

SPORTS

Thursday, March 14, 1996

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SPORTS OPINION



Trevor Parks

Schultz's death to impact all at tournament

When the NCAA Wrestling Championships get under way in Minneapolis March 21-23 at the Target Center, a mass healing will take place.

Since Feb. 2, the wrestling community has been mourning the loss of a very important member, Dave Schultz. Schultz won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in the 163-pound class and was a favorite to make the 1996 Olympic team at age 36.

He was killed that Friday in February, however.

He was shot on the estate of one of the most prominent wrestling supporters in the United States, John du Pont. Du Pont is a famed member of the wrestling community who built a training facility for future Olympians on his own property.

At the NCAAs, Schultz's influence will be felt all around.

Oklahoma State coach John Smith wrestled with Schultz at the 1986 Goodwill Games. Smith said not a day went by when he didn't think about his teammate. The meets must continue, however.

"If all the teams can put on a good show, that would be something he'd like to see," Smith said.

Two Cornhuskers, assistant coach Brad Penrith and graduate assistant Matt Demaray, wrestled on du Pont's Foxcatcher wrestling all-star team.

Whether it be the wrestlers or their coaches, almost everyone in Minneapolis next weekend has some tie to Schultz. Minnesota coach J Robinson said by getting everyone together, more people outside the sport could learn about Schultz.

"This is different in that in the sport of wrestling we've never lost someone who was that young," Robinson said. "A lot of people will be talking about what happened, and this will be a good healing process."

That makes these championships more important than the ones held in the past. This year, it doesn't make any difference that Iowa is supposed to dominate again.

The time will be spent honoring one of the sport's legends and reliving a lot of fond memories. No matter if someone gets pinned or records a takedown, everyone there has some other purpose besides wrestling.

On the night Schultz was killed, Iowa was to wrestle Minnesota. Minutes before the meet, both teams decided not to cancel the dual. The reason was: Schultz would have wanted them to wrestle, Iowa coach Dan Gable said.

"It is a good chance for all of us to get together in one place and express our feelings to other people," Gable said.

I'm sure Schultz would be glad to see the sport he loved going on without him.

Parks is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

NU wants to run against Rams

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team begins the beginning of the end tonight in Fort Collins, Colo.

The Cornhuskers, 16-14, play Colorado State, 18-11, at 8:30 p.m. at Moby Arena in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament.

If Nebraska loses, a season in which the Huskers lost 10 of their last 11 games after having a 15-4 record on Jan. 24 will finally be over.

With a win over the Rams, Nebraska would play the winner of Thursday night's Washington State-Gonzaga game in the second round on March 19 at a site to be determined.

Coach Danny Nee said playing Colorado State would be a bonus for his team after struggling throughout the season.

"The philosophy that I have, and that we've approached in our program in our eighth postseason is that it's a reward. It's fun. We shorten the practices. We get after it, and then it's time to play basketball," Nee said.

Against the Rams, Nebraska needs to play extremely well to win, Nee said.

Colorado State is led by All-Western Athletic Conference guard David Evans. Evans is averaging 19.3 points per game, and seven times this season he has scored 28 or more points in a game.

From behind the 3-point arc, Evans is dangerous. He is shooting 40.5 percent and averages three 3-pointers per game. As a team, the Rams average six 3-pointers per game on 15.6 attempts.

