

# Colorado looks for redemption vs. NU

BY DAVID WILSON  
Senior Reporter

On the verge of not playing in a bowl game for the first time in 10 seasons, Colorado (5-5 overall and 3-4 in the Big 12 Conference) will be given one last chance to save its season.



Neuheisel

The Buffaloes, who have not finished below .500 since 1984, will play host to second-ranked Nebraska (10-0 and 7-0) Friday at 1:35 p.m. in Boulder. Colorado has not defeated the Cornhuskers since 1990, but a win Friday could solidify a bowl game berth for the Buffaloes.

"It's not very often you get a chance to erase all your sins in one day - unless you go to church," Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel said.

Though the Buffaloes are disappointed in how their season has played out, Neuheisel said, they are not giving up hope.

"We've been written off for awhile," Neuheisel said, "but we are going to show up for the game and play our best. We are going to play as hard as we can. We expect to play well. Whether or not that's good enough, we'll have to wait and see."

"I think all of us as humans would like to go back and change history. But that's not reality. We have to figure out why those things took place."

Colorado's first loss came against Michigan Sept. 13, and the Buffaloes went on to lose two of their next three games. But the Michigan loss, Neuheisel said, could help CU in prepara-

tion for the Huskers.

The Wolverines currently rank ahead of Nebraska in both The Associated Press poll and the ESPN/USA Today Coaches' poll. Both teams, Neuheisel said, share similarities.

"To me, they both lead with their defense, but I think Nebraska's offense is better than Michigan's," Neuheisel said. "We're going to have a good idea at the conclusion of the game - at least in our opinion - who is the No. 1 football team in the nation."

Last season in Lincoln, Colorado played then fourth-ranked Nebraska within five points. The Huskers, who did not score in the second half, sneaked past CU 17-12.

NU quarterback Scott Frost threw for 56 yards and ran for 32 - his third worst offensive total ever at Nebraska. But this year, Neuheisel said, Frost is a different quarterback.

"I see him playing with so much more confidence," Neuheisel said. "It was really evident watching the television during the Washington game."

The outcome of Friday's matchup may change Neuheisel's vote in the coaches' poll, but likely won't change his thinking in the accuracy of polls.

If Michigan and Nebraska both win their remaining games, the top two teams in the nation will not meet in a bowl game. The Wolverine's current No. 1 ranking in both polls could kill the Huskers' chances for a national title.

"I think the polls are inherently unfair," Neuheisel said. "I think they're arbitrary as heck. But it makes for great conversation. I just think the polls are ridiculous on determining who the best football team is."

# Bentz upbeat despite second-place finishes

BY SARAH DOSE  
Staff Reporter

Cal Bentz thinks his Husker men's and women's swimming and diving teams are still on track this season, even after posting two second-place team finishes Friday night at the Nike Sprint Classic.

In front of an estimated 550 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool, the 13th-ranked Huskers finished second with 60.5 points behind Arizona State's winning score of 71. The No. 7 NU women scored 58 points, but were outscored by SMU's score of 73.

"We had some excellent swims against some good competition," Bentz said. "SMU is capable to go all the way at the NAAs. And UCLA is always good."

On Sunday, Iowa won two of the final six events to upset No. 13 Nebraska 404-394 in the Husker Shoot Out. On the women's side SMU won its second consecutive Shoot Out meet with 487, while Nebraska finished second at 351.

Bentz said it's hard to keep workouts pinpointed at the team in general, so they should be more custom designed to each individual.

"We're working on cycling training," he said. "Different people have different cycles because of where they stand right now."

Some individual performances stood out in spite of the team's finish. Sophomore Adam Pine, who is in training for the world championships, won the 100-yard freestyle at the Sprint Classic with a time of 44.95 seconds and the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 22.15, beating his old record of 22.17.

Pine went up against ASU's two-

time All-American Francisco Sanchez in the butterfly, but said he wasn't too nervous going into the race.

