

Huskies prepare for tourney

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But there is a method to his "Madness."

"We've been pushing the mental part of the game this week, the mental toughness," Sanderford said. "I've been hard to live with at practice. I've been very demanding. I don't think you can win in the NCAA Tournament with sunny-day players."

"You've got to be tough and resilient. You have to be able to come from behind and play in difficult situations. The team that is resilient, the team that can get themselves ready to play, is going to win."

Nebraska (22-9) has had limited success in past tournaments. Although it lost in the first round during the 1996 NAAs, the Huskers advanced to the second round in 1994.

Seniors Anna DeForge, Jami Kubik and Emily Thompson, all key contributors this season, competed on NU's last NCAA Tournament team as sophomores. All agree this year's team has a different mentality than the 1994 team.

"In the past, we were just excited to get in," DeForge said. "This year we've got 22 wins and a very good

and experienced ball club. We're looking to win some games. The mentality and attitude of our team is probably the biggest difference."

Other than its senior class, NU has very little experience in the NCAA Tournament. But its opponent, New Mexico, has none. The Lobos earned their first-ever bid by winning four games in four days and pulling off a surprising championship in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament.

Senior guard Abby Garchek, who Sanderford compared with DeForge, leads New Mexico (26-6) with 20.2 points per game.

"New Mexico is a carbon copy of Iowa State," Sanderford said. "They shoot very well from the 3-point line and play good defense. They have some good, solid players, and I'm sure they'll be fired up after winning the WAC Tournament."

While the Lobos ended their season on a high, NU finished its regular season on a low after losing to Oklahoma State 83-69 in the Big 12 Tournament. Sanderford said he thinks the loss cost Nebraska a possible four or five seed.

And NU's lackluster performance and the consequences of it have pushed Sanderford even harder

Women's Basketball Starters NCAA Tournament

Today
Norfolk, Va. 5 p.m.

| Nebraska 22-9 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Pos. | Name | Ht. | No. | Yr. | PPG | RPG |
| F | Jami Kubik | 5-11 | 24 | Sr. | 8.9 | 5.2 |
| F | Anna DeForge | 5-11 | 30 | Sr. | 18.7 | 7.6 |
| C | Cori McDill | 6-1 | 15 | Jr. | 5.0 | 3.4 |
| G | Nicole Kubik | 5-10 | 32 | So. | 13.1 | 3.1 |
| G | Brooke Schwartz | 5-11 | 21 | So. | 7.4 | 3.9 |

| New Mexico 26-6 | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Pos. | Name | Ht. | No. | Yr. | PPG | RPG |
| F | Katie Kern | 6-2 | 33 | Jr. | 5.8 | 4.2 |
| F | Jennifer Williams | 6-0 | 42 | Fr. | 9.7 | 4.7 |
| C | Arlita Vuletic | 6-3 | 31 | Sr. | 8.7 | 6.0 |
| G | Abby Garchek | 6-0 | 24 | Sr. | 20.2 | 4.8 |
| G | Tamika Stutes | 5-3 | 14 | Sr. | 9.1 | 4.7 |

JON FRANK/DN

this week.

"Everybody knows he's a great coach," NU forward Kubik said. "He's trying to push us every day. It's just a little harder now because we are so run-down, and sometimes he

doesn't think we're giving him as much as we feel like we're giving him.

"But we're not tired of seeing him. I want to see him for at least three more weeks."

Gymnasts share rivalry, family

By **DARREN IVY**
Assignment Reporter

Although the Nebraska men's and women's gymnastics teams will be in hostile territory Saturday in State College, Penn., they won't be alone.

Sophomore Manny Galarza, junior Laurie McLaughlin and women's Assistant Coach Rob Drass, who are all from Pennsylvania and have ties to the Nittany Lions, said friends and family will be at the 6 p.m. meet at the 6,846-seat Rec Hall.

Women's Coach Dan Kendig and four of the other Cornhusker gymnasts also have ties to the state from working and attending the Woodward (Penn.) Gymnastics Camp.

"I know a lot of people, and it is fun going back," Kendig said.

The men hope a win over the No. 5

Nittany Lions will give them confidence for the NCAA Championships April 16-18, which will be hosted by Penn State.

Men's Coach Francis Allen said he was disappointed his No. 2 Huskers didn't put away No. 4 Ohio State last week and hoped NU would compete well on all the events against PSU.

"They are not going to let us run away with it," Allen said. "They have a lot to prove."

So does Galarza. One of Galarza's best friends, Mike Dutka, competes for Penn State. Galarza, who transferred to Nebraska from Syracuse after the fall semester, trained in the same gym with Dutka growing up.

"With my buddy on (Penn State), this is for bragging rights," Galarza said. "I am coming back home and want to show I am on the best team in the coun-

try and that my sacrifices to move far away were worth it."

He also said beating Penn State at home would help NU down the line.

"It would be a confidence booster," Galarza said. "We would have the upper hand because we'd know we had been here before and beaten them and could beat everyone else here, too."

The men and women will compete at the same time, but Drass, a former Penn State gymnast, said he won't pick sides in the men's dual.

If he does, he'll hear from both Allen and Penn State Coach Randy Jepson.

"I stay out of it," Drass said. "Francis gives me a hard time if I'm pro-Penn State, and Randy gives me a hard time if I'm pro-Nebraska."

Drass and Kendig hope the preparations pay off for the No. 13 Huskers against 15th-ranked PSU because

Kendig said NU is due for a big meet.

McLaughlin hopes she can contribute to a big score in her return to State College, which is her hometown.

Growing up, McLaughlin's club coach was Penn State Coach Steve Shepard. While she was recruited by the Nittany Lions, she was not offered a scholarship, so she came to Nebraska.

