

Southern Cal, UCLA reign over Huskers

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

This weekend's Pacific 10-Big Eight Challenge was a contradiction in terms.

UCLA and Southern California went 4-0 against the Big Eight's representatives from Nebraska and Colorado, and they didn't get much of a fight in any of the matches played in Los Angeles.

No. 1 UCLA beat the Cornhuskers Saturday night 15-11, 15-6, 15-7, after Nebraska lost in four games to the No. 10 Women of Troy 5-15, 15-4, 15-5, 16-14 on Friday.

The Huskers' loss to Southern California ended Nebraska's 16-match winning streak, while Saturday's loss dropped the Huskers' overall record

to 18-4 and gave Nebraska its first two-match losing streak of the season.

The Huskers lost momentum following a game one win against the Women of Troy, and Nebraska's futility carried over to Saturday.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers should have beaten Southern California and left Los Angeles with at least a split.

"That was a more disappointing match. With the personnel matchup, it was a match we should've won," Pettit said.

Nebraska outside hitter Allison Weston agreed.

"If we were playing our game, there's no question we would've beat them," Weston said. "We came out in the first game and really played well

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—Pettit
NU volleyball coach

and I thought we were going to take the whole thing, but the second and third games we really gave to them.”

Against UCLA, Nebraska only threatened the Bruins' perfect 25-0 record once, as the Huskers had an 8-6 lead halfway through the match's opening game.

But UCLA rallied to win game one by four points and went on to sweep the Huskers.

Pettit said it was easy to see why Nebraska wasn't able to stay with the Bruins.

"They were more consistent than we were and they played at a higher level than we did," Pettit said.

UCLA won its second match over the Huskers in as many years. The Bruins beat Nebraska 12-15, 15-10, 15-10, 17-15 last year in Lincoln.

UCLA added to its undefeated season with a near-perfect performance against Nebraska.

The Bruins hit .319 as a team, while holding the Huskers to a season-low hitting percentage of .151.

The Challenge's most valuable player, UCLA outside hitter Elaine

Youngs, was 11-for-19 in the Bruin victory over Nebraska for a .368 hitting percentage.

Husker middle blocker Stephanie Thater was the lone Nebraska player to be named to the Challenge's all-tournament team.

The senior registered 14 blocks in both matches during the weekend.

Pettit said fatigue might have been Nebraska's biggest problem in the two matches.

The Huskers played five ranked teams in eight days (Nebraska beat Texas Tech, Texas and Colorado last week), and those matches probably took their toll on the Huskers, Pettit said.

"The issue was the three matches we played the week before," he said. "I think it took a lot out of the team."

Wrestlers start season with a bang

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska wrestling team opened its season this weekend with a strong showing at the Cowboy Open in Laramie, Wyo.

The Cornhuskers won 11 individual titles at the meet, six in the 20-and-under division and five in the open division.

Corey Olson, the defending national runner-up at 177 pounds, opened his season with four victories. Olson pinned all of his opponents in the first round en route to being named the outstanding wrestler of the meet.

Other individual winners for Nebraska included Mike Eirman at 142, Matt Lindland at 158, Tommy Robbins at 167 and Rulon Gardner at heavy-weight.

Gardner, who also pinned all of his opponents, won the award for most falls in the least amount of time.

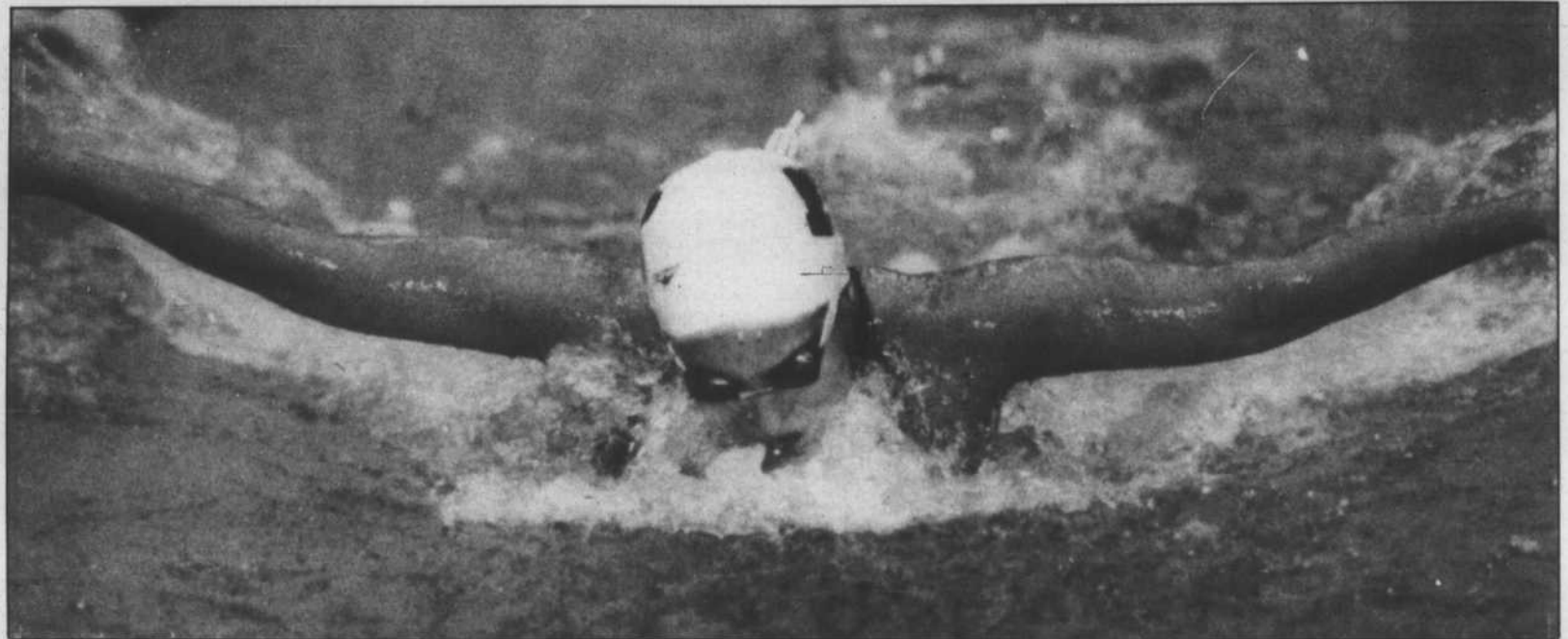
Six Huskers — Darin Giese at 118, Kevin Klein at 134, Justin Ware at 142, Jason Kraft at 158, Tom Manzella at 177 and Tolly Thompson at heavy-weight — won in the 20-and-under division.

Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann said he was happy with the way the team performed.

"Our guys showed that they are capable of raising their level of performance when they need to," Neumann said. "We still have a ton of work to do."

Neumann said he was especially pleased with the progress of his young wrestlers.

"We had six freshman in the finals and they all won," Neumann said. "They really wrestled tough and look like the best freshmen crew we've had here."



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Sophomore Carrie Kerns swims in the 100-meter butterfly during the Cornhuskers' dual with South Dakota Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

NU swimmers splash past Coyotes

Men, women still unbeaten on year

By Juliet Yenglin
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams continued their early wave of victories Saturday, each winning duals against South Dakota at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The men powered their way to a 187-160 victory and the women posted a 124-69 win over the Coyotes at the Cornhuskers' first home meet of the season.

After last weekend's victories against Colorado State and Wyoming, both Nebraska teams improved to 3-0.

Cal Bentz, coach of the men's and

women's teams, said he was pleased with the performances against the Coyotes and that the meet served as a good indicator for future competitions.

"Although it wasn't a big emotional meet," Bentz said, "we wanted to do the best we could."

The teams' rigorous training schedule combined with the competition has already paid off, Bentz said, as the teams continue to pull together in pursuit of improvement.

Jonathan Kerr, a junior All-American from Edinburgh, Scotland, said he saw the meet — as well as his own performance — as one of many steps toward reaching both team and individual goals.

"It's just another big piece in the puzzle, part of a plan," Kerr said, "and the team deserves respect and recognition for its accomplishments."

"I don't want to let the team down," Kerr said.

And this weekend he didn't.

Having set a personal goal to place in the top eight at the NCAA Championships in March, Kerr is well on his way. He posted the meet's fastest time in the 400-yard individual medley (4:03.43 in an exhibition swim) and placed third in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.05) against South Dakota.

Other first-place finishes for Nebraska included one by freshman Melanie Dodd in the 50 freestyle (23.88) and 100 freestyle (51.74), freshman Chris Ford in the 100 backstroke (51.52), sophomore Allen Kelsey in the 100 butterfly (50.75 — exhibition), and freshman Justin Finney in the 200 butterfly (1:53.14 — exhibition).

Breaststrokers Carrie Kerns and

Leane Maruk's first- and second-place finishes in the 100 breaststroke, along with a good showing in the 100 butterfly by both Kelly Christensen and Anja Margetic, also contributed to Nebraska's success, Bentz said.

Once again, both the men and women divers took victories on both the 1- and 3-meter boards. Julie Grimmer, Jennifer Harnely and Katie Savage posted top scores for the women, while Matt Eastin grabbed both top spots for the men.

Bentz said the teams will next be challenged during Thanksgiving weekend, when they will compete in Minneapolis at the Gopher Invitational.

"We have a good week to put in some tough training before we go," Bentz said. "Minnesota should be a real challenge."

Cross country teams perform well in Iowa

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

One Cornhusker athletic program traveled to Ames, Iowa, and came back with nothing but smiles this weekend.

The Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams traveled to the District V meet and wound up sending the women's team on to nationals next week.

"I am most surprised with the outcome of this meet," Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen said. "I guess that's why you have athletic contests."

The women's team qualified for the National meet to be held at Bloomington, Ind., on Nov. 23. They won the meet with a total of 66 points, beating second-place Kansas State.

The women were led by Fran ten Benschel's championship performance of 17:49 in a relatively close women's race.

"Fran handled things really well," Dirksen said. "She was only looking for at least a third-place finish, but things were easy for her."

Junior Theresa Stelling was the

next Nebraska finisher, running fourth with a time of 17:56.

The men, who finished seventh as a team, sent one runner to nationals, junior David Iteffa.

Iteffa finished second, running 11 seconds behind Wichita State's Mornay Annandala, who ran the course in 30:51.

"Dave ran a great race," Dirksen said. "Dave was just trying to be in the top three, so we are pleased with the outcome."

Dirksen said he was pleased with the performance of sophomore Renier Henning who ran a time of 32:01 and placed 14th.

"Renier Henning was a pleasant surprise at this meet," Dirksen said. "He didn't even run a couple of years of cross country in high school before college."

Overall, Dirksen said each team ran well.

"Both teams ran intelligently," Dirksen said.

"Both teams ran the best meet of the year," he said. "No question about it."