## to face N.D. State

By Antone Oseka Senior Editor

The Nebraska wrestlers travel to Bismarck, N.D., to take on North Dakota State in a 7:30 dual tonight.

It's a homecoming for Cornhuskers Darin Giese, Jeramie Welder and Ryan Thompson, who finished second to Bauer, all standouts at Bismarck High

"I have no idea what North Dakota in the finals. State has," NU Coach Tim Neumann Three Hu our gas tanks to compete with them."

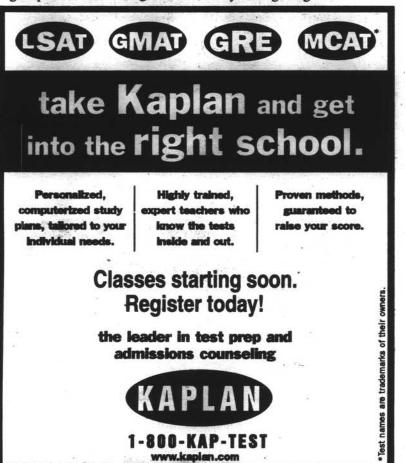
eighth place at the Las Vegas Invita- ists by coming in eighth.

tional last weekend in Las Vegas. Big 12 Conference rival Iowa State won the meet with 134.5 points.

They won it last year, too," he said. "I seem to remember we still beat them last year, in the dual and at Big Eights."

Nebraska finished without a champion in Las Vegas. The highest finisher was third-ranked heavyweight Tolly fourth-ranked Stephen Neal of Cal State-Bakersfield. Thompson lost 4-2

Three Huskers turned in fifth-place said. "I hope we have enough left in finishes. Welder (126 pounds), Brad Canoyer (134) and 10th-ranked Jason The 13th-ranked Cornhuskers Kraft (158) all placed fifth. Giese, a scored 75.5 team points to finish in 118-pounder, rounded out the medal-



## Huskers address turnover problem

By DAVID WILSON Staff Reporter

In six games this season, the Nebraska men's basketball team has committed an average of 20.6 turnovers per game.

That's too many, Coach Danny Nee said, and while the Huskers have slipped past five of six foes this season, the tough portion of their schedule has not yet begun.

The turnover factor is really a problem," Nee said Saturday after the Cornhuskers' 73-68 victory over Bowling Green. "We have to settle down and improve our passing."

After Wednesday night's game at Missouri-Kansas City, NU will play No. 17 Minnesota in Lincoln before heading to the San Juan Classic, a tournament in which the Huskers could face No. 7 Cincinnati, Mississippi State or 16th-ranked Fresno State.

All that before the Big 12 scason begins.

The Huskers, who have outshot their opponents 49.3 percent to 38.4 percent this season, have committed 124 turnovers to their opponents' 96.

But Nee remained optimistic about the slippery fingers of NU's young players, four of whom had never played college basketball before this season.

"We have to learn to take care of the ball," Nee said. "But I think we can improve the turnovers. I know we have to. That could be our Achilles' heel.'

True freshmen guard Cookie Belcher, who has played 187 minutes, third most on the team, has committed 17 turnovers, tying him for second on the team behind

RANDOLPH

We have to stay focused, or getting a lead doesn't mean anything."

> MIKKI MOORE NU center

Tyronn Lue's 23.

"I just think it's a lack of concentration," Belcher said. "A lot of times we see a man open, but the next second, there's a man on him. I think we just kind of force things too much. Once we get our turnovers down, we'll be a good team."

Lue said he admits that he needs to improve. The flu that hindered him in the Ameritas Classic last weekend may have played a part in his 11 turnovers.

'I've been careless with the ball," Lue said. "Mentally, I'm thinking about too much, but I've got to learn to play through this."

After NU's 88-72 win last Friday over Coppin State, senior Mikki Moore said he discussed the problem with his teammates. Nebraska turned the ball over 27 times in the victory.

"That's too many," Moore said. "I got on them about that. I've got a right to talk now. We have to stay focused, or getting a lead doesn't mean anything."

But so far this season, Lue said, the positives have outweighed the problems for the 5-1 Huskers.

"We still find a way to win," he said. "That's the important thing. I think we'll be OK.

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## NU wary of regional foes

VOLLEY on page 7

Crnich said, the Huskers will need a top defensive performance.

In the win over Arkansas, the Huskers played inspired offense but turned in one of their weakest defensive performances of the year.

The Huskers, who have held opposing teams to just .130 hitting this season, allowed Arkansas to post a .270 percentage. The Razorbacks' total was the highest allowed by NU this season and marked only the fourth time that a team has hit higher than .200 against

"I was really disappointed in our blocking and in myself, and the team as far as defense went," Reitsma said.

Pettit attributed some of NU's problems to a lack of focus and mental preparation.

The Huskers, who have nine freshmen and sophomores on their roster, lack NCAA Tournament experience, Pettit said. Only four players on the team-Reitsma, Crnich, senior Maria Hedbeck, and sophomore transfer Megan Korver — have seen extensive postseason playing time.

"On the bench before the match, I said that I didn't think we were ready to play," Pettit said. "I think some people were. Kate was. Reitsma was. Some of our more experienced people were ready. But I think some of our other people just figured it was just another match, and that one way or the other we'd win it.

"But that's not the way it goes in the NCAA Tournament, because teams know that if they lose, they're done."

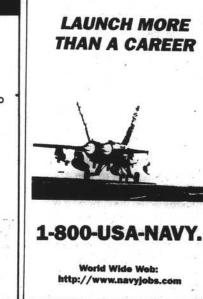
Crnich, who hammered 25 kills in the national championship match last season, recorded 12 kills and a teamhigh 10 digs Saturday against the Razorbacks.

We had players who had moments that they were playing really well," Crnich said, "but it wasn't consistent. If you have one person on the court who's not as excited as the rest of us, then you can forget about playing a good match."



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