

Huskers want consistency at Friday night dual meet

By Vince D'Adamo
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team is hoping that the momentum from last Sunday's Bulldog Invitational will carry over tonight.

The Cornhuskers will take on Iowa State in a 7 p.m. dual meet at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers bring a record of 14-4 into the meet, with one of those losses coming against the Cyclones in Ames, Iowa, last month. Nebraska will finish its regular season on Monday night, also at the Devaney Center, against Minnesota.

Nebraska placed third at the Bulldog Invite in Athens, Ga., but scored a season-high 193.250.

The Huskers accomplished their goal of scoring above the 48-mark on each event, paving the way to a season-high total of 193.25 points. Coach Dan Kendig said he hoped that would continue.

"Last weekend we took a big step in the bars (event)," Kendig said. "The bar team finally feels secure."

Nebraska will look for continued consistency in the bar and beam, which

have been trouble spots for the Huskers this season.

"Injuries have contributed to our inconsistency," Kendig said, "but I feel comfortable with our lineup now."

Iowa State is a young team, featuring eight freshmen, four sophomores and two juniors. One of those juniors, Megan Wall, set a school record a month ago with a vault score of 9.825.

The Gophers, Nebraska's opponent Monday, post an overall record of 11-7. While Minnesota has an unblemished home mark, the Gophers are 4-7 on the road.

Even though the Huskers will use their entire lineup, Kendig plans to rest some people as well.

"The floor is very taxing for us," said Kendig. "We'll probably rest some people because we want to be at full force before the Big Eight Championships and regionals."

The five all-around performers that Nebraska plans to use are Shelly Bartlett, Kim DeHaan, Jennifer Hawkinson, Joy Taylor and Nicole Duval. Kristi Camp will perform on the bars and beam, while Martha Jenkins will compete on the vault and floor.

Husker women's swim team pulls for a top-10 finish

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

The NCAA Championships could be something special for the Nebraska women's swimming and diving teams, Coach Cal Bentz said.

And if Thursday was any indication, Bentz could be right.

Nebraska's 400-yard medley relay team of Jane Glazebrook, Penny Heyns, Mikaela Lauren and Melanie Dodd advanced to the finals and set a school-record time of 3:40.65 at the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas.

The Huskers won their heat but had the second fastest qualifying time of the day. In the second leg of the medley, Heyns swam a 59.85 in the breaststroke.

"To our knowledge, her mark is the first time anyone has swam the 100-yard breaststroke under a minute," Bentz said. "We feel we've got everything to win in that event and nothing to lose, so we're going after it."

The Cornhuskers began competition at the NCAA Championships

Thursday, and the meet will run through Saturday.

Nebraska has qualified a school-record 11 swimmers for competition in 18 of 24 events.

Bentz said his team hadn't shown its best performances yet, and hoped they would come this weekend.

"This week is precisely the week for our team to have them," Bentz said.

The Huskers hope to finish in the top 10, Bentz said—something the Huskers haven't done with him as coach.

The best the Huskers have finished is ninth in their first NCAA meet in 1982.

Last year at the NCAA Championships, Nebraska finished 16th. The key for that was qualifying 10 swimmers and one diver.

Heyns leads the Husker swimmers, competing in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard breaststroke. Last year, Heyns finished second in the 100 and sixth in the 200.

Bentz said Heyns should be able to win this weekend, if her leading times in both events were any indi-

cation.

"If you get to the big show, anything can happen," Bentz said. "She's the leader, and you have to go with her."

Sophomore Julia Russell will also compete in both breaststroke events. Russell is ranked in the top 10 nationally in both events.

Dodd will compete in the the 50-yard, 100-yard and 200-yard freestyle. Dodd is ranked in the top 10 nationally in all three events.

Glazebrook will be looking to improve on last year's NCAA backstroke performance, where she finished 39th in the 100-yard backstroke and 17th in the 200-yard backstroke.

Bentz said he thought Glazebrook could have a good meet.

The lone diver, Jennifer Harnly, finished sixth at the Zone D meet last weekend to qualify for the NCAAs.

Bentz said Harnly would have some difficulty, because at the NCAAs, part of the diving competition involves diving off a tower. Harnly hasn't done that all season.

Husker gymnasts return to Devaney, hope to defeat Iowa in meet tonight

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Early in February, the 10 members of the Nebraska men's gymnastics team left the Bob Devaney Sports Center knowing they would not return until five weeks later.

After six road meets, Cornhusker coach Francis Allen said Nebraska is an improved team. And the Huskers are ready to compete with any team in the nation, he said.

Tonight at 7, second-ranked Iowa, a team that has never beaten Nebraska, visits the Devaney Center. Allen said the third-ranked Huskers welcomed the home meet.

"We have been away for a while," he said. "But we wish this didn't come during spring break, so we could get more students out here."

Regardless of the timing, Allen said, Iowa should provide the Huskers with

plenty of competition.

"Iowa has improved," he said. "And they are good. I would expect our team, since this is our last weekend at home, to get in there and do well."

