

NU sets sights on Texas

Huskers prepare for Big 12 Championships

BY LISA VONNAHME
Staff Reporter

Texas always seems to be the team to beat for the Nebraska men's swimming and diving team.

NU will travel to College Station, Texas, to face the Longhorns and the other five conference schools in the Big 12 Championships Thursday through Saturday. Last year, the Cornhuskers placed a distant second to the Longhorns in the inaugural Big 12 meet.

"They've got a great tradition at Texas," Nebraska Coach Cal Bentz said. "There's no question about that. Everyone has to deal with that. I think it's more how we set our attitude rather than who they are or how they set their attitude."

The 15th-ranked Huskers will focus on their strokes and sprinters and prepare a tough mental attitude for their strategy against the second-ranked Longhorns.

"There are several places where we have an opportunity to do very well," Bentz said. "We cover the

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CAL BENTZ
Nebraska coach

strokes well, both short and long, and we've got a good set of sprinters."

One of the sprinters the Huskers will depend on in their quest to beat UT is sophomore Adam Pine of Balina, Australia. Pine is ranked second nationally in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 47.06 seconds. Last year, Pine won the 100-yard fly at the Big 12 meet and finished second at the NCAA Championship meet.

NU's diving attack, led by junior All-American Danny Bergman, also will be a key to the Huskers' success in the Big 12 meet, Bentz said. This season, Bergman has won 16 of 19 dual competitions, three invitational titles and the 1- and 3-meter seven times.

"He does a really good job," Bentz said. "I think you'll see him step up. Texas has very strong diving as well."

Nebraska, which enters the championships 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the Big 12 Conference, will face strong competition from all of the Big 12 schools. Five of the six schools are ranked in the Top 25.

"From top to bottom on the men's side we probably have a stronger conference," Bentz said. "I think you'll find every one of the teams are going to have kids who are highly competitive. It wouldn't surprise me at all if in some year soon you'll see all six of the teams score well and in the top 25 at the NCAA Championships."

Tournament seed at stake

as NU takes on Texas Tech

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Nebraska (21-7 overall and 10-4 in the Big 12 Conference) has a chance to finish second in the conference and receive a bye in the first round in the conference tournament. On the flip side, the Huskers can end up in fifth place and not get a bye.

To take claim on one of the four first-round byes, NU will have to beat the fifth-ranked Red Raiders. It is also senior night for Tech, which Sanderford said adds to the mountain Nebraska has to climb.

"They are going to have a full house, and we might have four or five fans," Sanderford said. "If we can't handle that now, though, we will never be able to handle it."

The Red Raiders have four players who are averaging in double figures in scoring, but Sanderford said the bulk of the attention will have to go to Alicia Thompson, who is averaging 22.9 points per game.

"We will put some pressure on their guards because they are not super quick at the perimeter," Sanderford said. "We either have to concede (Thompson) 30 (points) or double her and make someone else beat us."

NU has been short in the post with the absence of sophomore Charlie Rogers, who has missed the last four games because of an injured left foot. Doctors said Tuesday Rogers would not play tonight.

But the Huskers have done well without Rogers in the post. Sanderford said he has been pleased with the way other players have stepped up in Rogers' absence.

"We are executing really well right

Women's Basketball Starters

Today, 7p.m.
Lubbock Municipal Coliseum
Lubbock, Texas

Nebraska 21-7 (10-4)			
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Anna DeForge	5-11	Sr.
G	Nicole Kubik	5-10	So.
C	Cori McMillin	6-1	Jr.
F	Jami Kubik	5-11	Sr.
F	Brooke Schwartz	5-11	So.

Texas Tech 20-4 (13-1)			
Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Jill Lake	5-8	Jr.
G	Rene Hannebut	5-8	Jr.
C	Alicia Thompson	6-1	Sr.
F	Angie Brazziel	6-3	Jr.
F	Melinda Schumaker	5-8	So.

now," Sanderford said. "In the past we were hoping to make a play. Now, we know we can make a play."

If NU can make enough plays to break down the Red Raider attack, it will be the Huskers' 11th conference win, which would tie a school record.

"Going into Tech is going to be a huge game," sophomore Brook Schwartz said. "They're No. 5, and it's their senior night. That just gives us more incentive to want to go down there and beat them."

Note:

NU guard Nicole Kubik was named the Big 12 Player of the Week. The sophomore scored 34 points against Missouri Feb. 17.

NU triumphs at tournament

From Staff Reports

Led by junior Jamie Rogers, the Nebraska men's golf team won the Texas-San Antonio Invitational Tournament Tuesday.

The Cornhuskers finished two under par with a 574. Baylor and Southwest Louisiana finished tied for second with a 589.

