

Piatkowski eligible for NCAA disability insurance plan

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska basketball player Eric Piatkowski has moved into an elite group of athletes by being named eligible to be covered by the NCAA athletes' insurance policy.

Al Papik, associate athletic director at Nebraska, said Piatkowski had qualified for a \$500,000 insurance policy under the NCAA's Exceptional Student-Athlete Disability Program.

Piatkowski, a 6-7 senior from Rapid City, S.D., has been accepted into the plan, but has not finalized the policy by signing all the paperwork, Papik said.

Piatkowski is one of 30 nominees for the

John Wooden Award as the nation's top basketball player and picked as a preseason honorable mention All-American by Street & Smith and The Sporting News.

He also was picked as one of the top 25 candidates for National Player of the Year honors by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association.

The insurance program was established two years ago as an attempt to protect athletes who could not afford expensive insurance coverage from private firms, Papik said.

"The program is designed to keep athletes from trying to get money for the insurance in some kind of way that would be a violation," Papik said. "In private plans, the athletes have to pay up-front, and the premiums are more

than a student can afford."

The program uses an extensive rating system to determine the probability of an athlete's being drafted in the first or second round in the professional sports of football, basketball, baseball or ice hockey, Papik said.

The program began in 1990, and participation is limited to 110 athletes in the four sports.

The only other Nebraska athletes covered by the program are Calvin Jones and Trev Alberts. Jones has \$500,000 worth of coverage, and Alberts is covered for \$1 million.

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee said Piatkowski was lucky to be accepted into the plan, but still had a lot of work to do before he could be drafted in the high rounds of the NBA draft.

"He is fortunate, and it means that he is qualified for the insurance, but he still has to play a lot of basketball between now and the draft," Nee said.

Papik said an athlete's ranking for eligibility in the program was based on information received from scouting combines.

The United Missouri Bank uses the information from the scouting combine to determine if it is a safe risk to loan the money to the athlete to pay for the policy premium. The policy is provided by the American Specialty Underwriters of Woburn, Mass.

For a \$500,000 policy, Papik said, the premium is almost \$6,000, plus a 7 percent interest rate.

Game day

Saturday, 1 p.m.
TV: Nebraska ETV (delayed,
shown at 8 a.m. Sunday)

Nebraska

Missouri

OFFENSE

QB 15 Tommie Frazier	6-2 200	QB 11 Jeff Handy	6-3 210
FB 40 Cory Schlesinger	6-0 220	FB 31 Antwan Johnson	6-1 213
IB 44 Calvin Jones	5-11 215	TB 23 Raphael "Tiger" Boyd	6-0 202
SE 2 Corey Dixon	5-11 200	WR 7 Brian Salles	6-3 202
WB 27 Abdul Muhammad	5-9 180	WR 81 Kenny Holly	6-0 178
RT 72 Zach Wiegert	6-5 300	RT 75 Trey O'Neil	6-6 267
LT 77 Lance Lundberg	6-4 300	LT 71 Tim Alvarado	6-7 267
RG 66 Brenden Stal	6-4 300	RG 79 Mike Bedosky	6-5 288
LG 56 Rob Zatechka	6-5 300	LG 62 Matt Pearce	6-3 266
C 62 Ken Mehlin	6-0 275	C 69 Matt Burgess	6-3 272
TE 95 Gerald Armstrong	6-2 225	TE 89 A.J. Ofole	6-7 260
PK 13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180	PK 19 Kyle Pooler	6-0 186

DEFENSE

LOLB 84 Donta Jones	6-2 220	DE 99 Chris Walls	6-3 231
DT 67 Kevin Ramaekers	6-4 290	DT 98 Steve Martin	6-5 291
NT 99 Terry Connealy	6-5 275	NT 72 George Hunt	6-3 288
ROLB 34 Trev Alberts	6-4 240	DE 92 Damon Simon	6-5 250
SAM 23 Ernie Beler	5-11 200	LB 55 Darryl Major	6-2 238
MIKE 48 Mike Anderson	6-2 230	LB 39 Travis McDonald	6-2 220
WILL 32 Ed Stewart	6-1 215	LC 15 Kevin McIntosh	6-0 175
LCB 14 Barron Miles	5-8 160	RC 22 Jason Oliver	5-10 169
RCB 6 John Reece	6-0 200	FS 21 Andre White	6-1 198
ROV 3 Toby Wright	6-1 200	RV 40 Jerome Madison	6-0 183
FS 4 Troy Dumas	6-3 215	SS 6 Javan Lenhardt	6-1 194
P 13 Byron Bennett	6-1 180	P 19 Kyle Pooler	6-0 186

DN graphic

Huskers try to put losses behind them

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team is third in the Big Eight with two conference losses.