Another Big Ten opponent, Minnesota, is set to visit the Devaney Center Monday at 7 p.m. Allen said the Gophers were a point or two behind Iowa.

"We need to do well in both meets," he said. "In fact, we need to beat Minnesota."

A win against Iowa would be nice, Allen said, but more importantly, the Huskers need a good score. Last week at the Gold's Challenge in Santa Barbara, Calif., Nebraska finished third behind California and Ohio State.

Two misses on the pommel horse, Allen said, were the difference between third place and first place.

"We hit about 76 percent out there," he said. "That needs to be up above 80

percent. The horse can make or break a meet in that way."

The return of Jason Christie, Nebraska's top gymnast on the pommel horse, should push the Huskers over the top, Allen said. Christie had been hampered by a sore wrist for almost a month before returning to practice earlier this week.

Allen said the junior all-arounder would be back at full strength against Iowa and Minnesota. Without Christie, he said, Nebraska wasn't the same team.

Not only is Nebraska competing at home for the final time this weekend, Allen said, but the Huskers are also trying prepare for the West Regionals on April 8 at Norman, Okla.

"This isn't last year's team," he said. "We aren't going to go into these meets and walk away. But our team is coming together, and it should be a productive two meets."

Win

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Guard Tom Wald, who scored six points and handled the point guard duties in the game's final moments, said a victory, any victory, was welcome at this point.

Before Thursday, the Huskers had won only one game since Feb. 5.

Nebraska first tied the game at 46 on a Chris Sallee layup with 14:45 to play, but after a timeout, Georgia reclaimed the lead on a

Charles Claxton free throw.

The Bulldogs built a 4-point lead, only to watch Nebraska come back to tie the game at 52 with 8:24 to play. Georgia again broke away, scoring five straight points to lead 57-52 with 6:21 left in the game. But Nebraska fought back to tie the game at 60 on two Melvin Brooks free throws with 3:44 remaining.

A Moore dunk on a pass from Boone gave the Huskers the lead for good at 62-60 with 1:59 to go. Moore added another dunk and a free throw to ice the game in the final minute.

UNO

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Nebraska averaged just 5.08 runs per game before playing the Mavericks.

"We're pitching better than seven wins," Sanders said. "We've been in every game; we just haven't been scoring very many runs."

But Erstad made sure the Nebraska offense supported the pitching staff against UNO.

Erstad powered the Nebraska offense with two home runs, five RBI

and three runs scored in five at-bats. The junior leftfielder improved his batting average to .380 with 5 homers and 14 RBI.

Shepherd had three hits, while Sears and Darin Petersen each had two hits.

Motley went 1 for 2 at the plate to improve his team-leading batting average to .415 and to extend his hitting streak to nine games.

Freshman Brian Zubor, 1-0, got the win in relief of starter Jason Allen. Zubor allowed just one hit in 3 1/3 innings and struck out four to pick up the first win of his career.

Bulldogs

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We did a good job, particularly in the second half. When those guys go 2-for-16 from the 3-point line, that's good defense."

Georgia center Charles Claxton, who was held to three points, said the Huskers' defense was the key to the rally.

"They made a run and we just couldn't come back," Claxton said. "I was 0-for-4 (for the game), so that's good defense. They play damn good defense. We knew they were a good team. They made some mistakes, though. We just weren't able to capitalize on them."

Carlos Strong, the Bulldogs' leading scorer with a 14-point average, was held to eight points.

Strong wasn't as quick to credit the Huskers for their win.

Wrestlers fifth in NCAA meet

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska wrestling team is tied for fifth after the first two rounds of the NCAA Championships Thursday.

Four Nebraska wrestlers are still alive in the championship bracket. But Iowa stands in first with 40 points. Nebraska has 15.5 points. The quarterfinal and semifinal matches will be today.

The Mavericks' second baseman, Joe Danett, provided the big blow in the fifth with a two-out grand slam to center field to cut Nebraska's lead to 6-5.

But the Huskers answered with five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and an insurance run in the seventh.

Mike Kros, 1-1, took the pitching loss for the Mavericks.

The Huskers travel to Las Cruces, N.M., for the Hampton Inn/Sahara Desert Classic this weekend. The tournament field includes New Mexico, New Mexico State and Washington.

"It's hard to lose any game, but it's especially hard to lose tonight," Strong said. "We had that game won. They played well and we played well, but we made the mental mistakes when we couldn't afford to. It was ours."

However, Strong said if Nebraska plays with the same intensity, its success in the NIT won't be short-lived.

"They're a good team," Strong said. "If they play hard, like they did tonight, the can win any ballgame in this tournament."

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NEBRASKA
Gymnastics



★ Martha Jenkins

NU MEN vs. IOWA
NU WOMEN vs. IOWA STATE

FRIDAY
March 17
7 p.m.



★ Richard Grace

NU vs. MINNESOTA (Men & Women)

MONDAY
March 20
7 p.m.

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