"I was wary of him at first because I knew he'd be fast," he said. "But I wasn't too concerned. I wanted to win, but I didn't really care about my time."

"As far as beating my old record, it's good to get in to improve my time, but I don't think too much of it."

Besides Pine's two gold medals, diver Bert Locklin took home the gold with 237.75 points, ahead of Iowa's Simon Chrisander with 212.95. Keith Ebbert won the men's 100-yard individual medley with a time of 51.17.

The women were unable to win a gold medal in any event. SMU's Martina Moravcova won two individual events and anchored two relay teams to win the team trophy.

Moravcova beat Nebraska's Beth Karaica in the 50-yard butterfly, setting a new meet record with a time of 24.84. Karaica finished in 25.58. Moravcova also won the individual medley with a time of 56.42, also a new meet record.

First-year diver Amanda Zins, who has enjoyed early success this season, finished second with 200.40 points behind UCLA's Rose Huelskamp's 211.35 points.

Zins, who said she had been practicing well all afternoon, outscored Huelskamp on her first dive, but "had a problem with" her second dive, which moved her into second place.

"When I got up there to do my third dive, I thought, 'I have to hit this to have a chance,'" Zins said.

She did hit it, and outscored Huelskamp again, but failed to win the event.

"I wasn't nervous," she said. "I dove well this afternoon in practice, so that's what I'm happy with."

# Rams to test 3-0 Huskers

BY DARREN IVY  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team is hoping history will repeat itself tonight at 7:05 when the Cornhuskers play Colorado State (2-0) in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The last three times NU (3-0) opened the season 4-0, it qualified for the NCAA tournament twice and the National Invitation Tournament once.

To open 4-0, NU will have to play a full 40 minutes against a CSU team that returns all five starters from last year's 20-9 team.

Against New Orleans on Saturday night, NU was outscored 36-34 in the second half.

In practice this week, NU Coach Danny Nee and the players addressed the importance of playing a full game.

"We can't come out flat like we always do in the second half," guard Larry Florence said. "Me, Troy (Piatkowski), Andy (Markowski), Venson (Hamilton) and Chad (Johnson) all had a conference trying to come up with ways to not be so stiff in the second

half."

NU won't be able to come out stiff against CSU because the Rams have a solid team, Nee said. CSU is a big, quick and experienced team that can shoot the basketball.

Nee said he is expecting a close game and said CSU won't be intimidated playing in Lincoln. Colorado State plays conference games at New Mexico and Utah.

"We respect Colorado State," Nee said. "I think their record speaks for itself."

The Rams beat Simon Fraser 85-61 in their first game and Northern Colorado 108-47 in their second game.

For the season, the Rams are shooting 53 percent from 3-point range. Leading them is Jameel Mahmud, a 5-foot-11 senior from LaPuente, Calif. He is shooting 61.5 percent from behind the arc and had six 3-pointers against Northern Colorado.

"Mahmud is a very solid player," Nee said. "It will be a good test for Tyrone (Lue)."

Another Ram player who could cause the Huskers some trouble is 7-foot senior Ryan Chilton. Chilton has 118 career blocked shots which is third all-time at

### Men's Basketball

Colorado St. vs. Nebraska at 7:05 p.m. tonight  
Bob Devaney Center

CSU. Nee said he has told Hamilton and the other players about him.

"He's going to change some shots," Nee said. "(The Rams) are not going to give up anything easy around the basket."

Nebraska will close out its string of five straight home games at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Saturday against the University of Texas at San Antonio at 7:05 p.m.

### Note:

Nebraska point guard Tyrone Lue, who scored a career-best 34 points against Western Illinois Wednesday night was named the Big 12 player of the week.

Against Western Illinois Lue connected on six 3-point field goals. For the week he was 27 of 48 (56.3 percent) from the field including 10 of 18 (55.6 percent) from the 3-point range.

