

Lindland stunned with early upset; Huskers in third

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

AMES, Iowa — Matt Lindland sat outside with his wife and baby in the Hilton Coliseum concourse, knowing his hopes for a national title had gone up in smoke.

Lindland, ranked No. 1 in the country at 158 pounds, was hoping to become the first Nebraska wrestler ever to go an entire season without a loss.

Those hopes were also gone.

At the NCAA Wrestling Championships Thursday, Lindland's hopes were stopped in the first round. He was upset by unseeded Earl Walker of Boston University 13-4.

The upset surprised Lindland and almost everyone in the crowd of almost 11,000 fans.

"It was very disappointing," Lindland said. "It sort of puts a damper on my whole season."

Lindland said he hoped people would remember him for what he did during the season rather than judge his performance at the NCAA meet.

"Most people probably will just look at how I did in the tournament and not how I did in the regular season," he said.

Lindland's loss hurt the Nebraska wrestling team's scoring chances, with the Cornhuskers standing third behind Iowa and Penn State after first-

and second-round competition.

In the first-round matches held Thursday afternoon, the Huskers advanced seven of their 10 wrestlers to the second round and five of those to Friday's quarterfinals.

Senior Tony Purler, the No. 2 seed at 126, recorded two technical falls in his two victories to advance.

Sophomore Mike Eierman advanced to the quarterfinals with two wins, including a 3-2 upset of No. 6 seed Steve Marianetti of Illinois.

After losing their matches at the Big Eight championships, Huskers Corey Olson, Ovanes Oganisian and Rulon Gardner all advanced to the quarterfinals.

At 118, senior John Buxton won his first-round match against Gary Baker of Pennsylvania 10-2. But Buxton was stopped by eighth-seeded David Land of Maryland in the second round 6-2.

Junior Frank Velazquez, coming off a Big Eight title at 134 pounds, won his first-round match but was stopped by Arizona State All-American Marco Sanchez in a 9-7 decision in the second round.

Lindland said the Huskers still had a shot at winning the team title despite his loss.

"We're still in it," he said. "We need to get three or four guys in the finals to have a shot."

Huskers heading west to win national respect

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team is preparing to show the country Sunday something it has known all season: that it can play with anybody.

The Cornhuskers left early Friday for Los Angeles and a date to play Southern California on Sunday in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Husker coach Angela Beck said although her team had a 23-7 record, it had not gotten the notice it deserved.

"We're still a mystery to a lot of people," Beck said. "The West Coast gets all the attention. They have all the glitz and glamour."

The Huskers, fresh off their 81-58 victory over San Diego Wednesday in the tournament's first round, are hoping to continue their winning ways.

Beck said much of the team's success came from its confidence.

"I didn't think we would body slam (San Diego) so bad," Beck said. "They believed that they could hop on them hard, and they did."

The Women of Troy lost only one game — that with Arizona State — at home this season. Nebraska defeated the Sun Devils 86-79 in the opening game of the season.

Beck said USC was talented in many respects but that the momentum for the game was in the Huskers' favor.

"They're not playing their best basketball right now," Beck said. "I don't think they're clicking, and their confidence level isn't where it should be."

Basketball for Southern California means junior sensation Lisa Leslie. The 6-foot-5 forward averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds per game this year and led her team to its ninth appearance in the tournament.

Nebraska guard Meggan Yedsena said that although Leslie was a force, Southern California had little else to depend on.

"They've got Lisa Leslie but not much outside shooting; and in that way, I think they are very one-dimensional," Yedsena said.

Beck said she was not as concerned about the game as she was about playing on the USC home court.

The Huskers have lost both games they have played against the Women of Troy in California, including an 100-82 loss in 1987 in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Beck said that although her team had never won in California, they would be motivated to win.

"The fact that this team hasn't done it before only inspires them," Beck said. "I walked into the team meeting and didn't say much, showed them the films (of USC) and said, 'You tell me?' And they said, 'We can beat them, coach.'"

Francis Allen said, "You can just expect our champion to be in the finals."

"We just hope we will be that team."

Allen said his team, the favorite in the three-team meet, can use last week's school-record score of 288, scored against New Mexico, for momentum.

