

Youth, talent side with Huskers

By JAY SAUNDERS
Staff Reporter

This fall's Nebraska men's and women's tennis teams have one thing in common. Coaches Kerry McDermott and Scott Jacobsen both have teams filled with young talent.

McDermott, the men's coach, said most of his top six positions remain up in the air. The coach got a good look at his team at the recent Tom Fallon Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

The tournament had four different draws, varying on talent level, and the Cornhuskers had success in three of them.

In the "A" draw, junior Marcus Berghheim got to the finals of the con-

solation match. McDermott said Berghheim and sophomore Dinko Verzi will challenge for the top spot.

"Those two are in charge right now," McDermott said. "Dinko is playing real strong but he hasn't had a big win to boost his confidence yet."

In the "B" draw, freshman Todd Nicholl got to the semifinals of the main competition and senior Fredrik Reisbeck got to the quarterfinals. Freshman Andrew Weise lost his first match in the "C" draw, then won four straight matches to win the consolation bracket.

McDermott said his team is using the fall season to see where it stands and to see what it needs to do before the spring season.

"We know we are better than we

have been in the last five years," McDermott said. "The guys don't know where they fit in because there is a lot of closeness. That should make for a better team."

Jacobsen, the women's coach, said his team's skill level is "as fine as it has ever been."

The Huskers come into the season with only two seniors, Annie Yang and Kristie Bilecky. Despite little experience, Jacobsen said, the team's leadership is strong.

"There are a lot of leaders on this team," Jacobsen said.

The younger players include two freshmen and a sophomore. Freshman Sandra Noetzel is expected to play a vital role this season, Jacobsen said.

Upstart Cats aim to break Husker run

By ERIC RINEER
Staff Reporter

The Kansas State volleyball team has started off what seems to be a promising year with big wins over Iowa and Colorado State.

KSU has compiled a 12-1 record, their best start in school history, and hope to take their winning to the next level with a victory over No. 7 Nebraska Saturday night at the NU Coliseum.

The Wildcats, who have never beaten Nebraska in 52 attempts, are led by middle blocker Kate DeClerk. This week the 6-foot-2 senior was named the Big 12 player of the week and the AVCA national player of the week.

DeClerk hit an NU Coliseum record 889 with 16 kills in a three-game win last Friday over Colorado State in the First Bank Invite.

DeClerk and senior Toie Young — from Omaha Burke High School — have been the driving force behind KSU's hot start. But the main difference between this year and last season, in which KSU finished 21-12 and fifth in the Big Eight, is youth, Coach Jim Moore said.

"Our improvement this year is due to our freshman recruiting class," said Moore, in his fourth season at Kansas State. "We have four freshman who are all good players. It gives the team a lot more depth. It really helps to have 11 or 12 players that are solid."

While KSU's depth has helped it get off to a solid start, its tough matches lie ahead. The Wildcats play Colorado in Boulder tonight before heading to Lincoln. A win in both matches would almost certainly earn KSU its first-ever ranking.

'Developing' Huskers face KU, K-State

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strong defense.

"Our offense is coming along pretty well," he said. "We're starting to work more as a team."

"We need to start putting more energy into the team and less into individuality," Pettit said. "The team has to have accountability for our mistakes."

Leadership was a question coming into the season, but Krondak said everyone is begin to expect more.

"The whole team is demanding more of themselves and the team," Krondak said.

Middle blocker Lisa Avery, a reshirt freshman, will not play this weekend — or for the next five weeks — after a stress fracture in her left femur was discovered last week.

Aggie coach hopes to ice NU streak

By PETER MARHOEFER
Staff Reporter

Texas A&M Soccer Coach G. Guerrieri does not want to hear the weather forecast for Lincoln this weekend — unless it's going to be warm.

"Were real concerned about the weather," Guerrieri said. "The lower 70s is cold for us."

After posting a 5-0 win over 1995 NCAA Final Four participant Southern Methodist and 2-1 win over ninth-ranked Florida, No. 6 Texas A&M (8-0) starts a six game-road trip with games at Iowa State on Friday, and a Sunday showdown with No. 10 Nebraska.

"The Huskers are real physical," Guerrieri said. "We hope the game won't turn into a bloodbath."

The Aggies return nine players from a team that beat Nebraska 2-0 last year in College Station, Texas. This fall, A&M added Melanie Wilson, the goalkeeper on the U.S. Youth National Team.

Sunday's game may decide the Big 12 regular-season title, Guerrieri said.

"Playing at Nebraska, A&M is definitely the underdogs," Guerrieri said. "Most people are not going to expect us to win this game."

By the way, Sunday's forecast calls for a high temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

Coach Dirksen calls next meet most difficult

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska cross country team will be in action Saturday at the Minnesota Invitational in Minneapolis.

Cornhusker Coach Jay Dirksen said the meet will feature some of the season's most difficult competition.

"It's going to be a very tough meet," Dirksen said. "Six of the top 25 teams in the country are going to be there."

Juniors Cleophus Boor and Jonah Kiptarus will lead the way for the men, Dirksen said.

The meet will be the first competition of the season for Kiptarus. Boor won the men's race last Saturday at the Woody Greeno Nebraska Invitational in Lincoln.

Missing from the 14th-ranked Husker men's lineup will be senior Balazs Tolgyesi and junior Philip Maiyo. Dirksen said Tolgyesi will compete in the Oct. 12 Auburn Invitational, but Maiyo will still be questionable because of a knee injury.

"I don't know how we can do in there with not everybody in the lineup," he said. "I suspect that it will be conference time before we start hitting on all cylinders."

As difficult as the men's division appears, Dirksen said, the women's side may be even more challenging.

Senior Christina Blackmer and junior Nora Shepherd will have to give a nearly flawless effort to finish as high as they did last week in Lincoln, Dirksen said. Shepherd was second in the women's race and Blackmer finished fifth.

"I was really pleased with the women last week," he said. "But I'm not sure how we're going to do against this kind of competition."

Stars set to debut in USHL

By ANDREW STRNAD
Staff Reporter

The ice at the State Fair Park Coliseum has not been laid, but the Lincoln Stars are ready to go, preparing to make their United States Hockey League debut Saturday night.

The Stars, a first-year expansion club, travel to Iowa to take on the Sioux City Musketeers in what Assistant Coach Chad Johnson hopes will be the beginning of a successful season.

"We're looking forward to this," Johnson said. "We've worked hard during the pre-season, and it's time to get started."

The Stars finished the pre-season 1-4, but despite the losing record, Johnson expects Lincoln to compete well in every game.

"This league is very competitive, and we plan on being a part of it," Johnson said.

The Stars will dress 20 players of their 26-man roster and start the season with four road games before making their first home appearance on Oct. 25 against intrastate foe the Omaha Lancers.

The Stars will begin practice at their new home on Monday. The finishing touches on the ice are taking place this week.

Johnson's brother, Steve Johnson, is the stars head coach. Lincoln's captain is former Rochester Mustang defenseman Louis Mass.

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