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Tournament win boosts NU

By JAY SAUNDERS
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team took a major step in the right direction this weekend.

Coach Scott Jacobson said the Cornhuskers were the "unofficial winner" of the Titan Invitational in Fullerton, Calif., after winning all three of their matches.

NU dominated Indiana State 9-0 in the first match of the weekend. They then went on to post a 6-0 (only singles matches were played) against Fairfield and closed the weekend with an 8-1 win over host Cal State-Fullerton.

"That is a big confidence booster," Jacobson said. "Anytime you have success like that you tend to play at a higher level."

Doubles play continued to be a strong point for the Huskers. The No. 1 team of Sandra Noetzel and Jennifer Thoste are 7-3 in matches this sea-

son.

Even more impressive is the record at the No. 2 doubles team of Lisa Hart and Annie Yang. Together the duo is a perfect 10-0 in matches this season.

"They are playing with a lot of confidence," Jacobson said. "We still need to work on some things, but these seem to be appropriate combinations."

While the doubles play has been successful for NU, the singles play has stepped it up a level over the past few matches. Nebraska did not lose a set in 24 singles matches over the weekend, marking a streak of 48 straight set wins.

Jacobson said most of the Huskers' success can be attributed to the health of the team. Nebraska has been lucky enough to avoid injuries so far this season, which is something Jacobson said he hopes continues.

"All eight of our kids are healthy, knock on wood," Jacobson said. "That makes a big difference. Anytime kids are there everyday, they are going to

"They are playing with a lot of confidence."

SCOTT JACOBSON
NU women's tennis coach

play better."


Despite all of the success the Huskers have had, Jacobson said playing outdoors was the biggest advantage to the tournament in Fullerton. The Titan Invite was the first time Nebraska has had the chance to play outdoors since its match at Texas on Feb. 23.

"It (winning) is a good confidence booster," Jacobson said, "but being outside is a great thing. Having an opportunity to play outdoors makes the game a little different."

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CYCLE WORKS

NU heads to Nevada

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"This is kind of how we felt last year."

TYRONN LUE
NU point guard

fifth NIT appearance at Nebraska, said he was pleased with his team's response less than a week after losing to Missouri in the first round of the Big 12 Conference Tournament.

"I don't think any coach knows what's next," Lue said. "But I thought we beat a quality basketball team in a very high-level game. I thought all our guys played really well and we had a balanced attack."

Nebraska's floor general, Tyronn Lue, practiced this weekend after twisting his right ankle in the final minutes of Wednesday's victory. By tip-off tonight, the 6-foot sophomore point guard said he'll be ready to steer the Huskers around another NIT obstacle.

"This is kind of how we felt last year," Lue said. "We won that first game and we got a lot more confidence."

A year ago, Nebraska downed Colorado State in the opening round, followed by a home win over Washington State and a road victory over Fresno State. At New York's Madison Square Garden, the Huskers rolled by Tulane and St. Joseph's.

"I feel like we will do that again," Nebraska forward Venson Hamilton said, "because like last year, we want our seniors to go out with a bang. I think we are going to go a long way."

A year ago, the Husker seniors bounced to life in the NIT, led by Erick Strickland who won the tournament most-valuable-player award. In NU's first-round win last week, seniors Bernard Garner and Mikki Moore teamed for 19 points in 59 minutes.

Nevada won at Fresno State, 97-86 last Wednesday, to advance into the second round. The winner of tonight's game will play either Connecticut or Bradley for a spot in the NIT Final Four, March 25 and 27.

Only one team, St. John's in 1943 and '44, has won two straight championships in the nation's oldest tournament. St. Louis was the last team to qualify for two straight trips to the Big Apple, in 1989 and '90.

Note: Nebraska owns a 6-8 NIT record away from Lincoln. In games played on the home court of an opponent, NU is 3-5, including last season's wins at Colorado State and Fresno State.

NU beats Santa Clara

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska soccer team used two second-half goals to beat Santa Clara 2-1 on Saturday.

Sophomores Lindsay Eddleman and Isabelle Morneau each scored as the Cornhuskers surprised the Broncos, a team that earned a trip to the NCAA Final Four.

Although NU won, defender Tanya Franck suffered a knee injury that forced her to leave the game. Franck, a senior co-captain from Toronto, started all 24 games for Nebraska last season.

NU golfers finish 11th

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's golf team finished 11th at the Betsy Rawls Invitational at Austin, Texas, over the weekend.

The Cornhuskers finished 26 strokes behind tournament winner TCU. The Horned Frogs won with a 938, one shot ahead of Duke.

NU freshman Hanne Nyquist finished in a tie for 13th-place with a three-round total of 235. On Sunday, Nyquist shot a 74 after carding an 82 and a 79 on the first two days.

Other Nebraska finishers: Shirin Hornecker finished tied for 23rd with a 238, Rachele Tacha was 33rd with a 243, Melissa Becker shot a 249 finishing tied for 51st and Maureen Regan finished tied for 69th with a 256.

Two Huskers finish first

From Staff Reports

Willie Hibler and Kerry Doetker won titles in the Nebraska track and field teams first outdoor meet of the season.

Hibler won the men's 110-meter hurdles with an NCAA provisional qualifying time of 13.93 seconds. Junior Ben Kears, who joined the Cornhuskers in January, placed third in the event with a time of 14.34 seconds. He also placed fourth in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 53.01 seconds.

Doetker won the women's high jump with a leap of 5-feet 8-inches. Freshman Amber Stohs finished third in the javelin with a throw of 132-10 and Kari Coleman was fourth with a toss of 132-7.

Macthup excites Pack

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look at it that way."

Already in the NIT, the Wolf Pack have defeated Fresno State and its legendary coach Jerry Tarkanian.

Foster has been to the postseason 12 times — including five NCAA Tournament appearances — as the coach at Lamar and Houston. This is the first time he has taken a Nevada team to postseason action.

Now though, Foster, who is in his fourth year with the Pack, said his team must get ready for another big game, this time against Nebraska (17-14).

"They are very talented and capable of playing some big games," Foster said. "But that's like any team at this time of year. What kind of game they are capable of putting together and what kind of game you are going to get, sometimes are very different."

Foster said he is impressed with the Cornhuskers because they are what is considered in baseball as "strong up the middle," with the combination of Tyronn Lue at the point and 6-foot-11 Mikki Moore in the post. Nebraska has all-star players at all five positions, Foster said.

But the Wolf Pack aren't lacking stars of their own.

Nevada is led by senior forward Faron Hand, who averages 19.5 points

and 8.1 rebounds per game and shoots 58 percent from the field. Also in the arsenal are three good 3-point shooters in guard Jimmy Carroll, forward Paul Culbertson and senior Richard Brown.

Against the Bulldogs, Nevada shot 50 percent from behind the 19-9 arc connecting on 10 of 20 3-pointers. Carroll and Brown accounted for seven of them. For the season, Nevada is shooting 37 percent from 3-point range.

Foster said the Wolf Pack will need that type of shooting tonight against NU.

"If we're making 50 percent from 3-point range we have a chance to win any game," Foster said. "Nebraska is a stronger rebounding team than we are, so we will have to make some long shots."

Nevada plays a similar style to Nebraska in that both teams will run the ball when they can but will also work the half-court offense, Foster said. He doesn't expect tonight's game to be a slow-down affair.

But as big a game this is for the city of Reno, Foster said, he isn't going to use any psychological tricks on his team to motivate them.

"We haven't taken much of an attitude with them," Foster said.

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