

Baseball

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"Our only goal is to take it one game at a time. If we win each inning of every game, we'll win that game and move on to the next."

The question may be what each game this weekend has in store. There could be an offensive barrage, as both teams rank in the top 20 in the nation in hitting. Nebraska ranks 20th and the Cowboys are 11th.

The weekend could also be a pitching duel, as Nebraska pitchers lead the Big Eight with a combined 3.83 earned run average.

Boyd said the pitching staff would use scouting reports to find the weaknesses of the Cowboy lineup.

Coach John Sanders said the pitching staff of Oklahoma State could be fairly formidable as well.

Sanders said Oklahoma State probably would start junior right-hander Brad Gore on Friday.

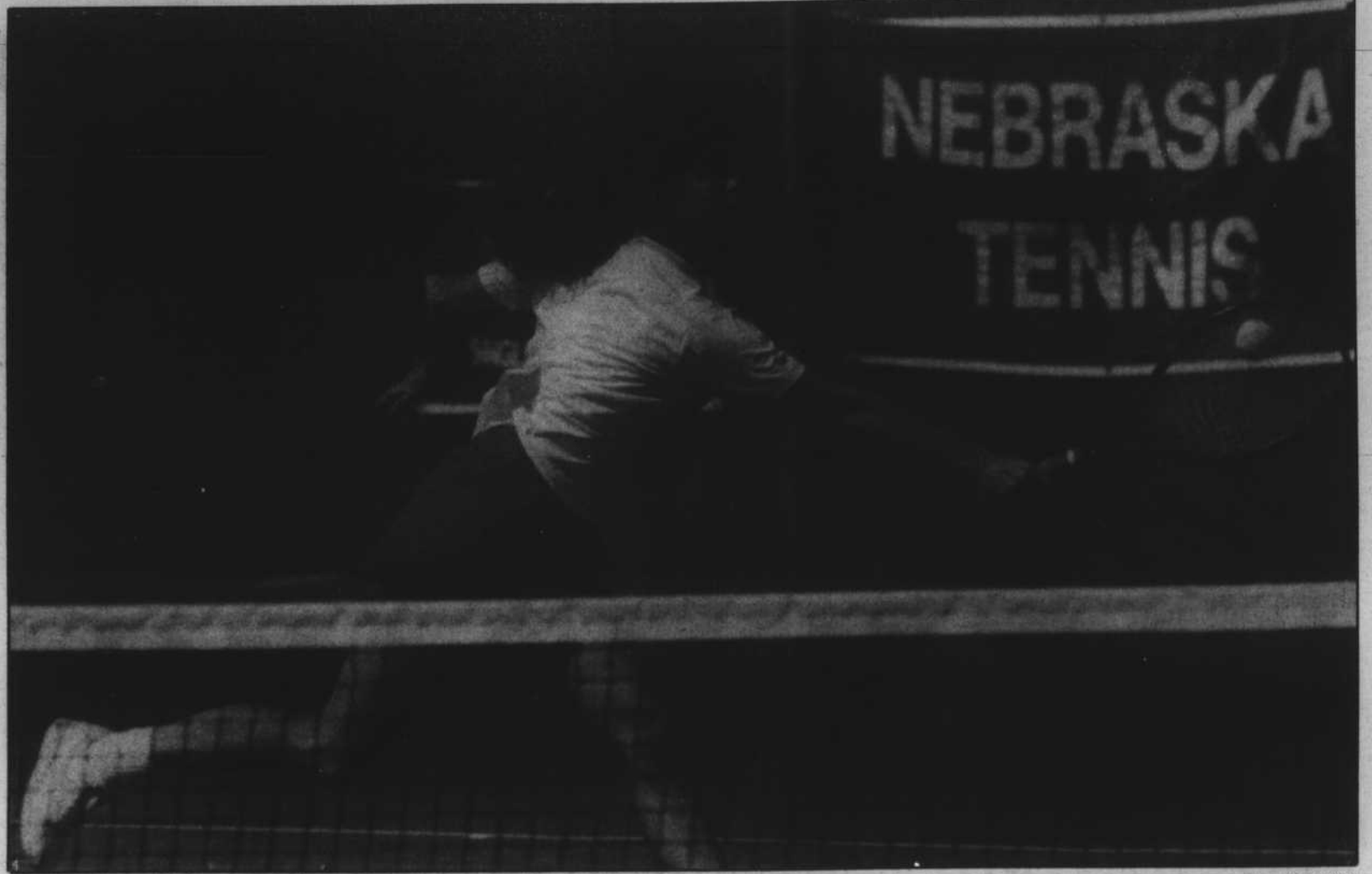
"They are pitching very well and they are on a good roll," Sanders said.

Leading the offense for Oklahoma State is third baseman Lou Lucca. The senior is hitting .439 with 40 runs, 45 runs batted in, 30 walks and 12 home runs. Centerfielder Danny Perez is leading the Cowboys in averages with a .440 mark. He also has 29 RBI and 11 stolen bases.

Dale Hagy is leading the Huskers offensively. The second baseman has eight home runs and 30 RBI.

Sanders said the opportunity to watch two teams tied at the top of the conference standings should provide fans with a lot of excitement.

"We want to see a lot of fans down here this weekend."



Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska's Rachel Collins reaches to make a return shot against Colorado last weekend. Collins and her Cornhusker teammates will play Oklahoma State Friday and Oklahoma Saturday. Both matches begin at 2 p.m. at the Cather-Pound courts.

