

# SPORTS

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## Nee sees Kansas game as win-win opportunity

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

If Nebraska beats the seventh-ranked Kansas Jayhawks tonight in Lawrence, Coach Danny Nee might show off some of his hidden talents.

"I'll probably do cartwheels across the court," Nee joked.

But Nee wasn't joking when he talked about the importance of the conference game.

"We know it's a big game, and it's a really good game to be involved in," he said. "Kansas is a top-quality team; it's on ESPN and we're playing down in Lawrence — I think it will be a lot of fun."

Whether or not Nee will go head over heels after the game won't change his attitude on playing Kansas in Lawrence.

"The players like it, I like it, and it's just a great situation," he said. "Away games like these might be my favorite places to coach. It's nice being at the Devaney Center, but going down to a place like Lawrence and coaching in that atmosphere is a lot of fun."

"I really look forward to games like this, and I know our players do, too. It's a lot of fun to be on the road sometimes."

The 13-2 Jayhawks lost at Iowa State Jan. 14, and beat Kansas State 78-74 in Lawrence Wednesday. Nebraska beat the Wildcats in Lincoln 78-56 on Jan. 12.

So will 14-3 Nebraska still have to play its best game of the year to upset Kansas?

"Damn close," Nee said "But

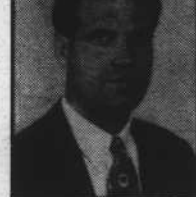
See KANSAS on 8

## Steele leaves football family

From Staff Reports

After resigning Friday, Nebraska linebackers coach Kevin Steele left for Charlotte, N.C., Sunday afternoon.

Steele's wife, Linda, said her husband flew to Charlotte, where he is being considered for a job in the National Football League.



Steele

The Charlotte Observer reported Thursday that Steele was under serious consideration for the linebackers' coach position with the Panthers.

According to the Charlotte Observer, the Panthers will hold a press

conference today to announce Dom Capers, defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, as the team's first head coach.

Capers was the secondary coach at the University of Tennessee in 1980 and 1981. Steele worked with Capers as a graduate assistant while there.

Steele, who came to Nebraska from Tennessee in 1989, said leaving Nebraska was not easy.

"This is the most difficult career decision I've ever had to make," Steele said. "The Nebraska football family is so unique, in that it starts with Coach Osborne — the greatest coach in America — and includes his outstanding staff, the wonderful student-athletes and great Husker fans."

"I would like to thank all my Nebraska family. I will always hold a special place in my heart for my experiences here and for Nebraska."

Steele replaced former Nebraska assistant John Melton in 1989, after coaching stints at New Mexico State,

Oklahoma State and two at Tennessee (1981-82 and 1987-88).

The 1981 Tennessee graduate recruited the Southeastern portion of the United States for Nebraska.

He was responsible for recruiting such Husker standouts as Tommie Frazier, Dwayne Harris, Tyrone Williams and Leslie Dennis.

Steele is expected to be named the Panthers' linebackers coach during either today's press conference, or a press conference Carolina will hold later in the week at the Super Bowl in Miami.

Coach Tom Osborne said Steele, who coached two All-Big Eight selections and 1994 All-American Ed Stewart, had made major contributions to the Husker staff.

"He is an excellent defensive coach, linebackers coach and a great recruiter," Osborne said. "He is a very solid person and we will miss him and his family. We wish him all the best in the future."

## Nebraska wrestlers win 3rd place at National Duals

By Clay Short

Staff Reporter

It was no surprise that top-ranked Iowa won the National Duals this past weekend at the NU Coliseum.

The Hawkeyes won the title, defeating second-seeded Oklahoma State in the finals 35-3. Sixth-seeded Nebraska earned a third-place finish with a 3-1 record in their four duals.

Nebraska met Michigan State Sunday in the consolation championship and held on for a 21-18 victory. Both teams were deadlocked at 15 before Ryan Tobin lost at 190 pounds, leaving the Huskers behind by three points.

But Nebraska's Tolly Thompson pinned the Spartans' heavyweight, giving Nebraska a 21-18 victory and a third-place finish in the tournament. Thompson's matches decided the outcomes of three duals over the weekend, all victories for Thompson and Nebraska.

