

Coach says Huskers won't look past KSU

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Although Kansas State hasn't earned a win in the Big Eight this year, the Wildcats have earned the respect of Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck.

The Wildcats, at 0-9 in the Big Eight and 8-12 overall, aren't being overlooked by Beck entering tonight's 7 p.m. game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

And Beck insists her team isn't looking ahead to Sunday's showdown with Kansas, a team which beat the Cornhuskers last year in Lincoln.

"I really haven't taken a good look at Kansas yet, because we're concentrating on K-State," Beck said. "They have to be the best team that hasn't won a game in the Big Eight ever."

"They're going to get someone sometime," Beck said. "I just want to make sure it's not us."

Beck said the key to the game for her team was for the Huskers come out strong right from the tip.

"If we could build a big lead I think we could sustain it," Beck said. "We have a lot of respect for Kansas State. They have always played us tough."

Nebraska is in third place in the Big Eight with a 6-3 record, two games

behind league leaders Colorado and Oklahoma State.

Kansas, the Huskers' opponent Sunday, is tied for fourth in the Big Eight at 5-4. The Jayhawks won the earlier meeting in Lawrence 69-62 and have a three-game winning streak against the Huskers.

"We're just looking for a victory," Beck said. "They are someone we like to play and we've been playing pretty well, so I think it should be a real good game."

A sweep of Kansas and Kansas State this weekend should keep Ne-

See KANSAS STATE on 8

Kansas State at Nebraska
7 p.m. Friday
Bob Devaney Sports Center

Kansas State (8-12)		PPG	RPG
F	Shanele Stires	13.6	9.1
F	Leah Honeycutt	12.2	6.5
F	JoMoree Grattan	3.5	2.0
G	Kelly Moylan	10.8	2.5
G	Andrea O'Neal	7.5	1.4
Nebraska (16-5)		PPG	RPG
F	Rissa Taylor	8.7	4.9
F	Nafeesah Brown	12.7	6.0
G	Karen Jennings	21.5	8.0
G	Meggan Yedsena	8.5	3.3
G	Sara Offringa	10.9	3.7



Scott Maurer/DN

Dual meet to benefit postseason performance

By Tim Walnofer
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming teams will be gearing up for the Big Eight Championships with their final regular season matchup against Southern Illinois.

The dual will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska's men, coming off a win against Kansas and ranked 17th nationally, will have a chance to improve against Southern Illinois, Cornhusker coach Cal Bentz said.

"Southern Illinois is a little short-handed on the men's side," Bentz said. "But at this point, we are focusing on the placement of people for the conference championships."

The Big Eight Championships will be March 4-6 in Norman, Okla.

Last weekend, the men got season-high performances from Allan Kelsey in the 50- and 100-meter freestyles. Kelsey set a Big Eight season-best mark in the 50 with a time of 20.57 seconds.

Although the women lost last weekend 143-100 to the eighth-ranked Jayhawks, Bentz said he still was happy with the team's performance.

The Nebraska women, ranked No. 24, got a strong return last week from Michelle Butcher, who had been out of action since the beginning of the season because of kidney failure. Butcher turned in second- and third-place performances in the 500- and 1,000-meter freestyles.

Bentz said this weekend would also help him decide on his roster for the conference championships.

"This week, we'll begin to make those decisions," Bentz said. "With the remaining three weeks, we will begin to taper and decide who will swim in what events."



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Nebraska center Derrick Chandler shoots in a game against Kansas. The 15-7 Cornhuskers will face Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan., on Saturday.

Nebraska looking for vengeance against KSU

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Winning on the road in the Big Eight is tough.

It's even tougher if the team you're playing has already beat you on your home court.

But that's what the Nebraska men's basketball team has to overcome when it plays at Kansas State on Saturday.

The Cornhuskers, who lost to the No. 23 Wildcats three weeks ago at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, will try to avenge the loss at 3:10 p.m. in Manhattan, Kan. The game will be televised live by Raycom.

But Kansas State has been one of the Big Eight's biggest surprises so far this season. The Wildcats, who were picked to finish seventh in a conference media poll, are off to a 5-2 start in conference play and are 15-4 overall.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was impressed with what he has seen this year from Kansas State.

"All of them are playing extremely well and with a lot of confidence," Nee said. "I think (Anthony) Beane, their quarterback, has really given them an identity that's special."

Beane's identity so far this season in the Big Eight has been as a game winner for the Wildcats.

Last week he made a pair of free throws to beat Oklahoma with no time left, and he capped that effort with a game-winning jumper to beat Iowa State 68-66 in overtime Wednesday.

The junior guard is averaging 9.7 points per game to accompany his team-high 92 assists.

See WILDCATS on 8

Sevigne Invite to draw more than 60 teams

University can shine as host, Pepin says

By Chris Hain
Staff Reporter

This weekend's Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational is an important track meet not only for the Cornhusker team, but for the entire University of Nebraska, Coach Gary Pepin said.

"It's kind of a showcase for the university," Pepin said. "We have more universities coming to this track meet than any other sporting event that the university has."

The meet will begin at the Bob Devaney Sports Center at 5 p.m. on Friday and will continue with two sessions on Saturday at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

More than 60 teams will be attending the meet and will bring with them what Pepin said were some of the finest athletes in the world.

"It's a very, very fine meet for the athletes,"

Pepin said. "They get to compete on a great facility, and there's some other real good competition from not only the area, but throughout the United States."

Pepin said that because this was one of the last indoor meets of the year, it should provide some great performances.

"This is about the time of the year when we ought to start seeing some real good competitive efforts and improvements in performances," Pepin said.

Pepin said he hoped to see improvement from his team, no matter how that improvement occurred.

"There's a lot of ways to have improvement," Pepin said. "You look to have good performances, consistency and strong efforts."

"Even if a person got beat maybe they gave a great competitive effort," he said.

Pepin said he also was concerned with putting on a good show.

"We look at this meet from another standpoint," Pepin said. "Was there good crowd attendance? Did the crowd get into the meet?"

"And we're always trying to improve the meet itself," he said.

Husker shot putter makes mark on team

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Paulette Mitchell is living up to expectations and making her mark in her first season as a shot putter for the Nebraska track team.

Mitchell, a freshman from Council Bluffs, Iowa, erased a five-year Nebraska record in the shot put with a throw of 52-3 3/4 at the Illinois Quadrangular earlier this season.

This weekend, she'll try to better that mark at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"She'll put us on the map in the weights area," said Nebraska coach Gary Pepin.

Mitchell may be the future of Nebraska women's track now, but in high school, it was hard to even get her on the track team.

"I didn't want to even go out (for track) at first," Mitchell said. "But, the coaches kept talking to me and telling me that I should give it a chance."

In high school, she was the top prep shot-

putter in the nation, recording a throw of 53-3 3/4, a mark which is the second-best ever by a United States high schooler.

Nebraska recruited Mitchell heavily, and she said she saw a track scholarship as a chance to accomplish what she most desires — a college degree.

"I thought that this could be a good way to get to college," Mitchell said. "I probably wouldn't have been able to go if it wasn't for the scholarship."

With her newfound success, Mitchell said she's making sure her ego doesn't get too large.

"I am strong in morals," Mitchell said. "I have told my friends that if my head gets too big, though, to knock me down and tell me."

Pepin said he had high expectations from his freshman thrower.

"She has the chance to be a high placer and big scorer for us," Pepin said. "She is only going to get better and better."

Mitchell said she was happy with how well she had done this early in her career.

"I'm going to do well," Mitchell said. "I am comfortable with how things are going and the coaches have said that things are coming along good."