

# Wrestlers shuffle weights to cover loss of team captain

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann expected his team to be a little banged up at this point in the season.

But something he didn't expect was the loss of one of his team captains for the season.

Chad Nelson, a sophomore at 167 pounds, tore his anterior cruciate ligament before the Cornhuskers' victory over Oklahoma on Sunday.

So the Huskers will have to reshuffle their lineup for tonight's dual against fifth-ranked Minnesota in Worthington, Minn., Neumann said.

Losing Nelson "is tough," Neumann said. "He's a team captain, and it'll be hard to replace him."

Freshman Tom Manzella, who had wrestled at both 177 and 190, will move down to 167 to replace Nelson.

Freshman Ryan Tobin, who has a 21-15 record, will wrestle at 177, and senior Russ Vering will go at 190.

All-American and 134-pounder Frank Velazquez, who has been hampered by injuries all season, will not wrestle against the Golden Gophers, Neumann said.

Instead, redshirt freshman Jason Reitmeier, who attended Worthington High School, will wrestle in his place.

The meet will be held at Worthington High School, where Reitmeier was a two-time state champion and an Amateur News first-team All-American.

Redshirt freshman Justin Ware will continue to wrestle at 142 pounds after winning a wrestle-off against All-American Mike Eierman Friday. Ware is 20-5 after pinning Oklahoma's Jace Prather.

The Huskers will have two duals in the next



Shaun Sartin/DN

Heavyweight Tolly Thompson (bottom) and the sixth-ranked Cornhusker wrestlers will face fifth-ranked Minnesota today at Worthington, Minn.

four days, with another coming against Iowa State Sunday.

Neumann said he made the schedule that way on purpose.

"After the National Duals, I knew we'd be banged up," he said. "We got ourselves back together, so I wanted some tough competition back-to-back like this."

"This will help prepare them for Big Eights and nationals."

Minnesota will offer the Huskers one of their toughest tests of the season, Neumann said.

## NU after junior college basketball star

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team appears to be in the race to sign the most pursued junior college player in the country.

Ben Davis, a 6-foot-9-inch, 245-pound power forward, who is averaging 22 points and 13 rebounds per game for Hutchinson (Kan.) Junior College this season, is primarily considering Nebraska and three other schools, Hutchinson assistant coach Phil Anderson said.

"UCLA, Nebraska, Michigan and Arizona are in it," Anderson said. "He's not going to decide until after the season is over next month. He'll pick out five places he can go visit."

Davis was a high school All-American at Oak Hill (Va.) Mouth of Wil-

son Academy, and he originally signed with Kansas out of high school in 1991.

As a Jayhawk, he made the All-Big Eight freshman team in 1992, but he transferred to Florida after his freshman season.

Davis never played for the Gators. Prior to the 1993 school year, he left Florida to attend Hutchinson Junior College.

Davis will graduate from the junior college in May and could attend a Division I school next year with two years of eligibility left.

Anderson said Davis would make his decision after his visits and sign during the April signing period.

"He's definitely an impact player wherever he goes," Anderson said. "He's the most dominant player I've seen in junior college this year."

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the Huskers hoped to sign two players this spring. They already have five new players set to suit up next season.

Nebraska, who will have only two returning players taller than 6 feet 7 inches next season, signed four high school players in the fall period, the tallest being 6-foot-11-inch Leif Nelson from Riverside, Calif.

Other future Huskers include 6-foot-8-inch Andy Markowski from Ord, 6-foot-7-inch Chad Ideus from Adams and 6-foot-8-inch Chester Surler from Saginaw, Mich.

Tom Wald, a 6-foot point guard who transferred from Mankato (Minn.) State last season and is sitting out this year, will also see action as a Husker next season.

The spring signing period runs from April 13 through May 15.

## Signings

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Huskers, and Tim Alexander, a teammate of Campbell's, picked Oregon State.

"You never really know what makes a guy choose a school," Osborne said. "Earlier in the season, we had some momentum from the Orange Bowl, but lately guys don't think about that. You might lose a guy because of distance or weather or because of a girl he met a party — you just never know."

Osborne said the events early Sunday morning, including a fight at a recruiting party involving Huskers Ramone Worthy and Abdul Muhammad, apparently had no effect

on any of the recruits.

Worthy was stabbed and Muhammad was pushed through a window.

Sophomore cornerback Tyrone Williams has been charged with committing two felonies later that morning. Police said he may have fired two bullets into the back panel of a car.

"We contacted all of them and told them what happened," Osborne said. "Two kids who were (at the party) when it happened both signed with us. There were a few coaches that tried to take advantage of the opportunity to get them away from us, but everybody held firm."

Osborne said it was too early to comment on which of the players might contribute to the team the earliest.

Bobby Burton, an analyst from National Recruiting Adviser in Austin, Texas, said the Huskers' class ranked somewhere between 10th and 20th in the country.

Burton said Nebraska's top recruits were Grant Wistrom of Webb City, Mo., Eric Warfield of Texarkana, Ark., Tray Crayton of Oceanside, Calif., and Brian Knuckles of Coffeyville (Kan.) Junior College.

He said Florida State hauled in the nation's No. 1 class, followed by Tennessee, Ohio State, Michigan and Alabama.

"It's too early to tell exactly where Nebraska stands," Burton said. "But they are somewhere in the top 20. It was a fairly strong class."

## Cure

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Chubick also will have to counter three 7-footers during the course of the next five games: Kansas' Greg Ostertag, Iowa State's Loren Meyer and Oklahoma State's Bryant Reeves.

And with four of their next five games on the road, including Sun-

day's contest with 19-3 Kansas, Nee said the Huskers needed a spark.

"We're entering the toughest part of our schedule by playing four of the next five on the road," Nee said. "But at this point, I think the road might help us. I really feel the seniors now have to dig down. We have to carry out our assignments, especially going on the road."

Nee said Nebraska needed to get

back to doing the same things it did during its 11-game winning streak.

"We feel we have to have more self-discipline," he said. "Self-discipline is very important, and I don't think we've shown that in our losses."

Nee said part of the discipline included making the right decisions.

"We can't shoot the ball from the three-point line in transition," he said. "We have to attack the basket or else just pull it out and set it up."

## Cooper

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the hell of it. But we can get rid of some of the guns and get some control of a nation that seems to have none.

Of course, we've heard all our lives from those against gun control that guns don't kill people. People kill people. It's behavioral.

They're right. Guns don't kill peo-

ple. Bullets do. And as one comedian said, let's take the pistols out of idiots' hands and let them throw bullets at each other.

That way, people won't get injured or killed by some hothead with a behavioral problem and a handgun.

Thankfully — amazingly — no one was injured or killed in either of the incidents during the past two weeks. But it's just a matter of time before the death list hits the sports

page.

As Sooner coach Barry Switzer said about OU's problems in 1989:

"No university has ever totally been safe, ivory tower or not. (But) I never thought I needed to post rules against committing felonies."

The world never thought that either.

Especially not this part of the world. Cooper is a senior news-editorial major and is the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

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