

NU wrestling team picked to win Big Eight crown

By **Tim Pearson**
Staff Reporter

There's a first time for everything. Coach Tim Neumann and his Nebraska wrestling team hope that saying holds true as they shoot for their first-ever Big Eight title Saturday at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

The No. 2 Cornhuskers go into the meet chosen by conference coaches as the favorite to win.

Neumann said motivation for the meet shouldn't be a problem, even though Nebraska had beaten every Big Eight team this season, with Nebraska's only conference loss to Iowa State in a dual Jan. 6.

"These guys are cranked up," he said. "There have been times where I've been worried about them not getting cranked up, like against Minnesota and Northwestern, but their intensity is always high."

Nebraska's highest-ever finish in

the Big Eight Tournament was second in 1990. Neumann said that this year's team might be just as talented as the 1990 team.

"I don't know if we're quite as talented, but this team has done a heck of a job of coming closer to their potential than any other team," he said.

Every Husker wrestler can win at the Big Eight meet, Neumann said, but it wouldn't be easy.

Senior John Buxton will move down to 118 for the Big Eight meet. Neumann said this move would benefit both Buxton and the Huskers.

"He made a heck of a sacrifice going to 118, but it gave him a legitimate chance of winning the Big Eight and nationals," he said.

At 158, Neumann said, Earl Harrison of Iowa State could give Husker senior Matt Lindland, ranked first in the country at 34-0, some trouble.

"Lindland has his work cut out for him," he said. "Earl Harrison gives him a hard time, but I anticipate Matt to win the tournament."

In what Neumann called the toughest bracket of the tournament, senior Corey Olson will go for his first Big Eight title at 177. Olson's two losses this season have come to No. 1 Matt Johnson of Iowa State.

"I told Corey yesterday that this is his biggest match yet," Neumann said. "He's as good of a wrestler as we've had here, and he hasn't won the Big Eight."

"If he wins, he'll get the top seed at the NCAA meet."

A Big Eight title, Neumann said, would give the Huskers a huge momentum boost heading into the NCAA Championships March 18-20.

"We're one of the four teams that can win the national title. Whoever puts the most guys in the finals will win," Neumann said.

Cornhusker tennis team prepared for tough competition, coach says

Rated teams not causing pressure

By **Beau Finley**
Staff Reporter

It seems logical that the first real test for the Nebraska men's tennis team will be during midterms.

The Cornhuskers will travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, this weekend to play in the HEB Team Tennis Tournament. Five Top 25 teams will compete at the tourney.

The Huskers, a perfect 3-0 on the season, enter the tournament after

posting a 5-2 win over Wichita State in Lincoln last Saturday.

Coach Kerry McDermott said the play of the team was a welcome change from the two previous outings.

"I was pleased with our overall performance against a solid team like Wichita State," McDermott said. "I was impressed especially after last weekend's disappointing effort."

The Huskers defeated Indiana State and Creighton two weeks ago. In those matches, Nebraska lost a total of two matches, both by No. 1 player Matthias Mueller.

McDermott said the victories had given the team the desire to take on the top teams in the nation.

"We are ready," McDermott said. "The first few matches got us some confidence. We want to play tougher competition."

Nebraska will get its wish as it opens the tournament against No. 8 North Carolina.

History may be on the side of the Huskers, though. Four years ago, an unranked, McDermott-coached Nebraska team pounded No. 7 Texas 5-1 in the same HEB Tournament.

McDermott said the position of opening the tourney against the Tarheels was ideal.

"There is no pressure on us," McDermott said. "We just want to see how we'll do against a team like this."

Tournament

Continued from Page 8

more competitive game from Iowa State and said the Huskers wouldn't overlook the Cyclones.

"We'll focus on (Iowa State), Beck

said. "(The Huskers) know if they lose, they're gone from the tournament."

A possible semifinal showdown with Oklahoma State, a team that has beaten Nebraska twice, looms as the next big test for the Huskers.

Yedsena said that the third time

will be the charm for Nebraska.

"When you beat a good team twice, it's hard to beat them a third time," Yedsena said.

Beck said her team would rely on its four seniors in the tournament.

"Our experience has to come to play," Beck said. "We have the experience and we need to use it to win."

Tubbs

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ment," he said. "We're always trying to get better."

But Tubbs said the momentum had been difficult to build because of the absence of Sooner center Bryan

Sallier, who has been out of the Oklahoma lineup since mid-February with pneumonia.

Tubbs said he was uncertain when Sallier would return to the lineup, but he added that Sallier's health was improving.

"His health is good, but he is still pretty weak," Tubbs said. "As far as

playing, I have no idea, but it's not going to be any time soon."

Tubbs said the Sooners would need to concentrate on their rebounding, shooting and ball control in order to beat the Huskers.

"Both teams are very competitive," he said. "Nebraska is one of the hottest teams in our league."

Oklahoma

Continued from Page 8

like to go into the Big Eight Tournament with an idea that we're already in the NCAA; right now I don't really have that idea."

Oklahoma is also searching for a return trip to the NCAA tourney and the Sooners will bring their usual

MEN'S BASKETBALL PROBABLE STARTERS

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma
12:30 p.m. Sunday
Bob Devaney Sports Center

CORNHUSKERS (19-9, 7-6)			
	PPG	RPG	
C Derrick Chandler	10.9	8.0	
F Bruce Chubick	8.3	5.8	
F Terrance Badgett	7.1	3.8	
G Eric Piatkowski	16.6	5.9	
G Jamer Johnson	9.6	3.0	

SOONERS (19-9, 7-6)			
	PPG	RPG	
C Ryan Minor	4.0	2.7	
F Jeff Webster	17.2	6.1	
F Bryatt Vann	16.4	6.0	
G Angelo Hamilton	14.7	4.9	
G Terry Evans	14.8	2.6	



Scott Maurer/DN

he said.

season's record of 207,950 fans.

Notes:

● Nebraska is expected to set a Devaney Center attendance record for the third-straight year. The Huskers have drawn 199,517 fans so far this season, and with Sunday's sell-out, they are expected to eclipse last

● Sunday will be center Derrick Chandler's final home game. The 6-foot-10 senior from Mitchellville, Md., leads Nebraska in rebounding and owns the Husker record for blocked shots in a season with last year's 91 rejections.

Baseball season opens with Peru State game

From Staff Reports

Nebraska will open its baseball season this weekend with two games against Peru State.

The Cornhuskers will play the Bobcats in single nine-inning games at Buck Beltzer Field on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. following the Nebraska-Oklahoma basketball game.

Last season, the Cornhuskers opened with Peru State a full month earlier, on Feb. 1.

Nebraska had planned on opening its season with a four-game series against Western Illinois last weekend, but inclement weather cancelled the games.

There will be no admission charge this weekend.

NU will also host games next week against Oral Roberts on Tuesday and Wednesday before beginning play at the Pepsi/Johnny Quik classic in Fresno, Calif., on March 13.

Alternative TAN

Everything tanning should be.

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466-1201

Nebraska Track & Field

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Saturday March 6 11:30 AM

Admission
General Public - \$2.00
UNL students - Free w/ I.D.
For ticket info, call 472-3111

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