

NU hopes weekend brings wins

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

After starting the Big Eight season 1-4, Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck can see some light at the end of the tunnel.



Beck

That light will be much brighter for the 12-8 Cornhuskers if they earn victories over 12-6 Oklahoma and 12-5 Oklahoma State this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska faces Oklahoma tonight at 9 p.m. and will meet Oklahoma State Sunday at 2 p.m.

Beck said her team was in the position she expected after the difficult start. "The way the schedule is set up is that early it was going to be tough for us," she said. "I knew if we could tough that part out that we'd be there down the stretch. We're excited about Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. We felt we could've beaten them at their

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Nebraska women's basketball coach

places."

Nebraska was swept in its first meeting with the Oklahoma teams, losing 67-56 to Oklahoma State and 79-78 on a last second free throw to Oklahoma.

Beck said Nebraska is a much different team than what Oklahoma and Oklahoma State saw in the first meetings.

"The pieces in the puzzle have pretty much come together," she said. "We just need to get (Tina) McClain and (Pyra) Aarden more involved. I think it looks pretty good right now."

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are each tied for third in the conference at 4-3, while Nebraska is right behind at

3-4. However, the Sooners and Cowgirls have a combined road record of 2-10 and neither has won a Big Eight game on the road.

Beck said a sweep this weekend could give the Huskers a firm grasp on third place behind Kansas and Colorado.

"The real race is who is going to be third," Beck said. "That's what I'm concentrating on. We're set up pretty good down the stretch as far as our schedule is concerned."

With only five games remaining after this weekend, Beck said, Nebraska cannot afford to miss any opportunities.

"Down the wire, it's all make-or-break games," she said. "It has to do with being at the top or at the bottom of the league. Our attitude now is that we can beat everybody. I think our defense is solid enough."

Beck said Nebraska will face a tough test because Oklahoma and Oklahoma State will also have a lot at stake.

"There are only two games separating about five or six teams right now," she said. "It's going to be pretty challenging down the stretch. I have confidence we'll meet the challenge."

NU to play host to track heavyweights

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's indoor track and field meet Saturday will have a national championship flair to it, track and field coach Gary Pepin said.

The second-ranked Husker women will be looking to knock off Illinois, the top-ranked team in the country. Last year at Champaign, Ill., both the Illini men and women beat the Huskers.

The Nebraska men will be looking to build on last week's success. Last weekend at the Sooner Indoor meet in Oklahoma City and at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Open, two Huskers provisionally qualified for

Pepin said his team was looking forward to competing in one of the country's biggest meets.

"We're in for a battle in this meet," he said. "This competition could be better than what we'll see at the national championships."

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the NCAA championships.

Freshman Mark Graham ran a qualifying time of 47.69 seconds in the 400-meter run, and Paul Morrison won the 35-pound weight throw with a toss of 61-3. The mark set a new UNK Open meet record.

The Arkansas men have won the previous 10 NCAA indoor championships. They are led by Erick Walder, one of the best long and triple jumpers in the country. He has won six of eight indoor and outdoor national championships during the past two years.

The Razorbacks also return NCAA outdoor champion Calvin Davis. Davis won the 400-meter dash at last year's championships in New Orleans.

"It's a really big deal," Pepin said.

Husker named Big Eight swimmer of month

From Staff Reports

Nebraska's Melanie Dodd was named the Big Eight Conference's women's swimmer-of-the-month for January.

Dodd, a sophomore, finished no lower than third in her freestyle competitions last month to help the Husk-

ers to a 4-1 record. Dodd currently holds the best times in the conference in the 50-, 100- and 200-meter freestyle events this year.

She recorded a national qualifying time in the 200 freestyle with a school-record 1:48.29.

"Melanie is a top-notch competi-

tor," Coach Cal Bentz said. "She is a tough and extremely talented performer, and she continues to improve."

The Nebraska women, currently ranked No. 21 in the nation, take this weekend off before they swim against Kansas, the defending Big Eight champion.

Huskers to take show on road

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

After enjoying two consecutive wins at home before enthusiastic crowds at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the women's gymnastics team will take its show on the road this weekend.

The women take on 2-1 Big Eight rival Oklahoma in Norman, on Sunday at 2 p.m.

In its only meeting with the Cornhuskers last season, the Sooners won the Big Eight Championships with a score of 194.45. Nebraska finished second in the meet with 193.30 points.

"They beat us down there last year," coach Dan Kendig said, "so the girls were talking about that a little bit this week. It's a meet that is important to us because it gives us the upper hand in the Big Eight race if we can win."

Kendig said the Sooners have been hurt by injuries this season.

"More than anything else, they've had bad luck with injuries," he said. "Their scores haven't been that impressive, but scores don't always mean that much. If you looked at our score in the first meet, you wouldn't have

thought we were as good as we are."

The 3-0 Huskers have been led this season by Joy Taylor. The sophomore from New Palestine, Ind., has captured the all-around title in each of the last two meets. Junior Nicole Duval and freshmen Kim DeHaan and Shelley Bartlett have also competed in the all-around for Nebraska.

Kendig said the all-around lineup would remain the same for Sunday's meet.

NOTE:

● Jason Christie will be the lone representative from the men's team at the United States Winter Cup Challenge in Colorado Springs, Colo., over the weekend.

The sophomore from Lincoln qualified by totaling a score of 103.20 in two rounds of competition at the Rocky Mountain Invitational on Nov. 27.

Fellow Huskers Richard Grace and Rick Kieffer were scheduled to compete in the Winter Cup Challenge, but will be forced to stay home because of injuries. The top eight finishers at the Winter Cup Challenge will qualify for the U.S. Senior National Team. The 3-0 Huskers return to action Feb. 12 at Minnesota.

Glock

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with how many minutes I play.

"My role is to come in and hit the open shot or make the extra play," he said. "I'm not going to do anything flashy or fancy out there."

Glock also understands his role in future years for Nebraska.

"Next year, I think my role will stay the same," he said. "Hopefully I will be more of a scorer."

"It's always a goal to start. But if I'm here five years and never start, it won't bother me, as long as I can help us win."

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SUNDAY Feb. 6 vs. Oklahoma State 2 p.m.

Bob Devaney Sports Center

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