



Julia Mikolajcik/DN

Tom Kretzler, a senior marketing major, practices for the upcoming National Collegiate Bowling Championships Tuesday at the East Union. Both the men's and women's teams enter the tournament in Milwaukee as the No. 3 seed.

NU striking out for bowling titles

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's only defending national champions will be putting their title on the line this weekend in hopes of a repeat as the No. 1 team in the country.

The Nebraska bowling teams will try to bowl their way to a couple of national titles; as the women attempt to repeat last year's national championship, the men try to recapture the title after winning it in 1990.

The teams will begin play in the three-day, 11-team tournament Thursday in Milwaukee.

Bill Straub, who coaches both

squads, said having his women's team as defending champions was a distinct advantage.

"They've had a long string of successes, and there are a lot of teams that are bothered playing us because of our success," Straub said.

Nebraska All-American Kim Berke, a native of Beatrice who has a 205 average this year, said being ranked No. 3 this season after winning the title last year gave Nebraska added incentive.

"We have something to prove this weekend," Berke said. "It could be better than coming in at No. 1 since we won't be watched as much."

Along with Berke, Jennifer Wilson,

Andrea Fitje, Carrie Machuga, Shelly Machuga and Jan Hendricks will be attempting to bring a second-straight title back to Lincoln.

On the other side of the alley, the men are also currently ranked No. 3 heading into Thursday's championships.

Straub said he was optimistic of the men's chances in Milwaukee.

"There's five or six teams that can win it, and I think we're one of those teams," Straub said.

The men who will try to knock off top-ranked Wichita State are Tom Kretzler, Randy Wilson, Jeff Beasley, Larry Stepp, Tony Manna and T.J. Miseno.

Bargen

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tion on a new coach in a few days. Bargen had been impressive, Peterson said.

"(Bargen) has a good record and he is an outstanding person," Peterson said.

Bargen was unavailable for com-

ment.

Bargen, 49, came to Nebraska with Coach Danny Nee in the spring of 1986 after eight years as the head coach of Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College.

At Hutchinson, Bargen's teams compiled a 199-56 record, including a 31-7 mark and a third-place finish in the NJCAA Tournament in 1985-86.

Peterson said the coaching job at Western Illinois was vacated by Jack Margenthaler, who coached at Western Illinois for 15 years.

"(Margenthaler) had some excellent years early, but he has fallen on hard times lately," Peterson said. "It was a general consensus that we need to put some new blood in the program."

Tennis

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proud of our guys for focusing really well and not making fun of our opponents."

Bray agreed with his coach.

"Missouri was worse than I expected," Bray said. "They were a bunch of good guys off the court, but it was kind of a waste of time."

McDermott said ending the season in fifth place with a 2-4 Big Eight record is satisfactory, but a good showing against Colorado in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament would make the season a success.

"On the whole, it's been an average year," McDermott said. "But if we can upset Colorado, it will be an excellent year."

On the other side of the net, the women's team's title hopes disappeared in the snow.

No. 4 singles player Rachel Collins improved her Big Eight record to 5-2 after managing one of the three wins the Huskers had against Kansas State.

Tina Coutretsis also beat her Wildcat counterpart at No. 6 singles, as did the No. 1 doubles tandem of Collins and Ann Flannery.

The matches with Missouri were stopped after Nebraska mathematically won the dual 5-0 in order to give the Huskers more time to get back to Lincoln.

Nebraska ended its season with a 3-4 conference mark and a 6-7 record overall and will be the fifth seed in this weekend's Big Eight Tennis Championships.

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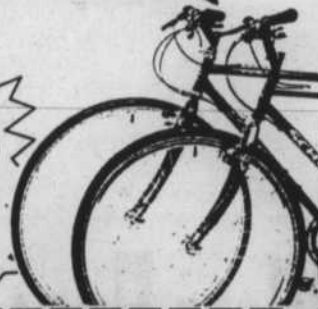
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