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Nebraska rained out at Classic

From Staff Reports

Action Tuesday at the Pepsi/Johnny Quik Classic in Fresno, Calif., was rained out and will be made up today. The Nebraska baseball team, 4-12, will play St. John's at 6 p.m.

"I can't say enough good things about our opponents," Nebraska coach John Sanders said last week. "St. John's is a traditional power. They have some darn good ball players. Frank Viola and John Franco both came out of there."

Senior Jason Allen, who held Wyoming to just one run on three hits in six innings last Wednesday, is expected to start today's game.

Thursday's games were canceled with regularly scheduled matchups to resume on Friday. Nebraska's Thursday game against Fresno State has been canceled.

"It all stops and starts with pitching," Sanders said. "We just need to get quicker innings so we can have more rested players to hit and play defense."

Friday and Saturday's games will be determined by today's results. Freshman Seth Williams is expected to make his second start of the season for the Huskers on Friday.

North Platte native eager for NU game

By Gregg Madsen
Staff Reporter

When the Nebraska basketball team travels to Fort Collins, Colo., to face Colorado State in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament on Thursday, one player in the Rams' starting lineup will be out to prove something.



Vogel

Joe Vogel, a 6-foot-11 Colorado State senior from North Platte, said he was eagerly awaiting the 8:30 p.m. contest and the chance to show Nebraskans what they have been missing for the past four years.

"It'll be real nice to show them what I've done since I've been here," Vogel said. "It's going to be exciting to see everyone and show them how much I've improved since high school. I would just like to show them what they could have had."

A three-year starter at center for Colorado State coach Stew Morrill, Vogel said even though he wasn't recruited by Nebraska coach Danny Nee, he didn't harbor any bitterness toward the Husker program.

"I went to some Husker camps when I was in high school and talked to Danny Nee," he said. "But it was a year when they were looking for a 6-7 or 6-8 player with a little more quickness."

Since deciding to attend Colorado State, Vogel has emerged as a defensive force in the Western Athletic Conference, notching eight career double-doubles.

He holds the Ram record for career blocked shots with 178, and he needs only three more blocks this season to set a new single-

"I would just like to show them what they could have had."

JOE VOGEL

Colorado State center

season school record. After breaking his jaw only five games into his senior season, Vogel has come back to average 10.3 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

Against Brigham Young on Feb. 8, Vogel scored a career-high 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while shooting nine for nine from the free-throw line and collecting five blocked shots.

"I was a little rusty when I first came back," he said, "but I think I really started to get my rhythm back a couple of games ago."

While playing for Coach Jim Edwards at North Platte High School, Vogel earned all-state honors and helped lead the Bulldogs to the semifinals of the 1992 state tournament.

Vogel also played on the Nebraska Valentino's All-Star Team with Husker seniors Erick Strickland and Terrance Badgett.

"I'm really excited to get to see them again," Vogel said.

"I think that we can match up out on the perimeter really well. Hopefully, I can get an advantage inside, but offense isn't going to decide this game. Defense is."

Vogel said he hoped his defensive ability would propel him to the professional level next fall.

"That's my dream, right there," he said. "I'm just out there trying my hardest. Maybe I'll go over to Europe and play, but I guess we'll see."

Testing

Continued from Page 7

ing the ball certainly doesn't look like it's going to be a problem with him." Jackson said he had a difficult time comparing running backs, but said Phillips was one of the best he had seen this season. Jackson said he didn't know where Phillips would fit into the NFL draft, however.

"I felt he certainly didn't hurt himself and improved himself," Jackson said. "He is not in a situation where he needed a great workout for his stock to go way up. His stock is already up."

Nebraska assistant coach Frank Solich said Phillips showed the same form evident in the Huskers' Fiesta Bowl victory on Jan. 2, which secured their second straight national title. Phillips rushed for 165 yards on 25 carries in Nebraska's 62-24 win over Florida.

"He's in very good shape right now; he was in excellent shape on Jan. 2," Solich said. "It looks like his conditioning in California went well. His weight was good and his movement was good, which would indicate he spent some time getting ready for this."

Despite being suspended for six games last season, Phillips ran for 547 yards and averaged 7.7 yards per carry in five games.

Tuesday's workout probably won't be Phillips' final one, Frankel said. Some teams will want to conduct private workouts.

Along with Phillips, 14 other former Huskers, including defensive lineman Christian Peter, Berringer, offensive lineman Aaron Graham, running backs Clinton Childs and Jeff Makovicka and defensive backs Tony Veland and Tyrone Williams performed a variety of tests for the scouts.

Several players, not including Phillips, will continue to test Thursday.

Former quarterback Tommie Frazier, who was released Thursday from Bryan Memorial Hospital after being treated for a blood clot in his right leg, attended the workout but did not test for the scouts.

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American Heart Association

Diving

Continued from Page 7

year's team are competing this weekend, junior Kevin Gregory and senior Juli Jones. Before the season, Hocking said he expected a rebuilding year.

But Travis Niemeyer, Danny Bergman and Eric Cook have joined Gregory on the men's side. Freshman divers Nikki Markota and T.D. Rowe will team up with Jones for the Husker women.

Hocking said he had been pleas-

antly surprised at the success of his squads.

"Danny Bergman has really come on," Hocking said. "Travis is our secret weapon. Kevin and Eric have really solidified us."

Niemeyer earned co-Big Eight diver-of-the-year honors. Hocking said a solid outing in the zone meet should propel Niemeyer, a second-semester addition, to the NCAA Championships.

In the conference championships last month, Rowe place fourth in the 1-meter dive and sixth in the 3-meter event.

NIT

Continued from Page 7

NCAA Tournament teams are ranked lower than 140 in the Ratings Power Index.

"In the first-round matchups, there are no mismatches," Nee said. "There are a lot of good basketball teams that are playing in the NIT for one reason or another."

"The best 64 teams are not in the NCAA."

Among the teams that accepted NIT bids after narrowly missing the NCAA Tournament were Providence, Minnesota, Davidson, Missouri, Fresno State and Auburn.

With those teams participating, Nee said, it was a long shot for his team to win the tournament. Oklahoma State, which played in the Final Four last year, turned down an invitation to participate.

Last year in the NIT, Nebraska defeated Georgia 69-61 before losing to Penn State 65-59 in the second round. The Bulldogs, 19-9 this year, and the Nittany Lions, 21-6, both made this season's NCAA Tournament.

Both of those games were in the Bob Devaney Sports Center, where Nebraska has had success in the NIT.

At the Devaney Center, the Huskers are 10-1, but playing on the road is a different story.

On the road in the NIT, the Huskers are 0-1 under Nee and 1-5 in games played away from Lincoln. The last road loss was a second-round defeat at Ohio State 85-74 in the second round of the 1989 NIT. The Huskers defeated Creighton 56-54 in Omaha in the 1984 NIT.

Playing the first game on the road may give the Huskers an advantage later in the tournament, Nee said.

No longer can a team play host to three games in the NIT. In 1987 and 1983, Nebraska played three straight home games en route to making the final four in New York.

"We could prove ourselves on the road and then come back and get a home game, and be positive when we come back home," Nee said. "If you are going to get a road game, I'd rather have it at the front end than the back end."

But Nee said he saw the NIT as a way to salvage something in a disappointing year.

"Our situation was we had a really good season going. We were really rolling along, and then the bottom fell out," Nee said. "Now we are trying to stop the bleeding, turn it around and make something positive."