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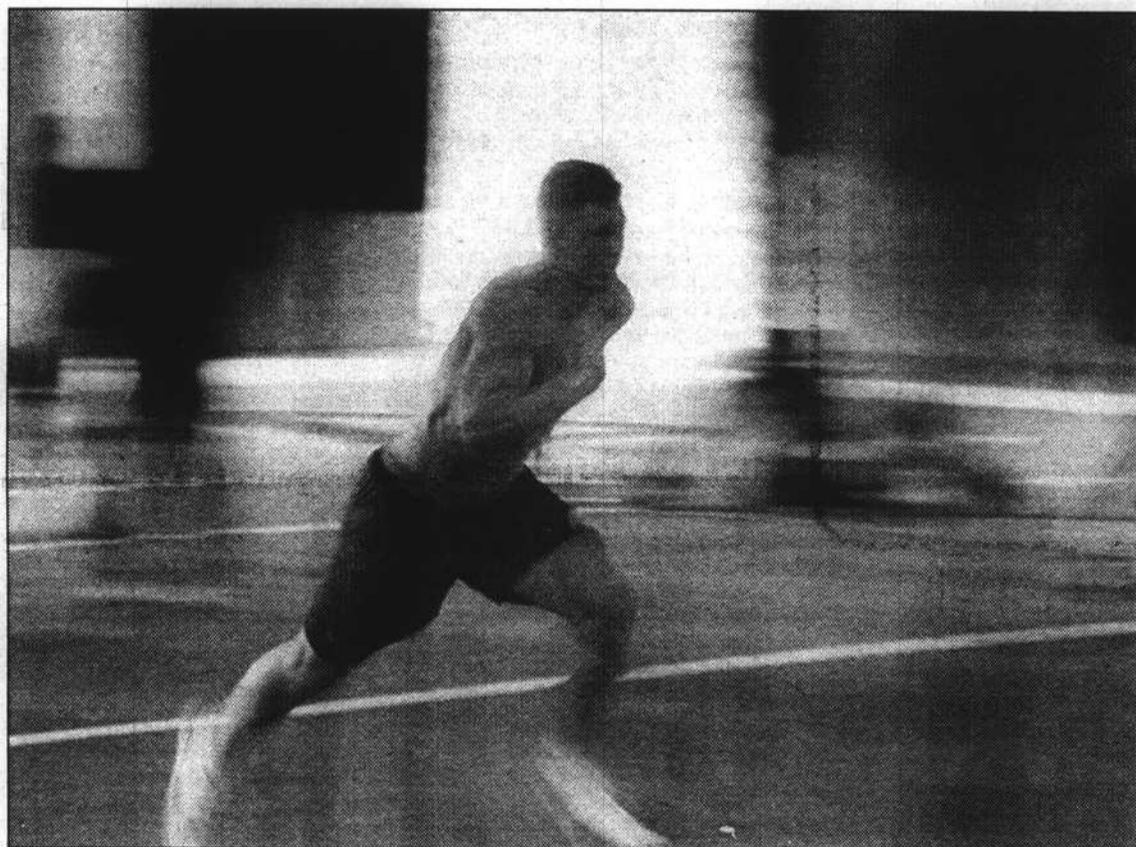
Basketball Starters

Fort Collins, Colo.
Thursday, 8:30 p.m.

Nebraska (16-14)	Ht.	Wt.	Class	PPG	RPG
G Tyronn Lue	6-0	165	Fr.	8.6	3.1
G Jaron Boone	6-6	195	Sr.	14.2	2.7
F Erick Strickland	6-3	210	Sr.	14.3	4.9
F Bernard Garner	6-7	225	Jr.	10.6	6.4
C Mikki Moore	6-9	220	Fr.	9.0	5.5

Colorado St. (18-11)

G Bobby Sellers	6-1	185	Sr.	9.4	1.6
G David Evans	6-1	180	Sr.	19.3	2.5
F Delmonte Madison	6-5	190	Sr.	13.4	4.3
F Matt Barnett	6-8	210	So.	8.3	6.5
C Joe Vogel	6-11	240	Sr.	10.3	6.6



Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost runs the 40-yard dash Wednesday afternoon at Cook Pavilion. Frost, a junior next fall, was timed at 4.62 seconds.

Huskers show off skills

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska football team put its skills to a pre-spring test



Sims

Wednesday afternoon at Cook Pavilion. Players were tested in the vertical jump, pro-agility run, 40-yard dash, and shuttle run.

Final points will be calculated this morning to determine if any records were broken, said Boyd Epley, Nebraska's director of athletic performance.

