

Wiseman on road to cross country success

BY SAM MCKEWIN
Staff Reporter

Imagine a runner being a soldier and a cross country course being a battlefield.

Then one would know the mentality of Nebraska freshman Amy Wiseman, who runs cross country for the Huskers.

"With Amy, every step she takes in race is a war," NU coach Jay Dirksen said. "She is the fiercest competitor that you'll ever want to find in cross country."

Wiseman said she agreed with her coach's assessment.

"Oh, definitely, that's me," Wiseman said. "I want to win. That's what I'm out there to do."

Wiseman, who is from Lee's Summit, Mo., has already finished in the top 15 of her first two races of her collegiate career, including a third-place finish at the Woody Greeno Invitational. She finished 11th at the Roy Griak Invitational in Minneapolis last week.

In both meets, Wiseman has been the Huskers' top runner.

Dirksen said Wiseman is as good a freshman as NU has ever recruited. "She's the best that I have ever seen that's an American," Dirksen said. "She races at a very high level."

Wiseman credits her fiery spirit to her family, especially her father, Pat, whom Wiseman says she e-mails every day.

"My dad taught me to want to win and he's always taken me to all of the big races all around the nation," Amy Wiseman said. "So, he's always been there for me."

Coming out of high school, Wiseman was one of the most recruited cross country athletes in the nation. As a junior, she finished fifth in the Foot Locker High School Championships and was also a member of the U.S. Junior National Team.

Wiseman said she picked Nebraska for its proximity to her family, its overall strength in cross country and its track tradition, an event in which Wiseman said she plans to participate in the spring.

Now that Wiseman has been here a month, she said Nebraska is the perfect fit.

"I love it here," Wiseman said.

"I'm so thankful that I came here and not somewhere else. I love the program, I love Jay, and I love all the girls on the team. It's a great atmosphere."

Before coming to Nebraska, Wiseman spent the past summer at the World Championships in Italy. In spending time with some of the world's best long-distance runners, Wiseman said she realized what it takes to reach a world level.

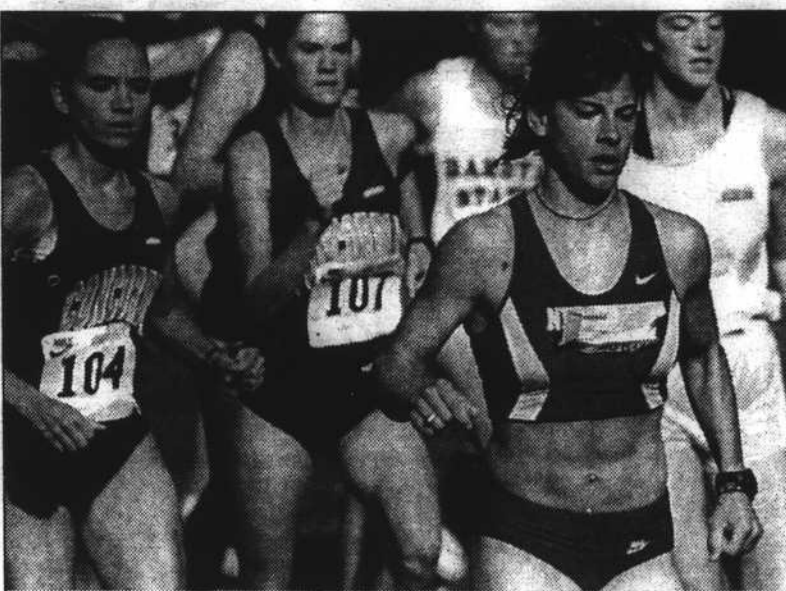
"It changed my whole perspective on running," Wiseman said. "It was a good experience for me because it showed me how hard you have to work to be great."

One thing Wiseman has done to run up front is to find out who the best runners are in a race and try and track them down as the race goes on.

"I like to know who's right in front of me," she said. "That's how I like to compete."

The addition of Wiseman to NU should help the Huskers in recruiting, Dirksen said.

"Amy knows all the best runners, so we should be getting some of the best around," Dirksen said. "She's opened up a lot of avenues for us."



SANDY SUMMERS/DN
NU FRESHMAN AMY WISEMAN fights for a position among the runners at the Woody Greeno Invitational. Wiseman has been the Huskers' top finisher in both of Nebraska's first two cross country invitationals this season.

Wiseman said it's her goal to help build NU into a top five program.

"That's why I came here," she said. "I tell a lot of runners that we're

a young team, and that we're getting better all the time. We want to be a top five team."

