

Rankings impress coach

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska track and field teams may be down in numbers this year, but they're up in the rankings. Because of new NCAA limitations, available men's track and field scholarships have declined from 14 to 12.6. Women's scholarships remained at 16.

Despite the cuts, the Nebraska men's team was ranked seventh and the women's team was ranked third in the October edition of "Track and Field News."

Nebraska track and field coach Gary Pepin said he has the talent to match those rankings.

"Recruiting was good this year," he said. "With men, we recruited very well considering the amount of money we had. We've also got some really strong individuals coming back."

Pepin said he's thrilled with the combined ranking of Nebraska's men's and women's teams.

"First of all, we ended up combined with the second highest ranking in the country," Pepin said. "(Nebraska) also had the highest combined ranking with the same coaching staff for both men and

women. I'm very pleased with that." Pepin is also pleased with the pre-season progress of his pole vaulters. No Nebraska athlete has won a Big Eight indoor pole vault championship since 1959.

The nucleus of the vaulters includes John Nichols, who finished second in the 1992 Big Eight indoor meet and junior Andy Mittan.

"(Nichols and Mittan) should both be great vaulters for us," Pepin said. "Last year, John Nichols improved tremendously."

The track and field team will put that national ranking to the test in its opening meet, the Nebraska Open on Sept. 22.

Westbrook faces possible charges

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—It could be known as early as next week what charges, if any, will be filed against a University of Colorado football player accused of assaulting a campus maintenance worker, authorities said.

CU police Lt. Dave Stolz, who was looking into allegations that serious injury had occurred in the altercation between Michael Westbrook and worker Marcus Johnson, has completed his investigation.

Westbrook, a preseason, All-America wide-receiver, was involved in an

on-campus altercation in July with Johnson, after Johnson allegedly roughed up Westbrook's girlfriend.

Westbrook was issued a summons for third-degree assault.

But after Johnson's attorney claimed "serious bodily injury" had been done, the case was dismissed from municipal court. The Boulder district attorney's office advised campus police to prepare the case as one that could be heard in district court as second-degree assault — a felony.

Bill McCartney was expected to

discipline Westbrook before last weekend's opener, but when additional investigation was needed McCartney tabled the matter and Westbrook started against Texas.

Colorado tailback Lamont Warren, a junior, was arrested last weekend for failing to appear at a court date and outside linebacker Thadus Swazer and tight end Keenan Gardner were both arrested on weapons charges. Swazer and Gardner have been banned from campus pending a disciplinary hearing.

Athletic department pulls plug on new scoreboards

From Staff Reports

Big-screen football and instant replays at Memorial Stadium will have to wait until next season.

The Nebraska athletic department's plans to have instant replay scoreboards installed in the southeast and northwest sections of the stadium before the Big Eight home opener against Kansas State will not happen, according to Joe Selig, ticket manager and assistant athletic director for facilities.

Selig said the athletic department would shop around some more before deciding on the scoreboards. Athletic officials have been talking to a couple

of companies that have made similar instant replay scoreboards for NFL arenas like Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium.

The new scoreboards would have video-message boards for replays and advertisements, Selig said. Advertising revenue will be used to help pay for the scoreboards, he said.

Selig said the athletic department looked into the scoreboards after fans indicated an interest in instant replay. He also said the instant replay scoreboards would enhance the stadium.

Besides the new scoreboards, Selig said the athletic department also planned to install a new sound system in Memorial Stadium next year.

Strickland

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January, considering the bowl game." Nee said he was not surprised by Strickland's desire to play football again.

"This is the thing that was discussed when we recruited him, that he would have that option to play football here," Nee said.

Osborne said Nebraska coaches offered a scholarship to Strickland in high school. Strickland was an all-state wide receiver as a junior at Bellevue West. After injuring his

shoulder, Strickland sat out his senior football season.

"It seemed like Erick enjoyed playing football but basketball was just a little more important to him (coming out of high school)," Osborne said.

Now, Nee said, he hopes Strickland makes basketball one of his most important priorities this year.

"We want him in our program because we think he can be a great basketball player," Nee said.

Likewise, Osborne said, Strickland is "very talented."

"He knows he's always welcome on the football field," Osborne said.



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