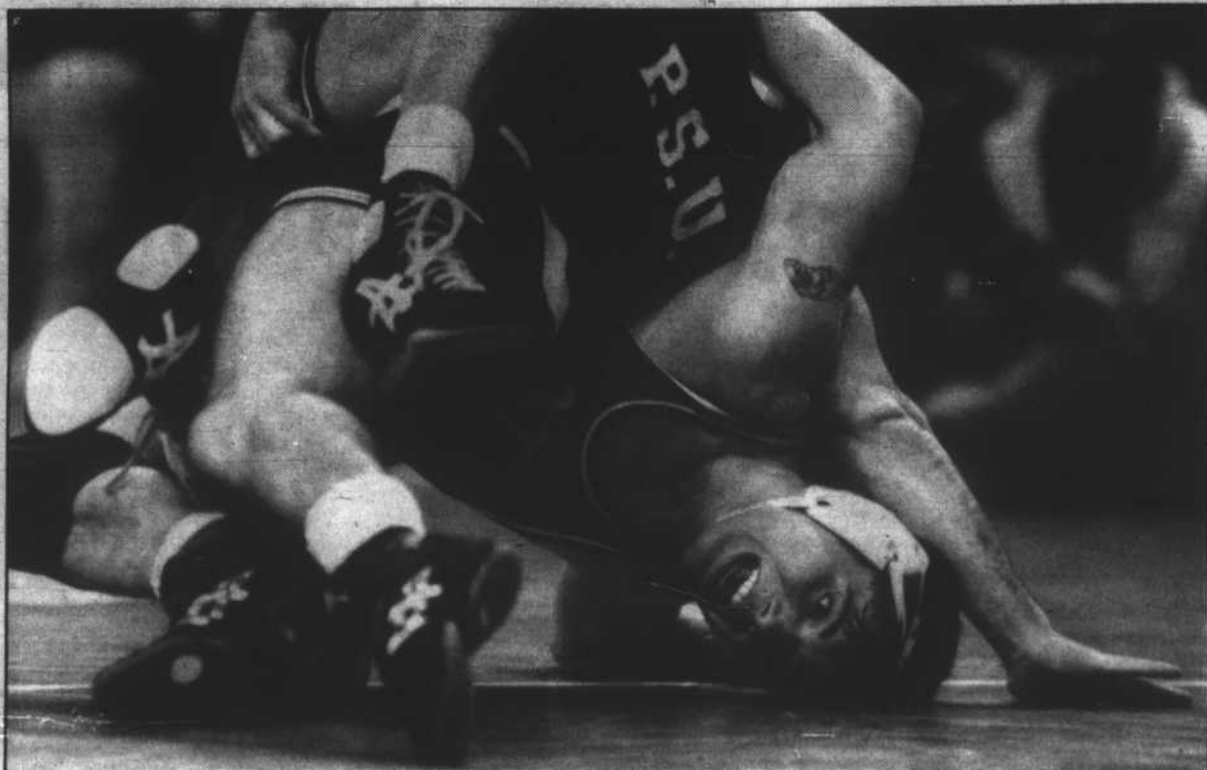


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Staci McKee/DN

Nebraska's Mike Eierman wrestles in the National Dual Meet Championships against Penn State's Russ Hughes. The No. 2 Cornhuskers will face Missouri and Oklahoma State in separate duals this weekend.

Wrestlers ready for road trip

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

Coming off a win against No. 8 Minnesota, the Nebraska wrestling team is expecting to continue its winning ways this weekend.

The No. 2 Cornhuskers will take to the road for two duals. Nebraska will face Missouri tonight in Columbia at 7:30. On Sunday, the Huskers will travel to Stillwater, Okla., to wrestle No. 16 Oklahoma State.

Husker assistant coach Mark Cody said he expected Nebraska to come out of the weekend with two victories.

"We've trained right through these two duals, because we're not expecting any problems with Missouri or Oklahoma State," he said.

