

SPORTS WEEKEND

Friday, February 10, 1995

Page 9

Huskers must overcome ISU's home court



Nebraska's Melvin Brooks (34) and Mikki Moore (32) stretch for a rebound during the Cornhuskers' win over Oklahoma on Feb. 5.

Jon Waller/DN

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

When Nebraska travels to Ames, Iowa, on Saturday for its 12:45 p.m. game against Iowa State, it appears that two teams heading in different directions will meet.

Nebraska, after dropping three straight and falling to 1-4 in the Big Eight, has won its last two games, including a conference road win at Colorado.

The Cyclones, however, began the season 17-2, but have now lost four consecutive games to fall to 3-5 in the Big Eight.

But Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he wasn't expecting the Cyclones to be waving a white flag yet.

"I personally think they're going to be very determined and focused," Nee said. "With the games they've lost and how they've lost them, I know they'll be determined and ready. I don't think they can pout. They have to try to do like we did — dig down and win at home.

"I think us, Iowa State and Oklahoma are going to be battling right down to the wire for those fourth, fifth and sixth spots (in the Big Eight)."

Iowa State coach Tim Floyd said the Cyclones had improved during their four-game skid.

"I knew we were hitting a difficult part of our schedule," Floyd said. "We didn't like the timing that our schedule had because we weren't getting much preparation for some very

See CYCLONES on 11

Men gymnasts tumble toward weekend wins

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's gymnastics team is looking to build on its victory over Oklahoma last weekend when they face Penn State this weekend.

Coach Francis Allen said he thought it would be a little tougher to score on the road as his team traveled to Pennsylvania.

"Scoring at home is a little easier," Allen said.

The Cornhuskers should be used to competing on the road. All of the Huskers' meets, except last weekend's against Oklahoma, have been on the road.

The gymnastics team will hit the East Coast this weekend to compete in meets at Penn State and William & Mary in the next three days. Having two meets with only one day of rest is unusual for his team, Allen said.

See ALLEN on 11

Hawaiian VB recruit set to join Huskers

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Three of the four high school seniors who make up the 1995 Nebraska volleyball recruiting class fit into a category that Cornhusker coach Terry Pettit calls normal.

Renee Saunders, Jaime Krondak and Lisa Avery each have attended Husker volleyball camps in past years. They are the type of recruit that Pettit said Nebraska "would have had to mess up" not to sign.

The Huskers' fourth recruit does not fit into the same category. In fact, Pettit said, if it wasn't for Saunders, Krondak and Avery, Nebraska probably never would have been exposed to Fiona Nepo, the 1994 Hawaii player of the year.

"(Saunders, Krondak and Avery) were in a dorm room at a national elite camp discussing about where they were going," Pettit said. "Fiona came into the room and said, 'Where are you guys going?'"

The three Husker recruits told Nepo they were headed to Nebraska.

"And then (Nepo) said, 'Why don't they recruit me?'"

So the Huskers began pursuing the 5-foot-9 hitter/setter from Honolulu University High School.

"I've always heard about Nebraska, and that they have a great program."

FIONA NEPO

Nebraska volleyball recruit

"We did so somewhat cautiously," Pettit said, "because traditionally, great Hawaiian players play for the University of Hawaii. But when we found out that she was interested in engineering and that she would visit Purdue and Georgia Tech, I think that confirmed in our minds that she was serious about the possibility of leaving Hawaii."

Nepo — Nebraska's first-ever recruit from Hawaii — said it was Krondak, a 6-foot outside hitter from Lincoln East, who first told her about Nebraska.

"I've always heard about Nebraska," Nepo said, "and that they have a great program. I was talking to Jaime. She told me all about the program, and I got excited and thought it would be great."

Pettit said Nebraska rated Nepo as one of the top three setters in the nation.

When she arrives in Lincoln in August, Nepo said she she was willing to sit on the

sidelines for a while in order to learn the Husker system. She was looking forward to working with Nebraska setter Christy Johnson.

"I see myself as a setter," she said, "but it might be a little time before I am ready. I know that I can learn a lot from Christy."

Johnson was a first-team All-American last year, and she was a member of the U.S. Junior National Team while at Millard North in Omaha.

Nepo, who was also a member of the 1994 U.S. Junior National Team, said her decision to leave Hawaii for the mainland was not difficult. But choosing Nebraska over Purdue, Georgia Tech and Clemson took some time, she said.

"I knew I wanted to go away," she said. A third-team Mizuno All-American, Nepo said she visited Nebraska in the fall, but did not get an opportunity to see the Huskers play at the NU Coliseum.

Sevigne Invite could pave the way to championships

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Nebraska track and field coach Gary Pepin said that this weekend's Frank Sevigne Husker Invite could possibly provide the right atmosphere for more NCAA national qualifying performances.

The Sevigne meet, which will consist of 871 athletes from 50 schools, should draw big crowds on both Friday and Saturday.

"Historically, this meet was designed to give athletes a chance to qualify for nationals," Pepin said.

Last season at the Sevigne meet, 86 athletes had automatic or provisional qualifying marks for the national meet.

And at this point in the season, the Cornhusker men have five provisional and

three automatic NCAA qualifiers, while the Husker women have five provisional and one automatic qualifier.

Four past NCAA champions are scheduled to compete this weekend, including Nebraska triple-jumper Nicola Martial and the women's national record holder in the shot put, Dawn Dumble from UCLA.

Nebraska's Petar Malesev and Sheldon Carpenter, who are currently ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the national high jump rankings, and the defending indoor shot put champion from UCLA, John Godina, are also expected to be some of the highlighted performers on the men's side.

"It will be very competitive," Pepin said. "It's always one of the best collegiate meets in the nation."

Last week, Pepin decided to hold out some

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GARY PEPIN

Nebraska track and field coach

Nebraska athletes from the quadrangular in Illinois because of minor nagging pains or soreness. He said he wanted them to be well-rested for this weekend's meet.

Pepin also said this meet should get the Huskers ready for meets later in the season.

But Pepin said being at home and having the Nebraska supporters should help the Huskers

do well.

"That's always an important factor to the athletes," Pepin said. "It definitely makes a difference."

The field events are scheduled to begin today at 4:30 p.m., while the running events are scheduled for a 5 p.m. start. On Saturday, field events are scheduled to start at 11 a.m. and the running events at 1 p.m.