That decision was hard on her father, Dennis, who works at Penn State.

"(My dad) is a big Penn State fan," McLaughlin said. "He's torn between schools, but for gymnastics, he is all for us."

Note:

Sophomore Nicole Wilkinson was named the Big 12 Conference Gymnast of the Week after scoring a 9.80 or higher in three events to help Nebraska defeat Iowa State 194.625-194.55 on March 3.

NCAA 1st round upsetting for top seeds

(AP) - It was a day of upsets and close calls in the first round of the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

For the second straight season, No. 3-seed South Carolina lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, this time falling to 14th-seeded Richmond 62-61 in Washington, D.C.

The Spiders (23-7) held the Gamecocks (23-8) scoreless for the last 76 seconds of the game as South Carolina guard B.J. McKie missed a 5-footer as time expired.

Last season, South Carolina was a No. 2 seed and lost to No. 15 seed Coppin State.

In other action Thursday:

Cincinnati 65, N. Arizona 62

BOISE, Idaho - Finally, a long shot went in for Cincinnati, and the Bearcats survived the long-shot challenge of Northern Arizona with a harrowing 65-62 first-round victory in the NCAA West regional.

D'Juan Baker, 4 for 14 from the field up to that time, sank a 3-pointer with 3.6 seconds to play Thursday as the Bearcats avoided becoming only the fourth No. 2 seed in tourney history to fall to a No. 15 seed.

Northern Arizona (21-8), a 15-point underdog in its first NCAA tournament, frustrated the bigger, stronger Bearcats (27-5) all afternoon with a pestering defense and a patient offense as the crowd at Boise State University Pavilion roared its approval.

West Virginia 82, Temple 52

BOISE, Idaho - Temple's trademark matchup zone proved no match for West

Virginia.

The taller 10th-seeded Mountaineers passed the ball through, over and around the No. 7 Owls and used an effective full-court press to hand Temple its most lopsided loss of the season, 82-52, Thursday in the first round of the NCAA West regional in Boise, Idaho.

West Virginia (23-8) advanced to Saturday's second round to play No. 2 seed Cincinnati.

The younger Owls (21-9) never got untracked against West Virginia's five senior starters.

Jarrod West led West Virginia with 15 points, and Brent Solheim added 13 points and 10 rebounds. Brian Lewin also had 10 rebounds as the Mountaineers controlled the boards, 44-22.

North Carolina 88, Navy 52

HARTFORD, Conn. - In a game that saw top-seeded North Carolina take only a 38-28 halftime lead, the Tar Heels outscored the Midshipmen 50-24 in the second half in a 88-52 win in the first round on the East regional.

All-American forward Antawn Jamison led UNC with 17 points and 14 rebounds as the Tar Heels (31-3) outbounded Navy (19-11) 57-37 despite committing 12 turnovers in the first half.

NC Charlotte 77, Ill.-Chicago 62

HARTFORD, Conn. - In the game to decide who would play top-seeded North Carolina in the second round, No. 8 seed UNC-Charlotte rolled over No. 9 seed Illinois-Chicago 77-62 in the first

round of the East regional.

DeMarco Johnson dominated for the Forty-Niners (20-10), as he had 30 points and 13 rebounds.

Washington 69, Xavier 68

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Forward Deon Luton hit a 17-foot jumper with 11.2 seconds remaining to give 11th-seeded Washington a 69-68 upset of sixth-seeded Xavier in the first round of the East Regional.

Luton led the Huskies (19-9) with 17 points.

Princeton 69 UNLV 57

HARTFORD, Conn. - Fifth-seeded Princeton used a 20-2 run in the first half to help put away 12th-seeded UNLV 69-57 in the first round of the East regional.

Princeton extended its nation-long winning streak to 20 games and moved to 27-1 on the season.

Indiana 94, Oklahoma 87 OT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Seventh-seeded Indiana outscored Oklahoma 14-7 in the overtime period after blowing a 19-point lead in regulation in the first round of the East Regional.

Senior guard Corey Brewer led the Sooners (22-11) with 22 points, but fouled out in the extra period, ending the run for OU. The Hoosiers improved to 20-11 as forward Andrae Patterson scored 25 points and grabbed six rebounds.

Maryland 82, Utah State 68

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Fourth-seeded Maryland buried 13th-seeded Utah State 47-27 on the boards as Maryland beat the Aggies 82-68 in the

NU unable to hold lead in 2nd half

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NU turnover. Guard Kareem Reid missed a layup, but Hamilton lost the rebound, giving the ball back to the Razorbacks.

Arkansas made 13 of its last 14 free throw attempts in the final three minutes.

"We took a little better care of the basketball and we made free throws," Arkansas Coach Nolan Richardson said of his team's second-half performance. "That was the difference in the game."

Hamilton also said the Razorbacks played better than NU in the second half.

"I think they slowed the pace down and they worked harder than us," Hamilton said. "We didn't play the whole 40 minutes. If we played 40 minutes, we could have made it to the Sweet 16."

With the win, the Razorbacks (24-8) advanced to the second round of the West regional and will play Utah Saturday at 3:45 p.m. in Boise. The Utes (26-3) defeated San Francisco 85-68 earlier Thursday.

Arkansas was led by guard Pat Bradley's 19 points and Reid's 17.

Along with Lue's 19, Hamilton added 14 points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

Nease said he was looking forward to Nebraska basketball taking it to "the next step." The Huskers could return all five starters next season. Lue said after the game he was not sure if he would enter the NBA draft.

NU junior forward Andy Markowski, who scored 10 points, also said he was looking forward to next season.

"Hopefully, we'll get everybody back next year and we'll make a run at it again," Markowski said. "I think this is something we can build on. It left a bad taste in my mouth."

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