

NIT

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Slowing the backcourt of Evans and Bobby Sellers is important to Nebraska's hopes of winning Thursday, Nee said.

The Rams average 78 points per game and like to push the ball. Despite averaging only 69.4 points per game in their last 13 games, Nee said, the Huskers still like to fast-break, too.

"They get the ball up and down the floor," Nee said. "We still want to run, but we've instituted a half-court execution, and we feel we're pretty good at it."

The Huskers lost 78-64 to Colorado in Boulder on Feb. 28. The Buffaloes are the lone common opponent between Nebraska and Colorado State.

Colorado State beat the Buffaloes 91-71 on Dec. 6 in Fort Collins. In Nebraska's other game against Colorado, the Huskers won 79-74 in Lincoln.

The Rams' inside game features Joe Vogel, a native of North Platte, who averages 2.3 blocks per game.

Nee said Vogel had matured since 1992, when Nee asked Vogel to walk on at Nebraska.

"Vogel had a great shot," Nee said. "He had a beautiful touch, soft hands. All he had to work on was his physical strength. Now he's probably made himself into a second-round draft choice."

Coaches take aim at Iowa

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, five Division I coaches discussed how to beat Dan Gable at his own game — wrestling. Too bad he was listening.

Gable, coach of defending national champion Iowa, talked about the upcoming NCAA Championships with Bobby Douglas of Iowa State, John Smith of Oklahoma State, Tim Neumann of Nebraska, Tom Minkel of Michigan State and J Robinson of Minnesota.

The NCAA Wrestling Championships will be held March 21-23 at the Target Center in Minneapolis.

The coaches, all but Gable, discussed how to overtake the seemingly invincible Hawkeyes.

"Looking at the points, it's Iowa against the field," said Neumann, whose Cornhuskers qualified wrestlers in nine out of 10 weight classes.

Minkel said he saw the NCAA Championships as a chance to beat Iowa.

"Nobody in the tournament is invincible," he said.

Minkel's Spartans were beaten by Iowa at the Big Ten Championships last Sunday.

"It's an unbelievable field out there this year," Gable said.

That field includes Oklahoma State, which also qualified nine wrestlers for the NCAA Championships. Cowboy coach Smith said he knew what it took to beat the Hawkeyes. Oklahoma State won the national championship in 1994.

"Iowa has done a good job, but let's not forget about the other teams out there," Smith said.

It seems a lot of people out there forget that there are other wrestling teams in the NCAA Championships, he said.

Douglas said Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan State and his Iowa State team had made the sacrifices needed to get to the Hawkeyes' level.

"In the near future, six or seven teams will be able to win the national title," Douglas said. "We're

gaining ground on the premier program."

That premiere program is Iowa. "We want to challenge the very best," Minkel said.

Robinson, who is a former assistant coach under Gable at Iowa, said the idea that Iowa was too dominant was "a bunch of malarkey."

"Everybody would love to be there; everybody inspires to be there," he said. "A lot of people wouldn't want to do the work that Iowa does."

Many teams have done the work Iowa does and are ready to challenge them for the title. Douglas said the Hawkeyes had better be ready.

The nation's second- and third-ranked teams, Oklahoma State and Nebraska, will be ready if the Hawkeyes make a mistake, the coaches said.

"This year is wide open and exciting," Douglas said. "Iowa can't slip, or they could all be in there for a big dog fight."

10-run spurt seals win for Huskers

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

Sparked by a 10-run fourth inning, the Nebraska baseball team improved to 5-12 after defeating St. John's 19-6 Wednesday night at the Pepsi/Johnny Quik Classic in Fresno, Calif.

Third baseman Craig Moore gave Cornhuskers a 4-2 lead after hitting his second home run of the season in the fourth inning.

St. John's pitcher Vito Vassallo then allowed the next three Husker hitters to reach base loading the bases for outfielder Matt Meyer.

Meyer hit a grand slam to right center — his second home run of the game and sixth of the season — to give Nebraska an 8-2 lead. Meyer finished with two hits in four at-bats with three runs scored and a career high six RBIs.

Outfielder Mel Motley, who finished with a team high three hits, smacked a one-out double down the right field line and scored on first baseman Todd Sears' single to left.

After two walks, the bases were loaded again for catcher Pete Jenkins, who knocked in a run with a single. Second baseman Corey Miller was credited with an RBI after being hit by a pitch for the second time in the inning.

Miller, who has been beamed five times in the last four games, has been drilled a team high 13 times this season.

Collins knocked in the 10th run of the inning on a fielder's choice, giving the Huskers a 12-2 lead.

Senior Jason Allen started on the mound for the Huskers and allowed six runs on eight hits in 4 2/3 innings pitched. Peter Lythgoe finished the inning and was awarded the win.

Nebraska added seven runs in the fifth inning, powered by Moore's second home run of the game, to give the Huskers a 19-6 lead.

The game ended due to a time limit at the end of seven innings.

NU swings toward Big Eights

By Jason Brunz
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's golf team is looking at a solid spring season after placing in the top 10 in its first two tournaments of the season.

The Cornhuskers tied for seventh place in the Stephen F. Austin-Crown Colony Invitational in Lufkin, Texas, last month. Nebraska recorded scores of 315, 300 and 313 in the 54-hole competition, outscoring Big Eight opponents Missouri and Kansas State.

Junior Trent Morrison led scoring for the Huskers by shooting a 234 in Lufkin.

Nebraska went on to finish third out of 24 teams in the Ben Hogan/Fripp

Island Invitational in Fripp Island, S.C., last weekend.

The Huskers finished the three-day event with a cumulative score of 894. They were led by freshman Josh Madden, who scored a 219 and tied for fifth place.

With the rest of the spring season ahead of them, Coach Larry Romjue said he hoped the Huskers could use the next few competitions as building blocks to the more important tournaments later in the year.

"I think we're on track," Romjue said. "We need to do well in the last two tournaments."

The road to the May 16-18 NCAA Regionals in Ann Arbor, Mich., will be paved by the Huskers' top five golf-

ers, Romjue said.

Morrison led Nebraska's fall season, averaging 75.3 strokes per round in five tournaments with two top 10 finishes. The junior from Brisbane, Australia, is ranked third on the squad.

Madden, from Gold Coast, Australia, has risen to first place on the team after the spring tournaments.

Sophomore Ryan Nietfeldt is second on the team after ending the fall season with a 75.5 average.

Romjue said the upcoming Waterwood Invitational in Huntsville, Texas, March 18-19 would be Nebraska's last warm-up tournament of the season. The Big Eight Championships will be held April 22-23 in Hutchinson, Kan.

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To arrange for an interview, candidates should send a recent full-figure photo in a two-piece swimsuit (or less) plus a head-and-shoulders shot to Playboy's home office in Chicago. Polaroids, snapshots or slides are OK. Candidates should also supply the following information:

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