Bowling team strives for championship play

By NATE ODGAARD Staff Reporter

If history repeats itself, the Nebraska women's bowling team will be traveling to Atlanta on the third weekend in April.

Atlanta is the site of the 1998 Bowling National Championship, which includes the top 16 teams in the country. Without throwing one strike this year, the Huskers' odds of being there already appear favorable.

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But before that, the Huskers make history this weekend when they begin their first season of intercollegiate competition at the Greater Milwaukee Invitational in Milwaukee.

Women's bowling had been a UNL club sport, but this will be Nebraska's first season competing in an NCAA-sanctioned sport.

As a club team the Huskers have finished in the top five of the final ratings since 1990 and won national titles in 1991, '95 and '97.

The women's team is solid on paper and shows tremendous potential, Nebraska coach Bill Straub said.

But "it's difficult to realize potential until you get your feet wet," he said. "We'll find out a little bit more after this weekend,"

Jen Daugherty returns after leading the Huskers last year. The junior from Bloomington, Ill., was named MVP in last year's championship tournament and earned first-team

All-American honors. As a freshman, she was named All-American and also made the honorable mention list for bowler of the year.

Sophomore Kim Claus and senior Kim Ferris also return. Claus won the Alberta Crowe award last year, presented to the top junior bowler in the

Newcomers Stacy Rogers and Tammy Jordan round out the top five. Straub is confident the women's

team can repeat last year's feat.

"We've got such a core group of girls that have really been successful the last couple of years and who know how to handle pressure in tournament situations" he said.

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Daugherty feels this year's team is even stronger than last year's. She said the Huskers possess the keys to success: team unity and focus.

"If you don't have a mental game, you're not going to succeed," said Daugherty, who holds a 215 average. "A lot of frustration comes about in tournaments, and you really need to keep everyone focused (because) one person can drag the team down."

NOTE

Jeremy Sonnenfeld, who bowled the first sanctioned 900-series in the United States last year, has left the UNL men's bowling team, Straub said.

Sonnenfeld, who would be a junior this year, "chose to pursue the commercial side of what's going on," Straub said.

NU hopes for tournament success

From Staff Reports

Last year, the Nebraska softball team surprised the other teams in the Big 12 Conference by winning the first-ever Big 12 Fall Classic.

The Huskers (1-3) won't be able to surprise anybody this season, but are hoping for the same type of success they had last year as they compete at the Big 12 Fall Classic today through Sunday in Independence,

NU does get a break this weekend as All-American senior shortstop Ali Viola will get to see playing time as a designated hitter. Viola has been recovering from anterior-cruciate ligament reconstructive surgery she had

last March.

This weekend's tournament will include three non-Big 12 teams in Southwest Missouri, Missouri-Kansas City and Central Missouri. Big 12 teams competing in the tournament include Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Nebraska faces Central Missouri at noon today, and then will immediately play Oklahoma State at 2 p.m. On Saturday the Huskers will play Oklahoma at noon and then start bracket play.

NU will be trying to improve on the 1-3 record it compiled at the NIC Tournament on Sept.19-21. Viola and sophomore second-baseman Jennifer Lizama did not play in that tournament.







