

NU tennis heads to tourneys

By Vince D'Adamo
Staff Reporter

The Big Eight farewell tour continues this weekend with the end of the conference tennis tournament.

The Nebraska men's squad will get its weekend under way today at 10 a.m. as the No. 5 seed against fourth-seeded Oklahoma at the Plaza Tennis Center in Kansas City, Mo.

The winner will face top-seeded Kansas.

"We feel as though we have nothing to lose and everything to gain," Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said. "This is it. If we can win a round, it would be a good star."

Nebraska dropped its last match 4-3 against Colorado last weekend. The No. 1 doubles tandem of Adrian Maizey and Dinko Verzi rolled up another win, however, improving their record to 8-2.

"The amazing thing is that they are still getting used to one another," McDermott said. "They rank right up there with the best doubles teams that I have coached."

Thomas Wheat and Verzi have been the Cornhuskers' most consistent singles players this year.

Nebraska lost to Oklahoma two weeks ago in Lincoln, but McDermott said he thought his team had a slight edge heading into today.

The Husker women, who are 5-15 this season, are the sixth seed in the women's tournament, which begins at 1 p.m. today in Kansas City. Kansas is favored to win the title.

NU won't overlook 4-38 Texas Tech

By Jason Brunz
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team's fight to the Big 12 Tournament continues this weekend in Lincoln.



Revelle

The two will play the third and final game of the series at noon Sunday.

Coach Rhonda Revelle said Nebraska wasn't underestimating the Red Raiders, a first-year program that has lost 24 of its last 25 games.

"They're a scrappy, never-say-die type of team," Revelle said. "We're going to come out and be aggressive."

The Huskers began the week after losing five straight games last week to Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

On Wednesday, Nebraska regained its winning ways, sweeping a doubleheader from intrastate rival Creighton, 5-1 and 3-0.

UNO

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"He's a real gutsy pitcher," Sanders said, "he gives a real good effort every time out."

The Mavericks rallied in the fifth inning, thanks to a Joe Cunningham grand slam to cut the Husker lead to 10-9.

Sanders said he was impressed with the Mavericks. The games were UNO's first against a Division I opponent this year.

"I tip my hat to UNO," Sanders said. "Credit UNO. They did a good job."

Nebraska responded with a four-

The Huskers hope that by sweeping the series with Texas Tech and winning their final four conference games, they will receive a favorable seeding in the Big 12 Tournament, May 10-12 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Senior infielder Gloria Von Rentzell said winning three games this weekend was the first step to achieving a good seed.

"It's really important that we win," Von Rentzell said. "We're really confident after these last two wins."

Nebraska is excited to play the Red Raiders, pitcher Cody Dusenberry said, and face the challenges that will follow.

"We'll do what we need to get the outcome we want," Dusenberry said. "We want it all, but we need to play each game as if it's our last."

The Huskers are trying to remain focused for the rest of the season and avoid another losing skid, Von Rentzell said.

After the three-game set with Texas Tech, Nebraska will play a doubleheader at Iowa State on May 4, and end the regular season with two games against conference-leader Oklahoma State in Lincoln, May 6.

"My goal is from here on out to win every game," Von Rentzell said, "and let the end take care of itself."

run sixth inning. Sears led off the inning with a walk and later scored a Craig Moore RBI double. Sears finished the game 1 for 1 with five walks and five runs scored.

The Huskers batted around in the seventh as senior Mel Motley was hit by a pitch to start a five-run rally. Motley later scored on a Pete Jenkins sacrifice fly.

The Huskers will have nine days off before facing Wayne State in a doubleheader May 5. The Big Eight prohibits teams to play during finals week.

UNO coach Bob Gates complained of arm pains after game two. He was sent to Lincoln General Hospital by ambulance.

Christie top NU finisher

From Staff Reports

Although the Nebraska men's gymnastics team did not compete as a full team at the NCAA Championships in Stanford, Calif., that did not stop it from having some success.

In five of the six events, a Cornhusker finished in the top four at Maples Pavilion Thursday night.

Senior Jason Christie gave a good showing for Nebraska, finishing fourth or better in four events.

Christie finished third in the vault with a 9.85, fourth in the parallel bars with a 9.725, scored a 9.85 in the floor exercise and placed second in the high bar with a 9.875. In the all-around, Christie was 10th overall with a combined total of 56.6.

Junior Ted Harris scored a 9.85 on the still rings, finishing second behind Ohio State's Blain Wilson, who scored a 9.875.

Freshman Marshall Nelson placed third, scoring a 9.825 in the pommel horse. Nelson ended up 20th in the all-around with a score of 54.35.

Other Husker finishers of note were Don Kinison (eighth on the floor with a 9.75), Ryan McEwen (37th in the pommel horse) and Bill Mulholland (19th in the parallel bars.)

In team scoring, host Stanford won the competition with a 231.150. California scored a 231.00 and Ohio State scored a 230.875 as the three teams advanced to the finals.

Gym

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193.975-193.95. No. 2 seed Georgia won the even-seed bracket with a 196.4 as No. 6 UCLA finished second, scoring a 195.3.

In the evening session, No. 1 seeded Alabama (196.325), No. 3 Utah (196.00) and No. 9 Oregon State (195.7) finished in the top three, reaching the finals.

Those six teams make up this year's Super Six and will battle for the national championship tonight at 7 p.m. Nebraska's goal of making the Super Six looked reachable all day long. The Huskers led Michigan after each rotation up until the final event. But both teams scored well below their season averages in each event.

"We had a rough day at the office," Michigan Coach Bev Plocki said. "My heart goes out to Nebraska. They did a great job today."

The Wolverines had falls on the balance beam, uneven bars and in the floor exercise before going a perfect 6 for 6 on landings in the vault. The lowest Michigan vault score was a 9.825.

Junior all-arounder Wendy Marshall scored a 9.925 on the vault. Marshall finished sixth in the all-around with a 39.350. "I've never worked that hard for an event in my entire life," Marshall said.

Kendig said he felt confident when the Huskers rotated to the beam.

"I thought we could hold on," he said. "I guess I was equally surprised at our low score and their high score."

Nebraska did not have any qualifiers for the individual finals, which will be held Saturday at 6 p.m.

The best score of the day for the Huskers was a 9.85 on the uneven bars by junior Kim DeHaan.

Despite a participating with a broken foot, freshman Laurie McLaughlin scored a 9.75 on the uneven bars.

Joy Taylor tied Shelly Bartlett in the all-around with a 38.875. The two finished in seventh place.

Despite the loss, Kendig remained positive about making the NCAA final 12 for the second consecutive season.



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