

NU signs two wrestlers

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

Even though the wrestling season ended March 23 in Minneapolis with the NCAA Wrestling Championships, the Nebraska coaching staff hasn't had a day off.

Coach Tim Neumann has been out recruiting nearly every day, and his work finally paid off by signing two wrestlers.

Nebraska had a huge hole to fill at 150 pounds, and Neumann signed Brad Cooper from Ogallala this week to fill the void left by Jason Kraft, who is moving up to Temoer Terry's 158-pound spot. Terry, a junior last season, will redshirt next season.

Cooper is a two-time state champion who placed second last year at the National Wrestling Coaches Association Tournament.

Nebraska also signed 190-pounder Ryan Coe from Kearney. Coe was a two-time state champion with a record of 66-0 over the past two years. He was the nation's fifth-rated 190-pound recruit.

The fall signing period was even better for Nebraska. Neumann signed four wrestlers, three of whom were

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TIM NEUMANN

Nebraska wrestling coach

rated No. 1 in their weight classes. Brad Vering from Howells was a four-time state champion. He was the top 167-pound recruit in the nation.

Nebraska also signed four-time Kansas state champion Billy Gable, the third-rated recruit at 134 pounds. Gable was the outstanding wrestler in the Kansas state high school tournament the past two years.

Nebraska also signed two top recruits from New Jersey. Heavyweight J.R. Plienis and 118-pounder Todd Beckerman will join the Husker lineup in the fall.

It is likely that Plienis and Beckerman will redshirt in the fall, Neumann said. Plienis will wrestle with and learn from senior-to-be Tolly Thompson, the 1995 heavyweight national champion.

Not all of Nebraska's recruiting

efforts came up roses, however. The Huskers lost three wrestlers during the spring signing period.

David Kjeldgaard, a 142- or 150-pounder from Council Bluffs, Iowa, signed with Oklahoma. Neumann and Oklahoma Coach Jack Spates agreed that Kjeldgaard was the top recruit in the nation.

Nebraska also lost brothers Rocky and Rangi Smart. Rocky, a 142-pounder, and Rangi, a 158-pounder, decided to sign letters of intent with Brigham Young.

"We put in a ton of time, and we thought we were doing real good," Neumann said. "But in recruiting, you come in second, it's like coming in 10th."

Neumann said he was still recruiting three more wrestlers for next year's team.

Drake relays to prepare NU

By Andrew Strnad
Staff Reporter

The end of the semester does not mean the end of the work for the Nebraska track and field teams, which will send most of their team members to Des Moines, Iowa, this week for the Drake Relays.

Four Cornhuskers, however, have a different destination. Willie Hibler, Frank Mensah, Charles Reid and Miklos Roth are off to Philadelphia for the Penn Relays this weekend.

Coming off a strong meet last weekend in Eugene, Ore., in which the Husker men claimed first place with 220 points to outdistance Oregon, Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said he hoped his teams would continue to improve as they approached the conference championship meet.

The Big Eight Championships will be held May 20-21 at the Ed Weir Track in Lincoln.

The 4 x 100-meter relay team of Byron Topps, Hibler, Mensah and long jumper Joe Laster won in Oregon last

weekend with a time of 40.11.

Other Husker standouts included Jonah Kiptarus, who was a double event winner in the 1,500-meter run and the 5,000-meter run. Husker sprinter Tom Fish won the 200-meter dash with a wind-aided time of 21.1 seconds.

Pepin said he was glad to see Fish win the race, especially because he wasn't even expected to run in Oregon because of a leg injury he suffered earlier in the year.

"We were glad to see Tom run so well considering he was very questionable coming into the meet," Pepin said.

On the women's side, the Huskers finished second behind Oregon, but had four individuals capture five first-place honors.

All-American Paulette Mitchell took first place in the hammer throw and the shot put. Fellow All-American Tressa Thompson finished second behind Mitchell in the shot put.

Defending NCAA indoor champions Nicola Martial and Angee Henry

each won their events. Martial took first in the triple jump with a wind-aided leap of 43 feet, 5 1/4 inches, and Henry won the long jump with wind-aided jump of 21-4 3/4.

The Drake Relays, one of the most competitive meets of the year, begin today and will run until Saturday.