"We are expected to run away," Allen said. "We can use the New Mexico meet as a lever."

Men gymnasts to compete for automatic NCAA berth

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska's men's gymnastics squad is competing for an automatic berth into the NCAA finals this weekend.

The Huskers will travel to Norman, Okla., on Friday and Saturday for the Big Eight Championships, with the winner receiving an at-large berth in next month's NCAA Championships.

"The conference means a lot to us and a lot to NCAA," Nebraska coach



Nebraska's Erick Strickland drives past Kansas State's Askia Jones in the Big Eight Tournament.

Robin Trimarchi/DN

Team seeks trailblazing win in NCAA tourney

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's men's basketball team has made school history by receiving its third-straight bid to the NCAA Tournament.

But the Cornhuskers want to add a new chapter to the history books by winning their first-ever game in the tourney.

Nebraska will get its chance to end its NCAA tourney blues against New Mexico State at 6:37 p.m. (CST) today at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y. The game will be televised live by CBS.

The Huskers are 0-3 in NCAA tourney play and have suffered first-round losses the past two years — to Xavier (Ohio) and Connecticut, respectively.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said a win over the Aggies would be monumental.

"It would really be another giant

accomplishment for the program of something that we haven't done before," Nee said. "And it's the next logical step if we're going to keep improving."

The Huskers, who received the No. 10 seed in the East Regional after finishing their season with a 20-10 record, will take on the Big West Conference's regular-season champions in New Mexico State, who finished the year with a 25-7 overall mark and earned the East's seventh seed.

Nee said if Nebraska was going to register a win tonight, it would need to control Aggie point guard Sam Crawford.

Crawford, a senior, was named an honorable mention All-American this season while leading New Mexico State to its fourth-straight trip to the NCAA tourney.

But Nee said the Huskers weren't going to concern themselves with Crawford and the Aggies.

"The things that got you to the dance, you stay with," he said. "We're not overly focused on New Mexico State. Everything that we're going to do, we've done before; we just have to do it at a very high level."

Nebraska is coming off a 47-45 loss to Kansas State in the first round of last week's Big Eight tournament.

Several Nebraska players said the Huskers should be able to put the Wildcat loss behind them.

"We're going to come together like we never have before and just lay it on the line," Nebraska guard Andre Woolridge said.

Fellow Husker guard Jamar Johnson agreed.

"When we go out and we just play and we play together, I think we're a good basketball team," Johnson said. "I think the sky's the limit for this team."

Aggie coach says NU, NMSU alike

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

Although New Mexico State basketball coach Neil McCarthy has not seen much Nebraska basketball, he is very familiar with the Cornhuskers' style of play.

The Huskers' offense is very similar to his own team's, McCarthy said.

"I haven't had a chance so far to look at Nebraska much," he said. "But I think we probably play very similar type games."

The two teams will meet at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y., tonight in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Game time is 6:35 p.m.

The Aggies, who average 77.1 points a game, enjoy the same fast-paced game the Huskers do, McCarthy said.

"We both like to get up and

down the court," he said.

Both teams are also blessed with good guards and good leaders, McCarthy said.

The matchup between point guards Jamar Johnson and Sam Crawford could be a major key to the game, he said.

Crawford, who averages 12.8 points each game, was named to the All-Big West and Big West Tournament teams this season. He also has set a school record for career assists with 569, with 287 of them coming this season.

But several differences between the two teams concern McCarthy. Nebraska, he said, has a height advantage over the Aggies that could give a rebounding edge to the Huskers.

That advantage has become even greater with the absence of the Aggies' second-leading rebounder, Eric Traylor, who will be ineligible

for the game for academic reasons.

The senior forward, who averaged 9.4 points and 6.8 rebounds per game, was declared ineligible by the NCAA just before the start of the Big West Conference Tournament.

But McCarthy said it was too late to change his game plan.

"We will stick to the things we've been doing all year," he said. "And I think Nebraska will too."

Although McCarthy has not seen much of the Huskers, he said he had heard enough about them to be concerned.

And the individual Husker players haven't remained a mystery to McCarthy.

"Piatkowski is a really good player; he got first-team All-Big Eight," he said. "The freshman group is tough, and Derrick Chandler was honorable mention in the Big Eight. Wow!"