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# NU track teams limp into meet

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska track and field coach Gary Pepin is just hoping his teams can survive this weekend.

The Cornhusker men will have to go up against top-ranked Tennessee at the Gatorade Track Classic in Knoxville, Tenn., with an injury-depleted squad.



Pepin said the meet would be tough even if the Husker men were at full strength, considering the strength of the Volunteers. "I don't know if we could beat them even if we had everyone," Pepin said. "We'll be lucky to escape."

Ohio State, Kentucky and South Carolina will also compete in the meet,

which starts Friday.

Although the men might have a tough time, Pepin said, the women have a shot to fare well, despite injuries to distance runner Theresa Stelling and sprinter Shanelle Porter.

"We're without two of our best, Shanelle Porter and Theresa Stelling, and that's really going to hurt," he said. "We still have a chance to win, but it's going to be tough."

Porter, who has not competed during the outdoor season, has a stress fracture in her foot and might be out the entire season.

Pepin said the injury might require surgery and could threaten Porter's track career.

But one Husker who has survived the injury bug that has plagued the team this season is sophomore thrower Paulette Mitchell.

Mitchell, who will compete in the discus and shot put this weekend, said this meet would be a good test for her because of the style of competition

that would be there.

The Council Bluffs, Iowa, native has already set provisional qualifying marks in the shot put and discus in all three outdoor events this season.

Although Mitchell has the provisional marks, she still isn't positive that she has made the NCAA meet.

"You're fair game in that position," Mitchell said. "If you get an automatic, you're in, and that takes the pressures off."

Mitchell, who finished fourth at the indoor national championships, said there might be added pressure on her this year.

"Once you do go good, you're expected to do good," she said. "In all, I just need to keep perspective, and I will be fine."

Pepin said Mitchell was one of the best young throwers in the country, but these next two weeks would be key for both her and the team as they prepared for next weekend's Drake Relays.

# Tennis women set for Big Eight meet

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team is heading into the Big Eight Championships on a roll.

The Cornhuskers take a 10-8 record into the meet and are coming off a 1-1 weekend.

Even though the Huskers lost a 5-4 decision to Colorado last weekend in Ames, Iowa, Coach Scott Jacobson is confident about his team's chances in the Big Eight meet, which will be held in Norman, Okla.

"We played about as well as we've played all year," he said.

The Huskers will get a chance to avenge their loss to the Buffaloes Friday when they face No. 4 seed Colorado in their first-round match.

Jacobson said he knew his team could beat the Buffaloes.

"We're confident we can play with Colorado," he said. "We had four team match points to win the dual, and we lost 5-4."

"If we play at that level, then we can win. But it's another day, and it's another city. The outcome of Friday's match may depend on one or two points."

Three freshmen will be leading the Huskers in search of Jacobson's first Big Eight title.

Annie Yang, Cathy Liptak and April Yarmus will all have to play well for the fifth-seeded Huskers to pull off any upsets, Jacobson said.

Yang, the Huskers' No. 1 singles player, is 14-10 on the season, but Jacobson said her record didn't clearly reflect how she had played.

"She's beaten some good people," he said. "She's not intimidated by anybody."

The three Husker freshmen haven't been intimidated by anybody, which surprised Jacobson.

"I was hopeful that they'd do well," he said. "But if you would've told me that our three players would be beating someone in the Top 50, it would've taken me by surprise."

The play of Yang, Liptak and Yarmus is the reason the Huskers are in the position they are in now, Jacobson said.

"Those three have played at an extremely high level," he said. "Those three freshmen, to a certain extent, have carried us throughout the course of the year."

Even if the Huskers don't fare well at the Big Eight meet, Jacobson said, the future for the women's tennis team looks bright.

"We're better than we've been in years past," he said. "This is the best program I believe I've had in my three years here. We're very young, and our top four players are freshmen."

"The future looks very, very good."

# NU tennis men like chances in OU rematch

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's tennis team is looking to duplicate last year's second-place finish at the Big Eight Championships this weekend at the Oklahoma City Tennis Center.

The Cornhuskers go into Friday's opening round as the sixth seed. They will go against No. 3 seed Oklahoma, which beat the Huskers 7-0 in the regular season.

Although the Sooners, who are ranked 34th in the ITA Rolex Collegiate Rankings, defeated the Huskers rather handily, Coach Kerry McDermott is optimistic about his team's chances.

"The guys basically feel that if we play well, we can win," he said. "We're anxious and ready to go."

Nebraska is 6-15 overall and 1-5 in the Big Eight. The Huskers are coming off two weekend losses to Colorado and Iowa State.

# Seniors

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and five Big Eight individual titles.

"We all feel like we need to earn our place in Nebraska history," Harrison said. "Coming into our careers, people said we were going to be one of the best teams at Nebraska."

But they haven't lived up to expectations, Harrison said — at least not until they can claim a national title.

"Hopefully, this will be the year that we can go out and do our job and win it," Harrison said.

Bowers agreed.

"It would mean everything," Bowers said. "That's the whole reason I came to Nebraska — the tradition and

to be part of a team. It was unfortunate, but that was something I was unable to experience in high school. So it makes me want it even more now."

After four years of competition, Bowers said, the national meet has taken on added significance.

"The regular season is not as important," Bowers said. "This is the one meet that everything has come down to. I think, as an experienced team, we have learned this is the meet we want."

The Huskers have been so focused on the NCAA meet that they may have placed too little emphasis on the regular season, Allen said.

"I never want to lose," Allen said, "and don't get me wrong, neither does

the team. It's just that they know what the most important meet is. We lost a couple of meets this year, and we learned from those losses."

After three championships, Harrison said, he knows when the national meet rolls around.

"You can tell it is different by the atmosphere," he said. "We don't really do anything different in preparation for nationals, but there's a lot more tension and there's a lot more pressure."

Allen said he was confident his team, especially his four seniors, would be able to stand up to the pressure.

"It's going to be a great gymnastics event," he said. "We are glad to host the event and hope to go out a winner."

Darling and Che Bowers healthy, we will be in good shape. Now they are healthy.

"And I am going to have an awful deep team."

The national meet will not be a repeat performance of Nebraska's regional meet, Allen said.

At the regional meet April 9 in Colorado Springs, Colo., Nebraska outdistanced the field by scoring 287.25 points. Stanford and Oklahoma, the other two qualifiers from the West Regional, did not have such an easy time.

"It was a real fight at regionals for second place," he said, "and especially third place. Oklahoma and Stanford were fighting with UCLA for the last spot, and UCLA didn't get it."

"Luckily, we were far enough ahead that we weren't involved in the fight at regionals, but this time we will be right in it."

# NCAA

Continued from Page 7

nal would be ready when the Huskers came calling.

"I came here just to scare (Nebraska coach) Francis (Allen)," Hamada said with a smile. "We feel we can compete here. Each of the last three years has been different, but hopefully the outcome will be the same."

The two championships have given the Cardinal the confidence it needs to win, Hamada said.

No. 2 Ohio State, Iowa and Penn State also are confident going into the national meet.

The Buckeyes, who were ranked No. 1 much of the season, beat Nebraska in Lincoln on March 13. That setback was the Huskers' first in a dual or triangular at home since 1989.

# NEBRASKA Baseball

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