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NEBRASKA

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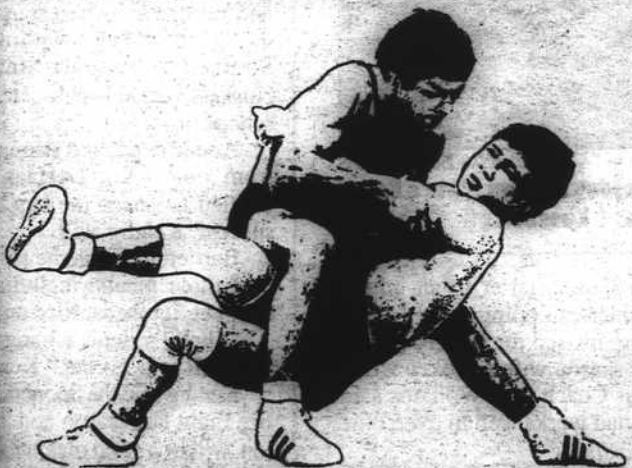
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NEBRASKA

# wrestling

Nebraska vs.  
Iowa State

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# NU wrestles ISU in final home dual

By ANTONE OSEKA  
Staff Reporter

One final time the mats will roll out as the Nebraska wrestling team plays host to its final dual of the season.



Douglas

when they lost four spots in the national rankings, dropping from third to seventh. ISU went 2-3 finishing sixth in the Cliff Keen National Duals Jan. 18-19.

Iowa State (4-5-1) has lost twice to top-ranked Oklahoma State, No. 2 Iowa, fourth-ranked Penn State and No. 6 Michigan State. The Cyclones tied No. 16 Pennsylvania.

Coach Bobby Douglas said his team struggles in dual meets.

"We're a better tournament team," Douglas said. "We're an average top

20 team in dual meets. Any one of them could beat us."

Especially Nebraska.

The Huskers went 3-2 in the National Duals finishing seventh, one spot behind ISU. NU is also coming off a big win over Wyoming last weekend.

Nebraska Coach Tim Neumann said the Cyclones will test the Huskers.

"They're a challenge for us," Neumann said. "I expect it to come down to the last three weights."

The last wrestler for the Huskers, heavyweight Tolly Thompson, is wrestling his last match for Nebraska. Thompson, the most successful wrestler in Nebraska history, shattered the career wins record earlier this month. At 158 pounds, Jason Kraft will also wrestle his final home meet for the Huskers.

"It'd be nice if they could go out with something special," Neumann said. "I'm sure they're both going to win."

Neumann said he expects Iowa State to put forth its best to stop Thompson and Kraft from winning their final home dual.

"They're probably going in favored just a little bit," Neumann said.

Douglas, however, thinks the dual is "up in the air."

"Nebraska's a well-coached team. I expect a good match."

Both coaches agree that NU holds advantages in three classes and ISU holds an advantage in three other classes so the four weights left are tossups.

Iowa State is favored at 126 pounds with No. 4 Dwight Hinson, at 150 pounds with Chris Bono and at 177 pounds with Berry Weldon. All three wrestlers are rated in the top five in the country.

Neumann said he expects great individual matches at 126 and 167 pounds.

Nebraska 134-pounder Brad Canoyer, the 158-pound Kraft and Thompson are favored.

Neumann hopes to use the momentum from the win over Wyoming along with a good performance from younger wrestlers Scott Munson, 190 pounds, and 167-pounder Monte Christensen to win the dual for the Huskers.

Douglas said his team is going to need to win those same matches to take a win back to Ames.

"We expect a dog fight," he said. "It's always a good match."

# Washington weary of NU crowd

By MIKE KLUCK  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Coach Angela Beck would like to see at least 10,000 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday afternoon when the Cornhuskers face No. 12 Kansas.



Washington

Washington, but not 10,000.

"I understand why she (Beck) wants a good crowd," Washington said. "But we want to have a crowd to play in front of. Women's basketball is looking for fan support, but more importantly, people need to start appreciating this game."

"Women's basketball is very exciting, and no doubt Sunday's game will be an exciting ball game."

Both No. 12 KU and Nebraska have put some excitement in their games this season.

Nebraska (16-1 overall and 7-1 in the Big 12) is off to its best start in school history after defeating Iowa State 76-52 Thursday night. Kansas improved to 15-3 and 6-1 after beating 11th-ranked Texas Tech 69-52

Thursday in Lawrence.