But the Cornhuskers can't do anything about those losses now, setter Nikki Stricker said.

Stricker said the Huskers just had to put their losses to Oklahoma and Colorado behind them going into the remainder of the season.

The No. 16 Huskers, 14-3, will go for their fourth conference victory against Missouri Saturday night in Columbia, Mo.

Missouri comes into the match with an 8-11 record on the season.

The Huskers are 3-2 in the conference and trail Colorado and Oklahoma, which are tied for first at 4-0.

"I can't speak for the rest of the

team, but I haven't looked at the standings, and I normally don't," Stricker said. "When we just take care of ourselves, we do better."

Husker coach Terry Pettit said this year's team wasn't any different from past Nebraska teams.

"This team, probably on some nights, is stronger than last year's team," he said. "In terms of win-loss percentage, we're where we always are."

"We just lost two tough road matches."

Stricker, who needs 105 set assists to break Val Novak's school record of 3,303 career set assists, said the two losses gave the Huskers a new perspective.

"Every year I've been here, the team has come to a low spot where we haven't played well or had a bad weekend," she said. "But it's where

you go after that low spot that matters."

Sophomore middle blocker Allison Weston said the losses were a big deal for the Huskers.

"We learned a lot about ourselves, and we can only get better because of it," she said.

The Huskers have had a week off since their last match, a three-game win over Kansas. Stricker said the week off would benefit the Huskers in preparing for their next three matches.

"We've been working on all three teams, a little of Missouri, Kansas State, and Colorado," Stricker said. "But mainly we've been working on our own play."

"This is the time for us to make our adjustments."

Swimming, diving squads to open season at home

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams will open their season this weekend in the Pumpkin Classic at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The meet begins Friday at 5:30 p.m., continues Saturday at 10 a.m., and concludes Sunday, starting at 8:30 a.m.

The men begin their season in search of a 14th-straight Big Eight title. Nebraska coach Cal Bentz said he was anxious to see both teams perform.

Admission is free for students and \$2 for the general public.

NU men's golf ties for 10th; women finish second at Kansas

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's golf team shot a final round 313 on Tuesday to finish tied for 10th place at the Fairfield Bay/Pepsi Intercollegiate Golf Invitational in Fairfield Bay, Ark.

The Cornhuskers finished with a two-round total of 617, which was 45 strokes behind team-champion Mississippi.

Todd Kruger, who finished in a tie for ninth by shooting a 146 over two rounds.

The Nebraska women's golf team finished in second at the Marilyn Smith/Jayhawk Invitational in Lawrence, Kan., on Tuesday.

The Cornhuskers posted a three-round total of 943 after a final round of 346 to finish 24 strokes behind Oklahoma State. The Huskers shot team scores of 323 and 304 in the first two rounds on Monday.

Kim Lefler was Nebraska's top individual finisher, shooting a three-round total of 235. Lefler finished in seventh place, while Melissa Odell finished eighth with a 236.

Hibner

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winning coach just for the sake of gender equity," Hibner said.

When openings have occurred, she said, the university has done a good job of hiring women for those positions. The athletic department has hired women like Rhonda Revelle for softball and Angela Beck for basketball.

Instead of competing against men's sports, Hibner said, some men's and women's sports have been combined to create more unity.

Sports like men's and women's swimming and diving and track and

field have been combined under one coach. Hibner said the teams then travel together, which cuts costs.

Hibner said it was that kind of cooperation that athletic department officials need to emphasize.

"We shouldn't be looking at this as 'he' and 'she,' but as 'we,'" she said.

Now that the athletic department is combining men's and women's sports to streamline and create unity, one more step needs to be taken, Hibner said.

"I think what we need more than anything," she said, "is a sensitivity to the need of marketing and promoting of women's sports."

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Lower Level
Nebraska Union



Garden Level
East Union

Equity

Continued from Page 1

that we want to hire as many women coaches as possible, but we also want a coach who can run a nationally competitive program," he said.

Spanier said the UNL athletic department was trying to achieve gender equity in the number of coaches and athletes.

But Spanier said an equal number of men's and women's sports didn't necessarily mean an equal number of scholarships.

"We're trying to make the athletic experience equivalent in every respect except for strict proportionalities in the number of scholarships," he said. "I don't expect us to get 50-50. That's not my idea of gender equity."

Spanier said the football team needed a larger number of scholarships. No women's team needs that many, he said.

The football team currently is allotted 88 scholarships. That number will be reduced to 85 next year.

"We look at women's volleyball as the equivalent to football," Spanier said. "The women's volleyball team has everything as good as the football players have. The numbers are never going to be exactly equal. There's no way we could reach 50-50."

Spanier said UNL's views on gender equity probably matched other universities' views.

"Most all of our coaches support this program," he said. "I think most of the people around the state of Nebraska support the philosophy."