

Match wins today could give men's tennis needed spark

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott is hoping today's matches will provide the spark that the Cornhuskers have been lacking in the first half of the season.



McDermott

Nebraska will meet Southwest Missouri State at 11 a.m. today at Woods Park and will face Creighton at 4 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

McDermott said if Nebraska played well, it should come out of today with two wins, which is just in time for the Big Eight season that opens April 7.

"I hope to get two good wins this

weekend and, if we can get both wins, it should give us a little confidence going into our Big Eight schedule," he said. "We're just anxious to get some wins."

The 2-10 Huskers should get the bigger challenge from 1-7 Southwest Missouri State, McDermott said.

"Southwest Missouri is about like us, as far as we both are struggling," he said. "I feel if we play well, we should beat them. I think we're both tired of losing. I guess it will come down to who's hungrier."

"With Creighton, I feel we are just the better team. They're struggling, and they don't have a lot of experience. I think we have a little more talent than they do, so I expect us to win that one."

Nebraska is returning home for the first time since March 11, and finished its spring break trip in Texas with a 1-5 mark.

"It's definitely nice getting back and having a break from the road," McDermott said. "We felt like on our spring break trip, that if we went 3-3, it would be successful. Even though we only went 1-5, we competed well, and the guys played hard. If we have that kind of effort (today), we should get two wins."

McDermott said the spots the Huskers played in today would be permanent.

The only changes will be Markus Bergerheim playing No. 6 singles, the No. 2 doubles team featuring Thomas Wheat and Bergerheim and the No. 3 team of Rick Stempson and Fredrik Riesbeck.

"At this point, everyone has been given a chance to show what they can do and given the chances to play," McDermott said. "We've tried different combinations up until now and seen a lot of different people. We're set with this lineup for the rest of the year."

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 Woods Tennis Complex (FRIDAY)
 Creighton - 4 p.m.
 Bob Devaney Sports Center

NU WOMEN'S TENNIS vs.
 Iowa State - 10 a.m. (FRIDAY)
 Bob Devaney Sports Center
 Colorado - 10 a.m. (SATURDAY)

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Women's tennis ready for stellar home effort

By Vince D'Adamo
Staff Reporter

Even though the Nebraska women's tennis team is 6-9, Coach Scott Jacobson couldn't ask any more out of his team.

But he would like to pick up two wins this weekend.

Nebraska will play host to its first home match of the season today against Iowa State followed by a Sunday match against Colorado.

Both matches are scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Varsity Tennis Courts at 17th and Vine streets. But if rain or cold weather takes place, the matches will be moved to the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Jacobson said he was confident that his team would rise to the occasion.

"I think this will be a good challenge for us," Jacobson said. "Iowa State and Colorado have similar abilities to us. If we play hard and play well, we have a good chance to win both duals."

The Huskers are coming off of a third-place finish at the Titan Classic on March 17-18 at Fullerton, Calif.

Jacobson liked what he saw. "I think the trip went well," he said. "We had a good time and are continuing to improve."

The Huskers hope for more stellar efforts from their top three singles players: Annie Yang, Jennifer Thoste and Lisa Hart. Yang, a sophomore, went unbeaten at 5-0, while Thoste and Hart each compiled marks of 4-1 during spring break.

"It will be great to play in a Big Eight match," he said. "We're anxious and ready to go. The past 12 weeks are all to prepare for the month of April."

Iowa State, today's opponent, enters the match with a record of 4-6. The Cyclones are on the heels of a losing skid.

Colorado, Sunday's opposition, enters Lincoln with a mark of 10-2. The Buffaloes notched their first win ever against tennis power Fresno State, 7-2. The Buffs boast the fifth-ranked doubles tandem in the region, Natalie Dickinson and Karen Macintosh.

"They're always challenging matches," Jacobson said. "We'll see what happens."

Strike

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"Right now, it's 50-50," Boston Red Sox chief executive officer John Harrington said.

Asked how long the uncertainty could go on, Harrington replied: "How 'bout 8:03 p.m. (Sunday)? First pitch."

Owners, who would commit about \$22 million in bonuses to the replacements if the season starts Sunday, issued a statement saying all games with replacements would count in the standings.

With the Orioles still refusing to field a replacement team, the American League directed the Chicago White Sox and Texas not to travel to Baltimore next week for scheduled games at Camden Yards and told the replacement umpires — the regulars are locked out — not to show up.

Orioles managing general partner Peter Angels has advised the league that he will not field a team for the first two series of the season, AL president Gene Budig said.

On the 231st day of the strike, U.S. District Judge Sonia Sotomayor told the sides she was inclined to hear only oral arguments — not witnesses — during Friday's hearing at the U.S. Court House.

The National Labor Relations Board has asked Sotomayor to issue a preliminary injunction to restore free-agent bidding and salary arbitration, which were unilaterally eliminated by the owners Feb. 6.

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