

Senior hopes talent will deliver

Chandler predicts good chemistry

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Don't think Nebraska center Derrick Chandler is underestimating the Cornhuskers' chances this season.

"We have good team chemistry and I feel this may be the best team that Nebraska has ever seen.

"If we have good team cohesiveness with playing and communicating with each other, we have a shot at making the Final Four this season," Chandler said.

A 6-10 senior, Chandler made a smashing debut last season at Nebraska after transferring from Alvin Community College in Texas.

He averaged 12 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks per game on a team that made its second straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

To accomplish a similar performance this year, Chandler said the Huskers need to come together as a team.

"We have to peak early and have good team chemistry," Chandler said. "We have a great team and are deeper in all positions than a year ago.

"We have great talent, with good young players and experienced vets back," he said.

Chandler came to Nebraska after completing his career at Alvin, hoping to fit into a program that was already building under Coach Danny

Healthy Huskers head into first meet

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

After almost two months of practice, the Nebraska wrestling team is ready for this weekend's Wyoming Open, Coach Tim Neumann said.

"We've been working on match strategies in practice getting ready for the season," Neumann said. "The intensity needs to be picked up more right now."

Neumann's Huskers are relatively healthy going into their first meet of the season.

"(Junior) Frank Velazquez has a bummed-up knee, but other than that were pretty healthy going into the weekend," said Neumann.

Neumann said that the team's goals were to win the Big Eight Championship and place in the top four at the national championship.

Senior Corey Olson, an NCAA runner-up at 177 pounds last year, said that the Huskers could contend for the national title.

"If things go (well), and we stay away from injuries, then we have a shot at it," he said.

Neumann said he expected Olson to do better than last year.

"He finished last season well, but he had seven losses over the season," he said. "I expect him to be undefeated, Big Eight and national champ. He's good enough to win; and he should dominate."

Olson said he also expected a better finish than last year's.

"I'd be foolish not to have a goal of

Adkisson

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enon than the idea of "what goes around comes around." No team can stay great for too long, and no team (unless you're the Cleveland Indians) can stay buried in the dumper for an extended period of time.

The kids of the '80s will likely talk the same way about Miami, the 49ers and the Lakers, and the cycle will start

Goalposts

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dents that aren't interested in any enthusiasm, just in raising hell," Devaney said. "Overall we have a real good student body. I enjoy them and I'm pleased with their enthusiasm." Hug agreed that the majority of the



Chandler's Top Games

Last season, Nebraska's center Derrick Chandler was named as an honorable mention All-Big Eight selection. A look at his top games last season:

Opponent	Rebounds	Blocked Shots	Points
Creighton	10	3	15
Wisconsin	10	6	17
Eastern Illinois	13	0	17
Oklahoma	20	1	16
Oklahoma	12	4	17
Connecticut	11	2	17

Scott Maurer/DN

Nee.

"Nee had stated to me the program here was on the rise, and they had some good recruits coming in," said Chandler.

Another reason he came, he said, is that he knew that the league's premier centers — Doug Smith of Missouri and Byron Houston of Oklahoma State — would be graduating.

"The big men were leaving the Big Eight and I would have a good chance to be one of the best," he said.

As the team's only senior this season, Chandler said he would like to instill a strong work ethic in the younger players for Nebraska.

"I like to play the role of exemplifying the play-hard attitude," Chandler said. "I want other players to say,

"He wants to play like Derrick," and play hard night in and night out."

In early season practices, Chandler said that the team has found some depth this year with such recruits as freshmen Jaron Boone, Erick Strickland, Andre Woolridge and two players who didn't play last season: Terrance Badgett and Tom Best.

"All the players play different, but all are still really good," Chandler said.

This season, Nebraska will focus more on the inside game rather than run an up-tempo offense, Chandler said.

"We have more depth this year so we can play tough and bump a little more without worrying about running

Rankings don't mean much, when you consider that any team can beat another on a given night.

—Chandler
NU center

out of quality players from the bench," he said.

Slowing the ball down gives him mixed emotions, he said.

"I like to play physical," Chandler said, "but I also like to play Oklahoma-style and move the ball up and down the court in fast break situations."

The Huskers have been ranked as high as 11th by Sport Magazine and 22nd by CNN/USA Today, but were picked a disappointing fifth in the conference.

Chandler said the team isn't paying much attention to their preseason ranking.

"Rankings don't mean much, when you consider that any team can beat another on a given night," Chandler said. "A lot of the people who do the ranking come out of the Kansas and Missouri areas instead of Nebraska."

"We just want to prove them wrong."

Cornhuskers' two tight ends miss practice

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska football team practiced for two hours in Memorial Stadium on Tuesday without its top two tight ends in preparation for Saturday's game at Iowa State.

William Washington, the team's top tight end, missed with a sprained arch in his foot. Gerald Armstrong, Washington's backup, missed his second straight day after suffering a knee strain in the Kansas game.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said Armstrong would likely not play this weekend.

Two other players — fullback Lance Lewis (sore back) and linebacker Trev Alberts (flu) — missed the workout.

Two players who missed Monday's practice, wingback Abdul Muhammad and offensive tackle Zach Wiegert, returned to practice Tuesday.



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