Lue's 34 points tie him for third best in the Big 12 record books.

# NU eyes NCAA seeding

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

Winning the Big 12 Conference is out of the question for the Nebraska volleyball team, so the next best thing would be to knock off the Big 12 leaders.

The 11th-ranked Huskers (23-6 overall and 14-4 in the Big 12 Conference) get that chance this weekend when the two Texas powers - Texas and Texas A&M - visit the NU Coliseum.

Friday night, the 10th-ranked Longhorns come to Lincoln looking to become the first-ever conference foe to defeat the Huskers at the coliseum.

Texas swept NU in three games in Austin on Oct. 17. The only team to sweep the season series against the Huskers is Colorado, which beat NU in the Bob Devaney Sports Center and in Boulder earlier this season.

On Saturday night, the Huskers will host No. 17 Texas A&M. The Huskers defeated the Aggies in four games on Oct. 18 in College Station, Texas.

Despite being out of the running for the Big 12 title, NU Coach Terry Pettit said without question this weekend is the biggest of the season.

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The Huskers are on a roll of late, winning their last eight matches in only 26 games. Pettit said the team has found some new chemistry that has helped relieve the losses of juniors Jaime Krondak and Renee Saunders.

"Angie Oxley now has played about a dozen matches, and she's much more experienced," Pettit said. "Mandy Monson has played another year, and players are comfortable with each other on the court. We're better defensively and we're pursuing the ball better."

Monson, a sophomore outside hitter, is coming off one of the best weekends of her young career. Monson smashed 19 kills against Texas Tech last weekend and hit .478 against Baylor.

Monson said this weekend's

### Volleyball

Texas vs. Nebraska Friday at 7:30 p.m. NU Coliseum  
Texas A&M vs. Nebraska Saturday at 7:30 p.m. NU Coliseum



matches are important not just because they are against two ranked teams but because they will determine where Nebraska ends up come tournament time.

"If we can win these two, they'll definitely help our seeding for the tournament which is what we're getting ready for," Monson said.

### Note:

Krondak practiced with the team for the first time in several weeks. Krondak has been out of action since Oct. 24 with a lower back injury she suffered in early October. Saunders, who is recovering from a broken foot, will not practice or play the rest of the week.

# Nebraska captures Navy Classic

BY ANTONE OSEKA  
Senior Reporter

Five Nebraska wrestlers claimed titles while the team won the overall title at the Navy Classic in Annapolis, Md., this weekend.

Nebraska won with 178 team points, while West Virginia finished second with 141.

Nebraska sophomore 118-pounder Paul Gomez won the meet with an 11-8 victory in the finals. Senior Jeramie Welder improved to 8-0 this season while winning the 126-pound class.

Nebraska Coach Tim Neumann said he was extremely happy with

Welder's performance, which included winning the Outstanding Wrestler Award.

"He wrestled tough throughout the entire tournament," Neumann said.

Two NU wrestlers squared off in the 142-pound title. Allen Hankins got the better of Jose DeAnda 5-3 in the finals in a match that could determine the starter for the rest of the season. Hankins, DeAnda and Dusty Morris have been battling for the job all season.

Nebraska wrestlers also faced each other in the finals at the 190-pound weight class and heavy-weight. At 190, Joe Flasnik defaulted to Scott Munson for the

title, leading Neumann to call them "co-champions" for the meet.

At heavyweight, Ryan Tobin (the No. 1-rated wrestler at 190) defaulted to Abe Boomer, creating a second set of "co-champions" for NU. Also at heavyweight, J.R. Plienis finished in third, winning the tournaments Most Falls Award with three pins in 7:52.

The only Husker to reach the finals and not win was 177-pounder Brad Vering. Vering lost to Navy's Greg Gingeleskis 5-3 in the finals.

"Overall, it was an outstanding performance by the entire team," Neumann said. "It was good for us to win a team championship."