"There were some quality teams that gave us some competition," NU Coach Larry Romjue said. "Basically it pleased me that we shot good numbers."

Rogers, who is ranked among the nation's top 10, shot a 68 Monday and a 73 Tuesday, finishing with a tournament-best 141 - three under par.

Husker junior Scott Gutschewski finished second in the tournament

shooting a 73 and a 71 for an even par 144.

NU junior Josh Madden shot a 147, junior Ryan Nietfeldt shot rounds of 73 and 74 for a 147 and junior Steve Friesen shot two 74s for a 148.

"This will hopefully give us a spring board for our next tournament," Romjue said. "It was a good tuneup for us. We just have to keep it going."

The Huskers travel to Lafayette, La., March 9-10 for the Louisiana Classics Intercollegiate Tournament.

The Nebraska women's golf teams' play was canceled Tuesday because of rain at the Pioneer Electric Bruin Classic at Menifee Lakes Country Club in Menifee, Calif.

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Husker 'D' set to defy Red Raiders

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won by Nebraska.

Red Raiders' Coach James Dickey said he is well aware of NU's defensive prowess. He said the Huskers' ability to switch defenses was among their biggest strengths.

"They can mix up their defenses," Dickey said. "They went to Oklahoma State and won and played primarily a zone, and they're good playing man-to-man."

The prevailing offense or defense will be important for two teams fighting for fourth place in the Big 12. Nebraska has the spot now at 17-10 overall and 8-6 in Big 12, while TCU is one game behind at 13-11 and 7-7.

If NU wins, it is assured a winning conference record and a bye in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

Husker point guard Tyrone Lue said a bye would be a welcome gift.

"We'll get a day to relax and get a feel for Kansas City and the tournament and what it's all about," said Lue, who leads Nebraska with 21.3 points per game. "It's hard to play four straight games."

Championship party announced

From Staff Reports

Nebraska football fans and players will find themselves in a familiar situation as they celebrate the Cornhusker's third national championship in the past four years.

School officials announced that a "National Championship Celebration and Farewell to Coach Osborne" will be held at Memorial Stadium April 24.

The event will include the presentation of rings to the players, the dedication of the field as Tom Osborne

Field and the rededication of Memorial Stadium.

Tickets for the event will be sold for \$6 and also will be good for admittance to the spring scrimmage the following day. Tickets go on sale March 16.

The Huskers split the national championship with Michigan after beating Tennessee 42-17 in the Orange Bowl - Coach Tom Osborne's last game. Nebraska finished the season without a loss and got the top spot in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Poll, while the Wolverines were No. 1 in The Associated Press Poll.

Racial report released

BOSTON (AP) - The grades are in for minority hiring in college sports - and they're lousy.

A new study released Tuesday by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society found that while the record for minority hiring in pro basketball, football and baseball is poor, it's even worse at the college level.

The "Racial Report Card" covering the 1995-96 academic year showed that college sports have the worst record for hiring women and minorities, the percentage of black players decreased in college and pro sports, and that majority ownership in sports for minorities does not exist.

"There has been very little progress in the patterns of hiring people of color and women in pro and college sport," said Richard Lapchick, author of the report and director of the center.

The center conducts an annual study of the racial composition of players, coaches and front office employees in pro basketball, football and baseball. This year, it widened its focus to include colleges.

"Despite well-intentioned efforts, white males still control most of our teams, front offices and athletic departments," Lapchick said.

The center found that in 1996, 71.4 percent of the NCAA's top executives were white and about 21 percent were black. About 92.1 percent of the organization's chief aides were white, 5.3 percent

were black and 2.6 percent were Latin.

More than 80 percent of the NCAA's office managers were white, 9.4 percent were black and 1.9 percent were Latin.

In pro sports, the NBA was given the highest grade in opportunities for minorities for the ninth straight year. The NFL was next, and major league baseball was given a conditional grade because it did not provide data for the second straight year.

Coaching jobs for blacks in NCAA Division I football, basketball and baseball rank behind their pro counterparts in the NFL, NBA and major league baseball. Only three of 30 NFL coaches were minorities, followed by three of 28 in baseball and seven of 29 in the NBA.

At the college ranks, 81.5 percent of Division I basketball coaches were white, along with 92.8 percent of Division I-A football coaches and 97.6 percent of baseball coaches.

"When you're talking tennis, golf, swimming and other sports where there are poor percentages of minority participation, that's a reflection of the fact that in our society we don't provide a lot of good programs at the secondary level, so we don't see high participation rates for those sports," said NCAA Executive Director Cedric Dempsey.

"But it's inexcusable in sports like baseball, basketball and track where we have high participation numbers of minorities not to have more minority coaches."