The Jayhawks' three losses this season have been to then-No. 4 Tennessee, No. 1 Connecticut and 10th-ranked Texas.

"We've been in situations this season for our team to have some success," Washington said. "All of our losses have come by the way of nationally-ranked teams."

One of the reasons the Jayhawks have had success is the play of their All-American candidate Tamecka Dixon. The 5-foot-9 senior guard averages 21.1 points per game, but in her last three outings Dixon has averaged 27 points.

Despite the Jayhawks' loss to Texas last week, Dixon was named Big 12 Conference player of the week for her performance. Kansas lost to 10th-ranked Texas 82-72, but defeated Big 12 rival Colorado 61-58 at Allen Fieldhouse. Against the Buffaloes, the Huskers rallied from a 14-point first-half deficit.

The 5-9 senior from Linden, N.J., also leads KU in steals — 2.5 per game — assists — 3.9 a game — and is second on the team in rebounding, grabbing 5.4 boards a game.

"She's doing everything we have asked of her and probably more," Washington said. "She's really stepped up her scoring and she's playing much more consistent. I'm really pleased."

Against Nebraska, Dixon has really stepped up her play.

## Women's Basketball Starters

Sunday, 4 p.m.  
Devaney Center

Nebraska 16-1 (6-1)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F	22 Tina McClain	5-10	Sr.
F	30 Anna DeForge	5-11	Jr.
C	33 Charlie Rogers	6-2	Fr.
G	24 Jami Kubik	5-11	Jr.
G	20 LaToya Doage	5-6	Sr.

Kansas 15-3 (6-1)

F	34 Lynn Pride	6-2	Fr.
F	51 Jennifer Trapp	6-1	Sr.
C	43 Nakia Sanford	6-3	So.
G	30 Angie Halbleib	5-10	Sr.
G	33 Tamecka Dixon	5-9	Sr.

In two games last season, Dixon scored 62 points against NU. Dixon scored 35 points in Kansas' 94-85 win over NU Feb. 11, 1996 — the second most she scored in her career.

Washington said the Jayhawks could not do without their team leader.

"Tamecka is somewhat like the heartbeat of our team," Washington said. "It helps us tremendously for her to play the game and it would be a key loss for us."

# Huskers play host to Razorbacks

By ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

Two of the nation's elite track and field programs will clash Saturday afternoon at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track.



Pepin

with Nebraska in the Nebraska Quadrangular.

The NU women will also compete against the Razorbacks, KSU and Division II women's champion Abilene Christian.

The meet, which will showcase several All-Americans, begins at 11:30 a.m. Nebraska Coach Gary Pepin said

he expects the meet to be as competitive as any the Cornhuskers take part in this season.

"This is the kind of meet where we can have a good, strong showing and still finish in third place," Pepin said.

The Arkansas men are a big favorite to win the NCAA indoor title in March, and Pepin said the Razorbacks are close to being a perfect team.

"They've got the complete package," Pepin said. "I'd say they're favored to win the NCAA Championships by about 40 points."

The top-ranked Razorbacks reeled off 12 straight men's indoor titles from 1984 to 1995 before George Mason stole the crown last season.

Abilene Christian isn't new to the Nebraska Quadrangular meet. The Wildcats finished ahead of the Husker men a year ago. Pepin said Abilene Christian will field another fine team Saturday.

"Abilene is definitely a Division I-caliber team," Pepin said. "They've had a lot of injuries early this year,

but they have the athletes to compete with Arkansas."

The Huskers are battling some early-season injuries as well. Sprinters Byron Topps and Jamel Williams — formerly a Sam linebacker on the NU football team — are nursing sore legs. Tom Fish remains the only healthy sprinter on the men's side.

The status of indoor 55-meter record-holder Riley Washington is still undetermined. Washington will not compete until after his trial for second-degree attempted murder and use of a firearm to commit a felony.

"We'd certainly like to see Riley out here running, but we'll just have to see what happens with his current situation," Pepin said.

The Husker women are favored to win the meet this weekend. Competing in her first event of the year is junior heptathlete Janet Blomstedt. Blomstedt, who has been plagued by a lower-back injury since last spring, joins the NU lineup this weekend. She competed unattached in last week's Nebraska Open.