

Giese's victory sets tone for NU

By **ANTONE OSEKA**
Senior Editor

After finishing fifth at the Mat Town Invitational last weekend, the Nebraska wrestling team needed to rebound before its dual against Pittsburgh Wednesday night.



Giese

The Cornhuskers did just that.

The 16th-ranked Panthers, who finished fourth at Mat Town, fell 25-13 to NU at the Bob Devaney Sports Center before a crowd of 338 on poster night.

Nebraska, ranked 13th, swept the first six matches of the night, starting with a 6-3 win by Darin Giese at 118 pounds. Nebraska Coach Tim Neumann said that Giese's win was crucial in gaining momentum.

"Giese set the tone for the match," Neumann said. "For him, confidence is the whole ball of wax."

Giese's win over Chris Stevens was followed by Husker victories through 158 pounds. At 126 pounds, Jeramie Welder took over with a 7-5 win over Rob Loper. Nebraska then led the dual 6-0.

Junior Brad Canoyer carried the victories through 134 pounds with an 8-6 win over Chad Jesko. Allen Hankins, NU's 142-pounder, kept the streak alive, beating Mike Dixon 14-5, a major decision, to give Nebraska a 13-0 lead.

Nebraska won the next two weights, 150 and 158, to nearly put the match out of reach for the Panthers. At 150, sophomore Ryan Bauer came

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TIM NEUMANN
NU wrestling coach

back from a 2-1 deficit at the end of the first period to beat Larry Sprecher 8-5, keeping the momentum on Nebraska's side.

Pittsburgh Coach Randy Stottlemeyer said 150 was a key weight for the Panthers.

"We still had a shot at 150," he said. "If we win that, we're still in it."

Jason Kraft, ranked No. 10 in the nation at 158 pounds came out next for the Huskers and won 8-4 over Jacob Schaus, who lost to Kraft 6-5 at Mat Town. Both were outstanding wrestlers in New York while in high school.

That put the Huskers on top 19-0.

Nebraska lost its next three matches, bringing the Panthers to within six points at 19-13. The Husker decline started with a forfeit at 167 pounds. Joe Flasnick lost 7-1 at 177 pounds, and Scott Munson lost 12-4 at 190 pounds.

Nebraska heavyweight Ryan Coe, filling in for third-ranked Tolly Thompson, accepted a forfeit at heavyweight to end the dual 25-13.

"I had no clue how we were going to do," Neumann said. "There's not a lot of proven stallions on this team."

The last spot on the team with a proven stallion is 167 pounds. Starter Monte Christensen and freshman Brad Vering are out with injuries. Neumann doesn't expect either of them back until Nebraska's next home dual, Jan. 2 against West Virginia and Ohio State.

Huskers live dream season

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tory over No. 7 Texas A&M, the Huskers' newfound conference rival.

In the Big 12 championship game, Nov. 10 in St. Louis, NU beat the Aggies again by the same count in overtime to claim the first Big 12 Tournament championship.

"We knew it was going to be tough," said Eddleman, who scored the game-winning goal. "Definitely, the Big 12 championship game

boosted our confidence to make it to the Elite Eight."

The Huskers not only achieved their preseason goal of qualifying for the NCAA Tournament, but they made a great deal of noise in the postseason. In the first round, NU defeated Minnesota 3-2 in sudden-death overtime, followed by a 3-0 blasting of Duke in the second round.

"We knew we could play with these teams," said Uppinghouse, who figures to contend for national honors as a senior next fall. "We

have made a name for ourselves. But we're no longer going to be the underdog."

Next year, the Huskers roster will be stocked with upperclassmen, another first for the program. NU has been invited to play in a Houston tournament with A&M, and North Carolina, which for years has dominated collegiate soccer.

Walker said he also hopes to schedule a rematch with Portland during the spring season.

"We're only going to schedule the best teams," Walker said.

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