

NU's Rogers ties record

BY SAM MCKEWIN
Staff Reporter

Nebraska junior golfer Jamie Rogers tied a tournament record score while winning the Falcon-Cross Creek Invitational in Colorado Springs, Colo., last weekend.

The Huskers finished the tournament fifth overall with an 875 score. California won the tournament with a three-round score of 865.

Rogers, a native of Maroochydore, Australia, shot a 6-under-par, 210 to win in the Huskers' first tournament of the year. Rogers completed the same feat in 1995, when he won the first tournament he ever participated in.

Rogers said going into the tournament, he felt very confident about his chances in the field.

"I went in expecting to win for the most part," Rogers said. "The course is set up for guys who like to hit draws, and I'm a person that hits a draw. I knew the par 5s were all very reachable, so I felt like I had a good chance to win it."

NU coach Larry Romjue said Rogers can be at the top of any tournament he plays in this season if he is on his game.

"If he stays on this course as far

"For having the medalist and seventh-place finisher, we should have done better as a team."

LARRY ROMJUE
NU men's golf coach

his scoring average is concerned, he's one of the top half-dozen players in the nation," Romjue said. "He just has great ability and knows how to play the game."

Rogers said his strong short game during the weekend aided him the most. The greens were tough to read, Rogers said, but he started rolling the ball into the cup early in the tournament.

"I was on the practice green and I just started running them in," he said. "It was kind of like that all week long."

The team, unlike Rogers, didn't quite live up to Romjue's expectations. The Huskers failed to defend the title they won last year.

Romjue said he was pleased with Rogers and fellow Australian Josh Madden's performance. Madden tied for seventh with an even-par 216.

But Romjue was disappointed with the play of the rest of the team.

"For having the medalist and seventh-place finisher, we should have done better as a team," Romjue said. "We didn't get the kind of support we needed to finish the way we wanted to."

Playing in the first tournament of the year caused some of the problems for the Huskers, Romjue said.

"Last year, we won this tournament having already played one," Romjue said. "It usually takes us one tournament to get up and running and playing like we want to."

Romjue said he feels confident that he can get his team back on track for the Kansas Invitational on next Monday and Tuesday in Lawrence.

"I'm willing to give these guys the benefit of the doubt after the first tournament," he said. "I think we'll be where we want to be."

Reitsma leads quietly

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and blocks. Last Saturday against No. 17 Ohio State, Reitsma's 22 kills and .475 hitting percentage again led the Huskers.

Despite her statistics, Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said Reitsma felt a little disappointed with her performance.

"Lisa is a perfectionist and she wants to do everything really well," Pettit said. "But what we wanted was for her to celebrate when she did good things and to bring that energy to the court. She is a genuinely shy, introverted person, and yet we need for her to do that. She understands the issue and she really is making an effort."

Reitsma is also making an effort to improve the fundamental aspects of her game. Reitsma accepted an invitation from U.S. National Team coach Mick Haley to practice with the team for one month over the summer.

Competing with the Huskers' former three-time All-American Allison Weston, Reitsma held her own, Haley said.

"I think she can stand out at this level," Haley said. "Lisa has the potential and the height. In some ways, she's as good as Allison. She's every bit as good a blocker and maybe even better than Allison."

While Haley praised her attack and blocking ability, he said Reitsma needs to improve her serve receive and defense. Reitsma recognizes her weaknesses, and Haley said he believes Pettit has taken the initiative to help her.

"Lisa and Coach Pettit are on the same page," Haley said. "Terry is using her more as a primary passer, and that will help her. It's really a major item. The better she is at that, the more likely it is that she'll play at this level."

Haley has invited Reitsma to join the national team full time in January; however, Reitsma's primary concern is helping Nebraska win a national championship. The runner-up national player of the year in 1996, Reitsma said winning the honor this season remains far from her thoughts.

"Now, I just want to get back to the Final Four and win another championship," Reitsma said. "This program has helped me develop into the kind of player I want to be, and I just want to keep improving and have the chance to leave my mark."

Making an impact on Nebraska volleyball is something Pettit said Reitsma — who holds school records for kills in a season (611), kills per game in a season (5.05), total attacks (1,468) and attacks per game (12.13) — has already accomplished.

Big 12 assesses damage

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any more in college football.

"If you don't come ready to play anymore, you're going to get beat," Slocum said. "It used to be where there were about 10 teams that were better than anyone else and barring any miracles, you knew they were going to win."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said he isn't worried about the Big 12 as a whole, but rather looks at each individual team for analysis.

"I've got enough burden worrying about Washington than to think about the league's image," he said.

Slocum said it was too early for his team to be looking down the road at an undefeated season.

"We're not sticking out our chests at anybody right now,"

Slocum said. "We're not going to look at what we can do down the road and even worry about anything except the next game."

In the end, though, many coaches see the end of November as being a much more important time of year than middle September. Oklahoma State coach Bob Simmons, whose team is 3-0 for the first time since 1982, said he is putting little stock in the big losses over the weekend.

"Texas is a good program. Colorado is a good program," Simmons said. "They just didn't play well on a particular day. Good football teams find a way back in. Everybody makes decisions about who's out and who's in right now. Let's talk about who is out of the picture in November."

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