

Husker hopes ride on ISU game

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team has a chance to end its season with a win when it travels to Iowa State Sunday, but Coach Angela Beck said the Huskers would not take the 7-18 Cyclones lightly. The Cyclones, who are 2-11 and in last place in the Big Eight, have shown signs of improving since Nebraska beat them 88-49 in their first meeting, Beck said.

"They're going to be much improved since the first time we played them. It will make their season to beat us. We're preparing and working really hard this week. We know it won't



Beck

be easy to beat them out there. We're going into this like it's a tournament game."

A win would give Nebraska fourth place in the Big Eight. The Huskers are 15-12 overall and 7-7 in conference play.

A victory is imperative if Nebraska wants to make the NCAA tournament, Beck said. Otherwise, she said, the Huskers will need some big wins at the Big Eight tournament, which begins March 5 in Salina, Kan.

"I really feel it's a must-win, or else we'll need a miracle in Salina," she said. "It means a top half of the bracket finish for us. I think that's really important for our postseason expectations."

The Huskers might play an emotional Iowa State team, Beck said.

"It's not the most ideal situation to have your final game on the road when it is senior night. There will be all the hoopla for the seniors, but we'll just

have to go out and play hard. Their seniors have never beaten us, so I know they'll be ready."

In the Jan. 30 win over the Cyclones, Nafeesah Brown scored 21 points and Meggan Yedsena scored 17 for Nebraska.

"That game was a game that everything just went right for us and nothing seemed to go their way," Beck said. "That's what scares me about this one, because everything just seemed to go our way in the first game."

"We had our transition game going and got up and down the floor pretty well. Our defense was pretty strong and our pressure seemed to cause them problems."

The Huskers will not be at full speed going into Iowa State, Beck said.

Brown has been bothered with an illness the entire week, and Kate Galligan strained her right knee. Both players are expected to play.

Men's tennis team barely tested

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team is looking forward to a season in which it can compete with anyone, according to Coach Kerry McDermott.

Two meets into this season, the Cornhuskers are ranked sixth in the region, which consists of the Missouri Valley and Big Eight conferences.

The 2-0 Huskers travel to Des Moines, Iowa, to play the Drake Bulldogs, who are fourth in the region, at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

McDermott said Drake was one of the top teams in the region.

The Huskers will also play Tulsa, ranked No. 7 in the region, and Louisville in Des Moines on Saturday.

Last weekend, the Huskers beat Creighton 6-1 and then beat Southwest Missouri State — eighth in the region — 5-2.

McDermott said he was pleased with last weekend's performance.

"I really don't know where we are against the top six in the region," McDermott said. "I was real pleased. We had a good effort."

McDermott said this team's attitude was better than that of last year's team. After last season, McDermott didn't renew Mike Garcia and Anthony Cunningham's scholarships. Jan Frode Andersen also left the team.

McDermott said he was looking forward to putting last season's problems behind the team.

"I was looking to recruit someone

who gave 100 percent effort," McDermott said. "This team might not be as talented as last year's, but they have a good attitude and work hard."

The only two returnees from last year's team are Andy Davis and Jay Segrist.

McDermott said the major newcomers were Fredrick Riesbeck, Omar Acevado, Henrik Andersson and Brad Bernthal, a senior who transferred from Kansas.

This weekend will give McDermott a chance to find out what this team is made of, he said.

"We play three solid matches," McDermott said. "It would be nice if we could win all three."

A&M regents vote to seek ties with Big Eight

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — With little discussion and no dissent, Texas A&M University's Board of Regents ended the school's nearly 80-year affiliation with the Southwest Conference in favor of a greener affiliation.

The Aggies' expected decision to accept a Big Eight Conference merger offer Thursday followed Baylor University's defection. Texas and Texas Tech were expected to follow suit today, bringing the SWC another step closer to extinction.

"We are proud to have been asked and enthusiastic about joining a conference with these eight great universities," E. Dean Gage, A&M's interim president, said.

Dodd

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run from Sunday to Wednesday.

The women will be going for their 15th consecutive Big Eight title, while the men will try for their 14th consecutive Big Eight title.

Dodd said she had been swimming since the age of 7, but she attributed her success to her arrival at Nebraska.

"Coming to UNL has improved my swimming greatly," Dodd said. "The swimming program here is absolutely fantastic."

Dodd has accomplished most of

her goals in just over a year at Nebraska, but she still has one big goal on her mind. That goal is to compete in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga.

"It would make me feel great. It's something I've always dreamed about."

But before she pursues her Olympic dream, Dodd said her immediate focus was on the NCAA Championships, which will be March 17-19.

Last season, Dodd finished fifth in the 100-meter freestyle, and she has already qualified in the 100- and 200-meter freestyle events this year.

Pike

Continued from Page 7

the Big Eight tournament and win a game or two there, I see no reason why we can't make the NCAA tournament, which is our ultimate goal."

But if their effort falls short, Piatkowski said, he and his teammates would do their best to win the NIT.

Not making the NCAA tournament "would be disappointing," he said, "especially for the seniors, because this team is all we have."

"But if that is what is in the cards for us, then at that point in time, the NIT will mean everything in the world for me to go out and win that."

Up to now, Piatkowski said, the Huskers' 15-8 season has been disappointing, but he said a few shots here and there could have made a world of difference.

"We have underachieved," Piatkowski said. "We are under what we wanted to happen. When you look back at an awful lot of the games that we have lost, we've lost I don't know how many games by just a few points."

Five of the Huskers' eight losses have come by seven points or less.

This is the difference from last year, when the Huskers beat Missouri by one point twice, he said.

"And we had a couple of other games that were very close that we won," Piatkowski said.

Last season, Nebraska was 7-4 in games decided by less than 10 points, and the Huskers won four games by four points or less.

"It has been different," he said. "We could very easily have another four or five wins under our belts and already be in the NCAA tournament."

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