The Huskers, 6-2 in duals, will face a 5-4 Tiger team that likes to tie up their opponents, Cody said.

A key match will be at 167, where Nebraska's Tommy Robbins, now recovered from a rib injury suffered at the Great Plains Invitational Jan. 9,

will face Missouri's eighth-ranked Shaon Fry.

"The match at 167 will be a big match," Cody said. "This match is important for seeding in the Big Eight meet, which is important in how well he'll do in the Big Eight meet."

Oklahoma State, a perennial wrestling powerhouse, stands at 2-3. The Cowboys have suffered because of NCAA sanctions against them last year.

Even though the Cowboys are struggling, they still field a couple of ranked wrestlers.

At 150, OSU's Alan Fried, who finished second in the NCAA last year, is ranked second again this year and will pose a tough test for the Huskers, Cody said.

The Cowboys' Travis Gittins is ranked tenth at 177, but will have to face the Huskers' Corey Olson, who is second.

One troubling thought for the Huskers may be the fact that Nebraska hasn't beaten the Cowboys in a dual

since 1921.

Husker coach Tim Neumann is 0-9 in his career against Oklahoma State.

Last weekend's dual win against Minnesota gave the Huskers a boost, Cody said.

"It told us where we were at," he said. "Minnesota's a lot better than where they're ranked."

Cody said the two duals in three days shouldn't be a problem for the Huskers.

"We've trained pretty hard this week," he said. "We're pretty healthy, so the two matches in three days shouldn't be a problem."

Cody said the Huskers' remaining duals should give them some more match experience before the Big Eight meet.

"We've had some tough competition all year long. It'll be good to get some matches in where we're not worried about losing."

Kansas State

Continued from Page 7

braska right in the hunt for the Big Eight title, Beck said.

"We're still in the picture, but it is kind of not as bright as it looked before," Beck said. "We'll just take

care of business and hope these guys beat up on each other."

Another bonus for Nebraska is that three out of its last five games are at home, where the Huskers are 8-1 in the Big Eight this season.

"It's great that we have three of five here and we have beaten four of these last five teams," Beck said.

Beck said she knows what her team needs to do in the final five games to pave their way to the NCAA Tournament.

"If we take care of business at home and get one out of two on the road, that will put us at 20 wins — and then watch out."

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(15-7, 3-4)	PPG	RPG
F Terrance Badgett	7.3	4.3
F Bruce Chubick	8.6	6.0
C Derrick Chandler	10.6	7.7
G Jamar Johnson	9.5	3.1
G Eric Platkowski	15.6	5.8

WILDCATS

(15-4, 5-2)	PPG	RPG
F Vincent Jackson	13.6	4.8
F Aaron Collier	9.0	6.5
C Deryl Cunningham	9.8	7.9
G Anthony Beane	9.7	2.9
G Askia Jones	13.2	3.7

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Scott Maurer/DN

Wildcats

Continued from Page 7

Beane is among four other starters averaging at least 9 points per game, including forward Vincent Jackson (13.6), Kansas State's scoring leader; guard Askia Jones (13.2); center Deryl Cunningham (9.8); and forward Aaron Collier (9).

Nee said the output that Wildcat coach Dana Altman had gotten out of his team was a credit to the Wilber native.

Nee said that efficiency led to the demise of the Huskers when they lost to Kansas State in Lincoln last month.

"We shot the ball so poorly it just made everything else seem like we

were in molasses," he said. "I thought the good defense of K-State and the poor shooting percentage caused the bad shooting of Nebraska."

Nebraska has won three of its last four conference games, including last Sunday's 68-64 upset over conference-leader Kansas that improved the Huskers' conference record to 3-4 and overall mark to 15-7.

Nebraska forward Tom Best said the Jayhawk upset might have given Nebraska the momentum it needed for the second half of the Big Eight season.

"I think it helped — a lot of guys, I think, were getting down after the Iowa State game (a 96-69 Husker loss last week), and after beating the No. 3 team like Kansas, it helps your confidence a lot," Best said.