NU tennis teams brace for Big Eight's best

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

Both the Nebraska men's and women's tennis teams will try to play the role of spoilers this weekend when they battle two of the Big Eight's top teams.

Both squads will be finishing the home portion of their conference schedules against Oklahoma State on Saturday and Oklahoma on Sunday at the Cather-Pound courts.

The men begin play at 9 a.m. and the women compete at 2 p.m. both days.

On the men's side, the Cornhuskers will attempt to slow down the Oklahoma State juggernaut and keep the Cowboys from winning another conference title. The defending Big Eight champions beat Nebraska 7-2 last year in Stillwater, Okla.

In Sunday's home finale, the Huskers will attempt to repeat last season's success against the Sooners, when Nebraska posted a surprising 6-3 win in Norman, Okla.

Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said being the underdog this weekend would be a positive thing for his squad.

"The pressure this weekend is on our opponents, and since there's not much pressure on us, hopefully we'll be able to play good tennis," McDermott said.

McDermott said his team was capable of surprising both teams.

"On paper we're supposed to go 0-2, but if we play at a higher level and our opponents play down a little bit, we can pull the upset," McDermott said.

Nebraska is 1-1 in Big Eight play following last weekend's victory over Iowa State and loss to Colorado in

Lincoln. The Huskers, 7-8 overall, will try to continue individual conference title hopes this weekend.

No. 2 singles player Karl Falkland is the only Husker who is undefeated in Big Eight play at 2-0 and is on track to net his first individual singles title. The junior from Sweden said his success this season had been a surprise.

"Starting out the year, I wasn't looking to win the Big Eight in singles, but now I'm in position to win it," Falkland said. "It's going to be do or die for me this weekend. If I go 1-1 I'll still be in it, but if I go 0-2 I'm pretty much out of it."

On the other side of the net, the women will also be looking to pull some upsets this weekend, after starting conference play 1-1. The 4-4 Huskers will try to avenge last season's road losses to the Oklahoma

schools. Nebraska was beaten 9-0 by Oklahoma State and 6-3 by Oklahoma.

Coach Scott Jacobson said he would be happy with his team members as long as they gave their best effort against the schools that finished first and second at last year's Big Eight Tennis Championships.

"If we split this weekend, I'll be happy. That would be a great accomplishment," Jacobson said. "But unless somebody goes in the tank, I'll be satisfied with whatever happens this weekend."

Nebraska's No. 6 singles player Tina Coutretsis said despite playing the Big Eight's best, the Huskers were going to give their all this weekend.

"They're definitely the top two schools in the conference, but we're going to play to win since we have nothing to lose," Coutretsis said.

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American Heart Association

Track team to compete on home ground

By John Gardner
Staff Reporter

Track and field fans will finally get a chance to see Nebraska compete outdoors.

The Huskers will host the Nebraska Invitational at Ed Weir Stadium Saturday at noon. The meet will feature men's and women's teams from Colorado State, Kansas State, Missouri and a men's squad from Minnesota.

Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said this meet would be a refreshing change. "It's real nice to have a home meet and not be on the road traveling," Pepin said.

This weekend's affair is a scoring meet, which, Pepin said, suited him fine. But he said he wouldn't run his athletes to death.

"We will place our entries so we

don't get embarrassed in any events," Pepin said. "At the same time, however, we don't want to wear anyone out or get them injured, so we won't be doubling and tripling our athletes in events."

Pepin said he would use many athletes this weekend, but that wouldn't be the case later on this season. He said he would prefer they trained more than they competed.

"Especially since it's an Olympic Year, they will be training all year," Pepin said. "And the better they get, the fewer meets they will need."

Nebraska has a few Olympic prospects right now.

Kevin Coleman, with his indoor national championship toss of 65 feet, 9 3/4 inches, has qualified for this summer's Olympic Trials in New Orleans.

Stephen Golding has hopes of competing for his native Jamaica this summer. Mark Jackson has his sights set on representing Canada and Travis Grant plans to give the U.S. Olympic Trials a shot as well.

All told, Pepin said a lot of those athletes would compete sparingly this spring.

"We'll need to be careful not to run them in too many meets," he said.

Pepin said the quality of competition would be high enough this week to give his teams a chance to see where they were at and keep improving.

"There should be good competition in all events, and hopefully we'll continue to make progress in all areas," he said. "That's important at this point in the season, to keep getting better."

Regionals

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she could rest after the season.

Four other regionals will take place this weekend, with the winner of each earning an automatic berth in the

NCAA Championships in St. Paul, Minn.

Seven other teams will receive at-large bids that are decided by team scores.

Last year, five teams from Nebraska's regional advanced to nationals. That could happen again this year,

Walton said.

"If we finish worse than fifth in this meet and score 192 points, it will not matter," Walton said. "We will have to have the best meet this year to go to nationals."

"That does not mean adding anything to our routines; we just have to hit them."

Softball

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the rest of the coaching staff expects," Wolforth said. "It's what the players expect that is important."

Wolforth said he also thought it was reasonable to believe the Huskers could finish off the weekend as

the Creighton Tournament Champions.

The tournament will include Nebraska, Creighton, DePaul and Missouri-Kansas City.

"It's a wide-open field," Wolforth said, "but it is certainly within the realm of possibility that we would come home with the championship."

Wolforth said he would do every-

thing in his power to help his team continue its winning streak, even if it meant breaking the rotation and extending Shandy's playing time.

"We're in a part of the season where we have to start winning ball games," Wolforth said. "I will do everything I can as a coach to help them gain momentum going into the Big Eight Tournament."

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