To get to Michigan State the Huskers had to get by Iowa State in the consolation semifinals Sunday. The Huskers lost the first three matches to the Cyclones, but Thompson again came to the rescue. Thompson won the final match, giving the 17-15 victory to Nebraska.

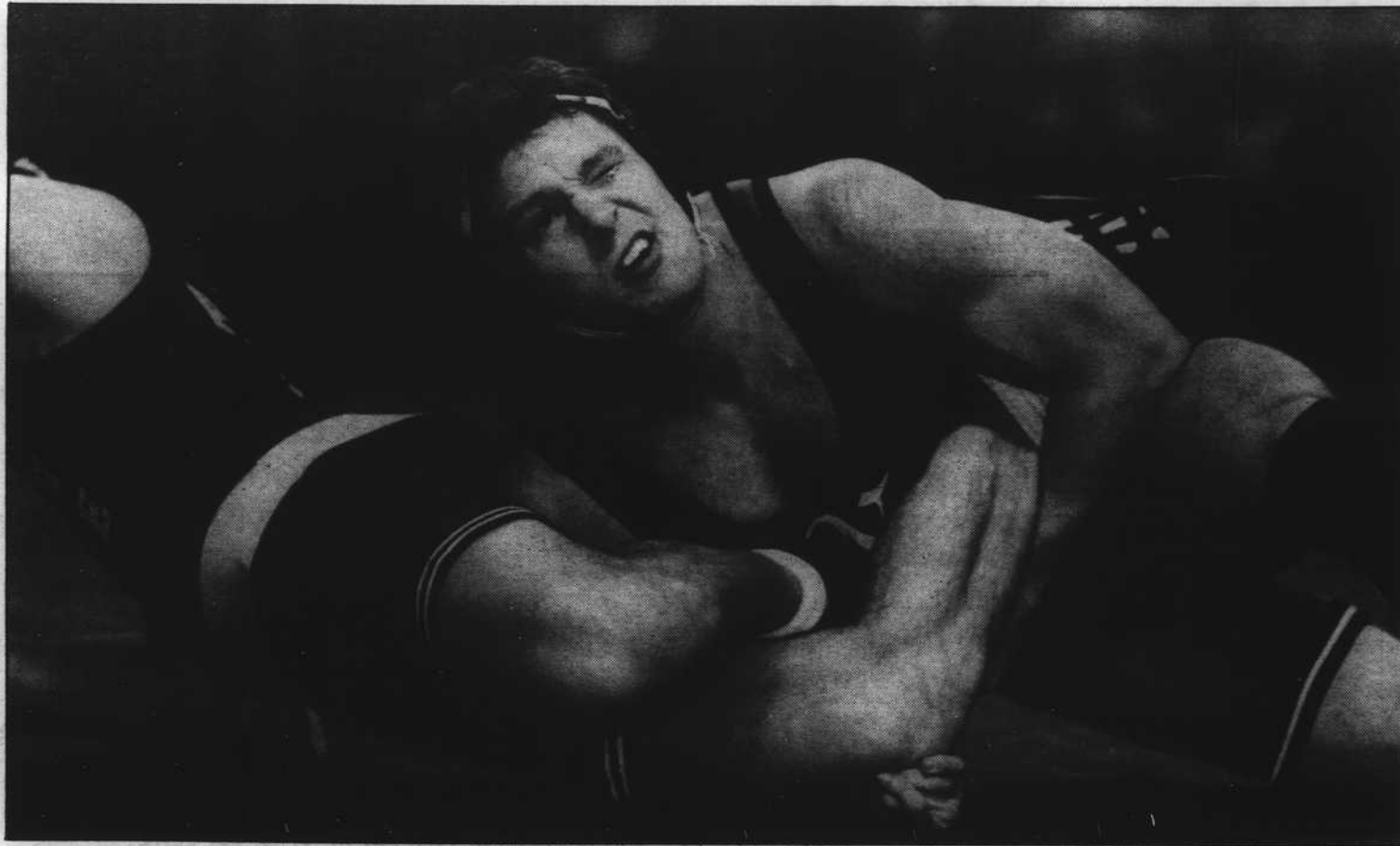
"We beat two teams that have been ranked higher than us all year," said Nebraska coach Tim Neumann. "After seeing Iowa, I'm glad we lost (Saturday night)."