"From the guys that I saw, there were several players that improved personal bests in all four categories," Epley said.

Players who had personal bests in three out of the four categories will receive a patch as a performance award, Epley said.

Junior-to-be James Sims, an I-back, ran the fastest 40-yard dash of the day with a time of 4.42 seconds.

"I was happy with it," Sims said. "Since I've been here I've just tried to stay consistent. And I have done

"As long as I stay prepared and stay focused, I'll be ready when they call my number."

JAMES SIMS

Nebraska I-back

that every time that we've tested."

Sims was Nebraska's seventh-leading rusher last season, running for 270 yards and three touchdowns on 30 carries. His nine-yard average per carry was No. 1 among Husker running backs.

Sims, who took two weeks off this winter because of his father's death, beat his personal best in the vertical jump with a mark of 41 inches and was one-hundredth of a second from his personal-best 4.41-second 40-yard dash.

"I was real happy with (my performance), and the coaches seem to be happy with it as well," Sims said. "I didn't really get as much of a chance to improve as some of the other guys did."

Epley said he was surprised at Sims' performance after he missed two weeks of winter conditioning. Epley said Sims probably would be close to all of his personal-high marks.

Sophomore I-back Ahman Green, who set personal bests in the

vertical jump and the pro-agility run Wednesday, was not at full strength, Epley said. Green, expected to start next fall, had his tonsils removed earlier this winter and had blood drawn from his left arm Wednesday morning.

"We didn't expect him to do as well as he did," Epley said.

As a freshman last season, Green was Nebraska's leading rusher, gaining a freshman-record 1,086 yards and scoring 13 touchdowns on 141 carries.

Green, who was timed at 4.45 seconds in the 40-yard dash Wednesday, ran a 4.34-second 40-yard dash on Jan. 19 — just one-hundredth of a second from the all-time Nebraska mark set by Keith Jones. Green said he had expected to run well, but was surprised at his time.

"It was a very impressive run," Epley said. "It's one of the best times we have seen in our history."

Spring workouts begin March 25.

NU seeks to stop CSU star

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

Throughout its 19-9 season, the Nebraska women's basketball team never has accelerated to full power, Coach Angela Beck said Wednesday.

"To compete at the NCAA level, every one of our players have to play their best," Beck said. "I really believe my players need to play on all cylinders. We need to get all our cylinders rolling."

On Saturday, Nebraska's engine will be tested when the ninth-seeded Huskers meet Western Athletic Conference champion and eighth-seeded Colorado State, 25-4, at 9 p.m. in the NCAA Tournament West Region's first round in Stanford, Calif.

The winner will play Monday against either second-ranked and top-seeded Stanford or 16th-seeded Grambling State, who play Saturday at 11:30 p.m.

The Huskers' leading players this season often have been inconsistent from night to night, Beck said.

That must end for the NCAA Tournament, she said.

In addition to receiving consistent scoring, she said, the Huskers must operate efficiently at the defensive end, especially against Colorado State freshman guard Becky Hammon.

Hammon is the highest-scoring freshman in the nation, averaging 19.6 points per game. She was named to the WAC all-conference and all-tournament teams and also earned the conference freshman-of-the-year award and the WAC Tournament MVP.

The NCAA Tournament won't be Beck's first opportunity to see Hammon. The 5-foot-6 native of Rapid City, S.D., attended Nebraska's basketball camps and was recruited by the Huskers, Beck said. But Beck opted to sign two junior college players last year and didn't offer Hammon a scholarship.

"Obviously, Hammon is a great player," Beck said. "She's had a tremendous freshman year, probably one of the better freshman years of anyone in the country. I think we have a good defensive scheme to help counter that a little bit."

That scheme will involve Nebraska senior Kate Galligan, who will start the game defending Hammon.

"I got to have a lot of concentration on the defensive end," Galligan said. "I can't let her get hot. If she gets hot, that's going to be a real positive for their team."

"If we can shut her down, they're going to struggle a little bit."