The Drake Relays aren't Pepin's favorite meet, but he said his team would be able to gauge its own ability as it takes on the nation's best collegians and professionals.

"I don't particularly like the Drake Relays," he said. "The weather is bad and the meet is so long, but it is a top-notch meet with a lot of tremendous athletes."

The Husker hurdlers will be in Philadelphia this weekend for the Penn Relays, taking a shot at an NCAA record in the 4 x 110-meter shuttle hurdle-relay race.

"We've got three real strong legs," Pepin said, "but if they want to set any sort of record, they are going to have to get a fast time from Miklos."

Frazier will sit out football for a year

From The Associated Press

Tommie Frazier, the former Nebraska quarterback who wrapped up a brilliant college career only to be snubbed by the National Football League, could be on blood thinning medication for up to a year, his doctor said Tuesday.

Frazier told Lincoln television station KOLN that he had decided to take a year off and give the NFL another shot next year.

Frazier, who has declined most interview requests for three months, told the station Tuesday that he would not seek a free-agent deal this year. Frazier, who led the Cornhuskers to two consecutive national championships, was not chosen in the NFL draft over the weekend.

Frazier missed much of the 1994 season after doctors found blood clots in his right leg. After coming back to play in the 1995 Orange Bowl, he played without blood clot problems last season.

But on Feb. 26, Frazier was admitted to Bryan Memorial Hospital and tests showed another blood clot in his right leg. He remained hospitalized for 11 days.

Some NFL analysts, who were skeptical about Frazier's NFL skills after a college career as an option quarterback, said the blood clots might have scared teams away. Frazier was projected as a potential defensive back or running back, but said he would play only quarter-

back. Frazier continues to take blood thinners.

Dr. Deepak Gangahar, Frazier's physician, has said his patient can exercise normally, but cannot take hits. Frazier said Gangahar advised him to sit out from football for one year to recover from his blood clot.

"I did tell him that he could be on blood thinners maybe for one year," Gangahar said Tuesday. "The natural deduction from that is that if he's going to be on those for that long, he cannot play football."

All but 10 percent of the clot was dissolved during Frazier's hospital stay in February, Gangahar said.

"Our plan is to keep his blood thin and let his body dissolve the rest," Gangahar said. "We plan to keep checking him every few months, but I told him I wouldn't be surprised if he's on the medication for up to a year."

Frazier, the school's winningest quarterback and last season's Heisman Trophy runner-up, spent the weekend waiting for a call from an NFL team. He was never called, but Gangahar said Frazier had remained upbeat.

"You just don't see clots in young people, let alone an athlete the caliber of Tommie Frazier," he said. "It's really a sad situation. But he never lets himself get down."

"When I mentioned to him that it could take up to a year, he said, 'Whatever has to be done, has to be done.'"

Berringer memorial fund set up

From Staff Reports

A Brook Berringer memorial fund has been established in Lincoln and Goodland, Kan., in honor of the former Nebraska quarterback who was killed Thursday in a plane crash.

Berringer's mother, Jan Berringer, said she would like to use the money to fulfill her son's dream.

He had intended to spend part of his National Football League signing bonus to help his older sister, Nicoel, with medical school expenses at Kansas, and his younger sister, Drue, finish her degree at Kansas State.

If money is left over, the Berringer family will establish a memorial scholarship in Berringer's name in either Goodland or at UNL.

Those wishing to contribute to the memorial fund may send a check or money order to: The Brook Berringer Memorial Fund, c/o First National Bank of Goodland Trust Dept., P.O. Box 570, Goodland, Kan. 67735.



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The Board of Regents and the President of The University of Nebraska cordially invite you to attend the investiture of Dr. James Moeser as the eighteenth Chancellor of The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Friday, the twenty-sixth of April, nineteen hundred and ninety-six at half past three o'clock in the afternoon.

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Reception to follow in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Sculpture-Garden.

The ceremony will be carried "live" on KRNU radio 90.3 FM and UNL campus channel 8. The ceremony will be broadcast on Monday, April 29, 1996, from 10 a.m. to noon on UNL campus channel 8 and on NEBSAT Network 2 located on Space Net 3 Channel 4 C band (set satellite receivers to narrow video band width).