

Myatt shifts gears

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coach, said Myatt's hard work has paid off and she has made the transition easily.

"Jill has done well," Maxwell said. "She works hard in practice to make herself a better sprinter."

In addition to being four-time Big Eight Champion — winning two titles on the 4 x 400 relay team and the 600-yard run in two outdoor meets — Myatt is regarded as a leader of the team.

"Some people are vocal when it comes to being a leader, but I prefer to lead by example," Myatt

said. "Team unity is something that I encourage because as well as being an individual sport, it's also a team sport, and unity is very important."

Myatt said the Huskers — who have won 17 consecutive indoor titles — are the co-favorites along with Texas at this weekend's Big 12 meet.

"Texas is loaded, but if we can come together and perform to our capabilities I believe we can win," she said. "We work so hard during the year, and no award would match a fourth indoor title."

Coaches ready for meet

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Sophomore Nanceen Perry's 23.51 seconds in the 200-meter dash is by far the nation's fastest time this year. Senior Donna Howard and sophomore Suziann Reid own the top two spots in the country in the 400-meters. The 4 x 400-meter relay team also owns the quickest time in the nation.

On the men's side, Iowa State is one team that will try to prevent NU from claiming the first Big 12 title. Cyclone Men's Coach Steve Lynn said the Huskers will be the favorite at home, but there are other teams who could take home the league trophy.

"Oklahoma is the strongest they've been since 1977," Lynn said. "They have more sure points than anyone else."

"Texas is very strong in the field events and they'll bring a solid team. Texas is an unknown. They've had some great performances and I don't think they've run everyone."

ISU brings a team with six All-Americans to the meet, including Frank Nwankpa. Lynn said Nwankpa will be a contender in the

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STEVE LYNN
ISU track and field coach

60- and 200-meters.

Lynn said the meet will be tremendous and the addition of the Texas schools has added depth and quality to the conference. However, more than just strong performances will win the meet for someone, he said.

"Anytime you win, you get a few breaks," Lynn said. "You have to get on a roll and don't screw up. We just hope we get into the meet and have the performances and breaks to be in it at the end."

Krapfl eager for top 10 spot

By SAM MCKEWIN
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's golf team looks to build on the most successful fall season in school history when it opens the spring season next week.



Krapfl

Although NU Coach Robin Krapfl said she doesn't think her team will finish in the top 10 in the tournament, next week will be a good early positive test for NU.

"We may not finish very high in the tournament," Krapfl said, "but that's not a high priority. We want to build toward the end of the spring,

when the really important tournament records are."

This year the team will build around junior Rachele Tacha. Tacha is ranked 40th in the nation, and in the fall she averaged a score of 77.06 per round. The Manhattan, Kan., native won the Big Eight individual championship last spring.

Krapfl said Tacha's improvement was one of the driving forces behind the surprising fall season.

"Rachele stepped her game up a notch in the fall," Krapfl said. "She got to another level."

Another pleasant surprise has been freshman Hanne Nyquist. Nyquist, from Oslo, Norway, jumped to 44th in the national rankings and shot a school-record round of 70 at the Big 12 Preview meet in the fall.

Nyquist is just one part of a group of newcomers that have filled out the Huskers' lineup.

"The four new starters came in with a little more maturity and experience than I had expected," Krapfl said. "I didn't think we'd be setting

school records."

The short game has been a problem for the Huskers in the past, but Krapfl said the team needs to overcome that obstacle to be in the top 10.

"We're doing anything that we can," she said. "We're going to work hard on our short game and take every conceivable step to improve it."

Once again NU's goal is to make the NCAA Championships, which are at Columbus, Ohio. In each of the past two seasons, the Huskers have missed qualifying for the tournament finals by one stroke.

"We want to work up to the NCAA Championships with every meet that we go to," Krapfl said. "We've got to be good enough to get in the NCAA's by the end of the year."

Krapfl said Nebraska has the talent to be a top 10 team, but now it is just an issue of the team wanting it.

"The biggest challenge is always mental," she said. "The team is going to have to believe that it is in the top 10 in the country."

Tournament excites baseball team

By SAM MCKEWIN
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team faces Division I competition for the first time this afternoon at the Rawlings Spring Training Tournament in Phoenix.

"It's time to go play in a Division I tournament," NU Coach John Sanders said. "I think the guys want to do that."

Nebraska takes on Northeastern at 3 this afternoon. The Cornhuskers play in-state rival Creighton on Friday and Northern Iowa on Saturday during the round-robin tournament. The teams with the two best and two worst records play each other on Sunday.

NU improved to 3-0 with a doubleheader sweep of the University of Nebraska at Kearney on Tuesday. The Huskers won the first game 6-1 and triumphed 8-6 in the nightcap.

Pitching has been Nebraska's strength in its last three wins. NU has held opponents to a .237 batting average and compiled a team earned-run average of 3.33 for the season. Senior left-hander Pat Driscoll has yet to surrender a run in 7 1/3 innings of work this season. Right-hander Steve Fish has also been impressive with a victory and a 2.45 ERA.

Nebraska plans to throw senior right-hander Pete Lythgoe for the first time this season against the Huskies. Fish will throw on Friday with Driscoll taking the hill Saturday.

Like its opponents, Nebraska has

had its share of problems at the plate this year. The Huskers are hitting .250 as a team, but struck out 18 times in two games against the Antelopes. In NU's first game against Wayne State, NU batters fanned eight times.

Leading the way has been junior second baseman Kevin Harrington, with a .333 average and three RBI.

Nebraska has one advantage over the competition in Phoenix — game experience this season.

Sanders said the Huskers have had a chance to work out the kinks more than the other teams, but he is still concerned entering the tournament.

"We've got to crank the season up. We need to get started with tournament play and carry that into the Big 12 season."

Huskers roar past Bears in second half

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have to turn it up a notch."

Whatever the Huskers lost without Doage defensively, they made up for offensively. NU shot 66 percent from the field in the second half as five players scored double figures.

Nebraska, which held a 51-44 lead at half, expanded its lead with red-hot shooting. NU hit nine of their first 11 shots to go up 58-37 five minutes into the half. Rogers scored 10 points during an 18-8 run that was capped by a 3-pointer by freshman Nicole Kubik. "My teammates were doing a great

job of getting the ball to me," Rogers said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time, and when we have people like Anna DeForge who demand the respect to be double-teamed, it opens up a lot for me."

Despite the loss of Doage in the second half, Nebraska controlled the ball and the tempo. The Huskers held a double-digit advantage throughout the half but turned the ball over nine times. NU finished with 15 turnovers against the Bears (11-12 and 4-6) who were forcing 26 per game.

Defensively, the Huskers held the Bears' leading scorer, Kacy Moffitt,

to only six points. Moffitt, a 6-4 sophomore — who averaged 17.9 points in Baylor's last six contests — attempted only three shots in the first half and did not score until the final two minutes of the second half.

Fifteen players contributed to the NU's dominance, with 12 getting in the game for at least three minutes.

"I felt comfortable using a lot of players," Beck said, "because we expected a victory. If we wouldn't have gotten a win tonight, we would have hit rock bottom. It would have been really hard to get back. We should have won, we did, and I'm happy."

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