The Huskers lost to Oklahoma State Saturday night, putting the Cowboys into the finals against Iowa.

In Saturday's first round, Nebraska squeaked by Ohio for a 22-16 win. Thompson gave the Huskers the victory by pinning Ohio's Scott Durieux. Going into the heavyweight match, the score was tied at 16.

The Huskers lost their first three matches against Ohio and were behind 10-0 going into the fourth match. The Cornhuskers won six of the next seven matches, including the clincher by Thompson.

"I think we might have been looking ahead



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska wrestler Erik Josephson tries to keep one of his contact lenses from falling out during his 167-pound match against Penn State Saturday. Josephson lost the contact but not the match, which he won in a tie-breaker.

a little bit," Neumann said. "I anticipated this kind of struggle, but I'm disappointed with our performance."

The Huskers then took on Penn State. The matchup between the Nittany Lions and the Huskers was decided early.

NU Freshman Brad Canoyer won a major decision 20-6 against the Nittany Lions' Eddie

Jayne at 118 pounds.

"Canoyer helped us out a bunch," Neumann said. "We're getting it done ... we're still not hitting on all of what we have."

Nebraska lost two of the next three matches, but then took five of the next seven, including an overtime win for 167-pounder Erik Josephson over Penn State's Matt Hardy.

Fortunately the Huskers already had the win wrapped up when top-ranked Kerry McCoy pinned Thompson. McCoy earned his seventieth straight victory in the match against Thompson.

Nebraska lost to Oklahoma State 21-13 in the semifinals. The Cowboys took six of 10 matches from Nebraska, but Josephson upset All-American and No. 2 Mark Branch 5-2.

## Two Nebraska athletes qualify for NCAA national meet

By Tony West

Staff Reporter

In only the first track and field meet of the indoor season on Saturday, two Nebraska athletes have automatically qualified for the NCAA national indoor meet in Indianapolis, Ind., on March 10.

Senior Petar Malesev finished first and junior Sheldon Carpenter finished second in the high jump competition at the Nebraska Open at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track.

Both Malesev and Carpenter cleared the height of 7 feet, 4 1/2 inches. However, Malesev was awarded first because of fewer misses.

"That was certainly two of the finest performances in the meet," said Nebraska track and field coach Gary Pepin.

Carpenter, who set his new personal record with the jump, said automatically qualifying for the national meet this early in the season was a great relief.

"It just takes a lot of pressure off, knowing that I'm already in," he said. "Now, I can just kind of take it easy and go for some new personal records, instead of worrying about making it to nationals."

Malesev said he was a little disappointed that he was unable to set the new Nebraska school record at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track.

The record by a Nebraska athlete at the indoor track is 7-5 1/2 by Darren Burton in 1985.

"I had good jumps today, but at 7 feet, 5 3/4 inches I choked," he said. "It's still a psycho-

logical barrier."

But Malesev and Carpenter were not the only Nebraska athletes who turned in good performances in the meet.

Four other Nebraska athletes provisionally qualified for indoor nationals at the meet.

On the men's side, junior Isaac Carson provisionally qualified in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.37 seconds to finish first. Robert Thomas also provisionally qualified with a second-place finish in the long jump behind Barton County Community College's Joe Laster with a leap of 25 feet, 2 inches.

On the women's side, junior Paulette Mitchell and sophomore Tressa Thompson both provisionally qualified in the shot put with throws of 51 feet and 49-2 1/4, respectively.

Although the meet consisted of small colleges and various track clubs and no team scoring was kept, Pepin said the effort was still positive.

"I thought we had a lot of good performances up and down the line," he said. "I think that the good outweighed the bad."

Other Cornhusker event winners were: Balazs Tolgyesi (1:51.04 in the 800-meter run), Sean Buckley (16-3/4 in the pole vault), Tom Fish (22.15 in the 200-meter dash), Julie Mazzitelli (5:00.03 in the mile) and Sherri Elwood (2:59.75 in the 1,000-meter run).

Pepin said the meet was relatively good for the start of the season.

"Overall, I think we're pleased with how this first meet went for most of the athletes," Pepin said.