to the league and the coaches."

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