KSU quarterback says victory is feasible

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just have to go out and do it. We can't do a lot of talking, we just have to go in and play."

Through the Wildcats' first three games, Bishop has completed 49 percent of his passes for 407 yards. But it is his mobility that scares Nebraska coach Tom Osborne.

"He is an excellent runner and a good thrower as well," Osborne said. "They will probably run a few more options than in years past. Quarterback scrambling — the quarterback draw — is now a significant threat."

This season Bishop has rushed for 117 yards and is averaging 3.9 yards per carry on the ground. At Blinn, the 6-foot-3, 195-pounder carried the ball for 830 yards in

two seasons.

"He can definitely hurt you," NU senior rush end Grant Wistrom said. "He reminds me a lot of the quarterbacks we've had here, who are just as lethal running the football as they are throwing it. We're really going to have to focus on keeping him in the pocket."

While being recruited, Bishop drew some comparisons to former Husker quarterback Tommie Frazier. In his career at Nebraska, Frazier compiled 5,476 yards of total offense and averaged 5.7 yards per carry on the ground.

Though the validity of the comparisons don't concern Bishop, the Wildcat signal caller said his mobility does add a new dimension to the offense.

Former Kansas State quarterbacks Chad May (1993-94) and

Brian Kavanagh (1993-96) were both known as passing quarterbacks, but a successful passing game has not equaled victory against Nebraska in the past.

The Wildcats, who have not defeated the Huskers in Lincoln since 1968, have totaled a negative one yard on the ground against NU since 1994. In 1993, backed by a 489-yard passing performance from May, Kansas State lost 45-28.

The new look at quarterback has drawn the attention of Osborne, but Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said mobility is a "two-way street."

Bishop is still perfecting the Kansas State offense, Snyder said, and will be working on new things this week — not learning new tricks to pull against the Huskers.

KSU coach emphasizes focus

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first time in 29 years.

Both teams come into the game 3-0, but Nebraska has the upper hand with an off-week last week after a tough road trip to Washington. Kansas State has beaten Ohio, Northern Illinois and Bowling Green.

Snyder wasn't too impressed with the effort his team gave on Monday in practice, however.

"If we were to play the game on Monday, we would have called it off and watched the Monday game of the week on TV," he said.

Snyder said he hopes he doesn't still feel that way when the KSU bus leaves for Lincoln on Friday.

One of the biggest aspects he said he wants to address is the kicking game. So far this season, KSU's James Garcia ranks sixth in the conference in punting (averaging 40.83 yards per punt), while punt return man Lamar Chapman ranks fourth (averaging 13.8 yards per return and one touchdown). These numbers don't seem to be a concern, but history is not on the Wildcats' side.

"(The kicking game) showed up last year because we prepared poorly," Snyder said. "Two years ago, we missed a tackle on a return and opened the game wide. Hopefully, we're going to be better prepared than last year."

Snyder said he just wants a win more than anything at this point in the season.

"I'd be upset if we lost a ball game and had a great time doing it."

BILL SNYDER
KSU football coach

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne called the Wildcats the best team on the remainder of NU's schedule. Snyder doesn't like that.

"I'd just as soon they weren't worrying about us," Snyder said.

But he is worrying about Nebraska, and how to stop the different dimensions of NU's option offense.

"You try to run the option down, try to run (Ahman) Green down," Snyder said. "Then, they slip that trap in there and (Joel Makovicka) is running down the other side of the field."

For Kansas State and Snyder, the main thing isn't to have fun on the field — it's to put a great amount of "effort, emotion and execution" into the game and hope it is enough to come out victorious. To do that, you have to attack the contest with passion and genuinely invest yourself in the outcome, Snyder said.

"I'd be upset if we lost a ball game and had a great time doing it," Snyder said.

Snyder's Highs & Lows

Before Bill Snyder's arrival at Kansas St., the Wildcats had gone 4-40-1 the previous four years.

Year	Record
1989	1-10-0
1990	5-6-0
1991	7-4-0
1992	5-6-0
1993	9-2-1
1994	9-3-0
1995	10-2-0
1996	9-3-0
1997 (current)	3-0-0

Snyder has never beaten Nebraska in his eight years at Kansas St.

Year	Nebraska	Kansas St.
1989	58	7
1990	45	8
1991	38	31
1992	38	34
1993	45	28
1994	17	6
1995	49	25
1996	39	3

AARON STECKELBERG/DN

"We're just in the instructional and teaching stage," Snyder said. "It's not like all of a sudden this week we're going to teach him different things."

Despite his lack of Division I experience, Bishop said, a victory over Nebraska is attainable.

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