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Never Ever A Cover!

NU wrestlers hang on, beat Missouri in dual

By **Tim Pearson**
Senior Reporter

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann was worried about Wednesday's dual against Missouri when his 6-year-old son, Clint, offered some encouragement.

"He told me that if you lose, it's OK," Neumann said. "Then I had to explain to him that it's my job to win."

Neumann and the Cornhuskers got the job done, beating Missouri 25-14 before a crowd of 772 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Wednesday night.

But Neumann's concern with the upset-minded Tigers may have been justified. Without two forfeit wins at 118 and 126 pounds Wednesday night, the No. 8 Huskers might have been in danger of losing.

The Huskers, who improved to 11-6, raced off to a 25-0 lead on the strength of those two forfeit wins and a Justin Ware upset in sudden-death overtime over sixth-ranked Kenny Liddell at 142 pounds.

Even though Missouri scored the final 14 points, Neumann said he was pleased with his team's performance up until 190 pounds.

"At this time we're looking for 100 percent, but we had 80 percent tonight," he said. "Even until after 177, I was happy."

After the two forfeit wins, Husker All-American Frank Velazquez in-

creased Nebraska's lead to 16-0 with a major decision over Missouri's Mike Harp.

Velazquez, ranked third in the nation at 134 pounds, raised his record to 21-2 on the year.

Then at 142 pounds, Ware, who has won 20 of his past 21 matches since starting the year off 5-4, may have improved his seeding at the NCAA Championships with the upset over Liddell.

But he had to come from behind to upset the Missouri All-American.

Ware fell behind 9-6 in the third period before he tied it up by recording a takedown with 25 seconds left.

Liddell then received one point for an escape, but was penalized for stalling with 12 seconds left. The match went into overtime, which Ware won with a takedown 22 seconds into the extra period.

"Justin Ware has proven that he is legitimate," Neumann said. "That's a huge win. He came back, tied it up and put it into sudden death."

"He was just scoring, scoring, scoring. Now Justin's probably going to nationals seeded in the top six."

After Ware's victory, both Temoer Terry and Jason Kraft recorded what Neumann called key wins at 150 and 158.

Seniors

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Once again, Yedsena came through by connecting on both free throws with 20 seconds left to ice the game.

"We were lucky to win this game," Beck said. "I will say that we did what we needed to do. We turned it up when

we needed to turn it up. I thought MU played with more heart than we did up until the last three minutes of the game."

Brown and Yedsena each scored 17 to lead Nebraska. Yedsena scored 13 of her 17 points from the line and added six assists and four steals, while playing all 40 minutes.

Tourney Hopes

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said, the Huskers have stepped their level of play up a notch, despite losing two of the games. Nebraska lost at Oklahoma and at Kansas by a combined 11 points while winning at Kansas State and beating Iowa State in Lincoln.

"We lost two tough games in that stretch," Nee said. "We were right in those games at the last minute. If we

get lucky at all, we win three out of four."

Nee said the Huskers weren't counting on any wins the rest of the way.

"We could lose all our games," he said. "For Nebraska to be an NCAA tournament team, we have to be more detailed, and that's both offensively and defensively."

"We have to keep playing aggressively, but at the same time, keep up the details. We have to step it up and take the challenge."

Baseball

Continued from Page 7

injury after going 3-2 with a 3.00 ERA and earning Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-America honors in 1992.

Sophomore Alvie Shepherd, senior Tom Bergan and junior Jason Pflughaupt will also play key roles if the Huskers are going to improve on the mound this season.

"We feel strong this year," Sanders said. "You have to think Troy is going to have another outstanding year, and I think we have a better chance to have a solid and developed bullpen."

The pitchers will be throwing to an inexperienced but "solid" group of catchers, Sanders said.

Patrick Johnson, a freshman from Salt Lake City, will start in the opener and will likely rotate with junior-college transfer David Crain.

Todd Villotta, who started at shortstop for Wayne State College last year, will add depth behind the plate.

On offense and defense, the Huskers may even be better than they were last season.

Brohawn, who hit .329 with three home runs and 34 RBIs, will be the designated hitter when he is pitching and will play first base when he is not on the hill.

Shepherd, who had a strong fall at the plate, has continued to hit well in the spring and will start at first base in the opener against Oral Roberts.

Senior Matt McKay, who hit .255 with nine home runs last year, should also see playing time at first base.

Derek Dukart will hold down the hot corner at third base, where he started all 58 games for Nebraska. The senior from Milwaukie, Ore., hit .305 with 14 homers and 46 RBIs.

“This is a very hard-working, committed and focused type of team. I like our chances.”

— Sanders
NU baseball coach

Darin Petersen will move back to shortstop after switching to second base last season. Petersen was also a Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American in 1992.

Junior-college transfer Scott Wulfling will take over at second base and should provide strong defense up the middle.

In the outfield, preseason All-American Darin Erstad will be the leading returner after finishing second in almost every offensive category to Marc Sagmoen last season.

Erstad hit .339 with 10 home runs, 54 RBIs and 14 stolen bases.

Jed Dalton should also return to full strength after missing almost half of last season with a shoulder injury. Dalton, who was a second-team Baseball America Freshman All-American in 1992, hit .339 last season and will lead off for the Huskers this season.

Right field is still up for grabs, and Sanders said the odd man out in the first base/designated hitter rotation might find time there.

The Huskers have the talent to challenge in the Big Eight and earn an NCAA Regional bid, Sanders said, and he also thinks they have the right attitude.

"This is a very hard-working, committed and focused type of team," he said. "I like our chances."

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