

Huskers come back to top Tech

Monson helps NU extend streak to eight matches

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Assignment Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team rose to meet a difficult challenge Friday night from upset-minded Texas Tech, and NU did not slip Saturday when it encountered little resistance against a struggling Baylor team.

The 11th-ranked Cornhuskers (23-6 overall and 14-4 in the Big 12 Conference) battled Texas Tech in a five-game match that lasted 2 1/2 hours.

NU finally secured an 8-15, 13-15, 15-10, 15-6, 15-10 victory in front of 538 at Municipal Coliseum in Lubbock, Texas.

Saturday, NU needed only 80 minutes to defeat Baylor 15-3, 15-13, 15-3 in front of 213 at the Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas.

The two victories pushed the Huskers' conference win streak to eight with two matches remaining in the regular season.



"I'm pleased with this weekend," NU Coach Terry Pettit said. "It was two vastly different matches. Friday night, we struggled and showed some character. Saturday, we were just dominant."

NU faced a difficult challenge against Tech, the conference's fifth-place team.

In the rally-scoring fifth game against the Red Raiders, freshman Nancy Meendering pounded a kill and served two consecutive aces as Nebraska jumped to an early 3-0 lead.

"Meendering came in and gave us a lift and played aggressively," Pettit said. "Once she did that, (Mandy) Monson and (Angie) Oxley started digging balls. I have a feeling Meendering really made the differ-

ence." The Huskers continued to build an advantage, allowing Tech (22-9 and 9-8) only five points while NU strung together seven points for an 11-5 lead.

The Red Raiders answered with four straight points to cut Nebraska's advantage to 11-9, but NU permitted only one more Tech point and closed the match with a 15-10 win.

Monson, who totaled 12 kills and a .478 hitting percentage against Baylor, led the Huskers with 19 kills against Tech.

Lisa Reitsma had a season-low nine kills.

"This may have been one of the most important matches of the year for us," Pettit said. "We went down on the road to a very good team and our best player had an off night. We just had to find a way to win."

Nebraska plays host to No. 10 Texas Friday night and closes the regular season Saturday against No. 17 Texas A&M at the NU Coliseum.

Huskers survive season to reach national meet

BY SAM MCKEWON
Staff Reporter

Cross Country
NCAA Championships
Furman, South Carolina



Before the season, Nebraska Cross Country Coach Jay Dirksen never envisioned what his men's and women's teams endured this season. But both squads ended with the same predicted result: a berth in the NCAA Championships, today in Greenville, S.C.

The NU men's and women's teams have suffered through injuries, individuals leaving the teams and several lineup changes, and Dirksen said he still can't believe both teams are at the NCAA Championships.

"If you would have told before the year that this was going to happen, I wouldn't have believed it," Dirksen said.

The men's team received a wildcard bid after finishing third at the District 5 Championships in Ames, Iowa, on Nov. 15. The women's team automatically qualified on that same day by finishing second in the NCAA Midwest Regionals.

Dirksen said he wants both Husker teams to finish in the top 20. Stanford is the prohibitive favorite on the women's side, while Stanford and Arkansas are the favorite for the men.

NU's men features the 1-2 combination of freshman Jeroen Broekzitter and senior Cleophas Boor, who have finished in top 10 together in all but one race this season. Last season, Boor was third overall in the NCAA Championships and is the highest returning runner for the meet this season.

Dirksen said he expects

Broekzitter and Boor to finish somewhere in the top 25.

"Both of them are running really well right now," he said. "Cleophas had an accident earlier in the season, but he coming around more now."

The rest of the men's lineup includes senior Aaron Johnson, junior Lou Petricca and freshman Marcus Witter.

The women's team has had several lineup changes during the season, and may have to deal with another injury. Sophomore Jaime Pauli will run today with a stress fracture in her leg. That may force freshman Deb Osteen or Kate Centerwall to finish in a scoring position for the Huskers.

Dirksen said he plans to rely on freshman Amy Wiseman to lead the Huskers again in Greenville. Wiseman has led Nebraska in every race this season.

"Coach has taught me that I get farther if I'm passing people at the end of the race than I do starting out fast," Wiseman said. "I don't want to waste my energy at the beginning and die."

It helped that Nebraska has run on the NCAA course earlier this season when competing in the Furman Invitational. Dirksen said the familiarity of the trip will help the team adjust.

"We're taking the same flights and driving the same routes and doing the same things," he said. "We've done this before."

Hamilton leads Huskers to win

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added 12 points off the bench.

Freshman guard Todd Smith saw his first playing time of the season off the Husker bench. Smith had been recovering from surgery in which rods were inserted in both of his lower legs. In nine minutes, Smith scored six points.

"We were throwing him to the wolves, and I thought he did a decent job," Nee said. "He's still learning a lot of things. We just wanted him to

get in there under fire."

As a whole, Nee said, the Nebraska offense needs to play with better rhythm. The Huskers will get their next opportunity when they take the court Tuesday at 7:05 p.m. against Colorado State at the Devaney Center.

"If we play this way on Tuesday night against Colorado State, they'll beat us," Nee said. "We're just going to go back and really try to concentrate on that offensive side of the ball."

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