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No. 32 Bears defeat NU 7-2 in Waco

From Staff Reports

Baylor took five of six singles matches and two of three doubles matches to defeat the Nebraska women's tennis team 7-2 Thursday in Waco, Texas.

The 32nd-ranked Lady Bears were led by No. 1 singles player Barbara Navarro, who defeated NU's Sandra Noetzel 6-4, 6-1.

Navarro also teamed up with Sophie Goldschmidt in the No. 1 doubles match to defeat Noetzel and Jennifer Thoste.

The Cornhuskers' lone win came in the No. 2 doubles match when Lisa Hart and Ndali Ijomah combined to defeat Vicki Jordan and Karin Anderson.

Nebraska will play Oklahoma State Saturday in Stillwater, Okla. The Huskers will play Oklahoma, Cal State-Fullerton, Cal State-Northridge and California-Irvine over spring break.

Coach: Juniors key to title

BY DARREN IVY
Assignment Reporter

Fans attending Saturday's Big 12 Gymnastics meet at the Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m. may not notice the efforts of Courtney Brown, Laurie McLaughlin and Jess Swift.

But Coach Dan Kendig said those junior gymnasts could be the difference between winning a school-record fifth-straight conference title and finishing second.

"Every tenth (of a point) will matter," Kendig said. "One-tenth can easily lead into five-tenths. Each tenth we save makes us that much better."

As upperclassmen, Brown, McLaughlin and Swift know what it

takes to win and are trying to instill that desire in the younger gymnasts, Kendig said.

Competition in the Big 12 meet has increased this year with Iowa State and Oklahoma both sending good teams. Earlier this year, OU defeated Nebraska 192.725-190.55, and NU has struggled with Iowa State both times winning by a combined 1.25 points.

Even though both teams have improved, the Huskers still feel they are the favorite because they are putting it all together.

"If we hit, we will win," Kendig said. "We are starting to click on all cylinders."

When the Huskers competed against these teams earlier in the year,

they weren't hitting on all cylinders, Kendig said.

That was before the juniors got together with the team psychologist to discuss their leadership roles.

"I knew I was going to have to play a leadership role, but I didn't know how important it was until halfway through the season," Swift said.

Once the juniors took a more active approach, the team improved.

Brown said it has been nice to share leadership with the other juniors.

"We know what has to be done, and we are trying to get the underclassmen to understand that," Brown said. "We lead by example and hope they will model us."

Huskers must put aside ghosts in return to Classic

BY MIKE KLUCK
Staff Reporter

Last year, the Nebraska softball team rolled into the Capitol Classic Softball Tournament in Sacramento, Calif., looking to gain momentum.

But in the semifinal game against Iowa the rug was pulled out from under them.

On a squeeze play, Nebraska freshman Jennifer Lizama, the team's leading hitter at the time, suffered a concussion. On the same play, two-time All-American Ali Viola tore her anterior-cruciate ligament and was out for the remainder of the season.

Today, No. 13 Nebraska returns to the scene of the crime when the Huskers participate in the Capitol Classic Softball Tournament in Sacramento.

"Somebody mentioned (the injury) to Ali and I, and we just kind of went one, two, three, breathe and blew that away," Nebraska Softball Coach Rhonda Revelle said. "That was such a different place and such a long time ago that I don't even think about it anymore."

Nebraska is a very different team from the one that entered last year's tournament at 9-11. This season NU

enters the tournament with a 14-5 record and has already competed against nine teams ranked in the current USA Today top 25 poll.

One player playing well right now is Viola. The senior has hit eight homers in 19 games and has 16 RBIs. Viola's eight home runs give her 39 for her career, a statistic which ranks ninth in NCAA history.

The All-American shortstop from Novato, Calif., said she doesn't think much anymore about the injury that derailed some of her goals last season.

"We just want to put (the injury) behind us," Viola said. "We're just concentrating on moving forward and trying to play to our potential at the tournament."

The Huskers opened the tournament with a 10-1 win over Harvard in pool play. NU will complete pool play today against Southwest Missouri State and San Jose State, and tournament competition will start tonight.

The tournament is important for the Huskers because it will be their last tuneup before opening conference play on March 28.

After competing in the Capitol Classic Tournament, Nebraska will play Sacramento State in a double-header Tuesday.

The Huskers then return to open up at home Thursday against Creighton before starting Big 12 play against Texas on March 28 and Texas A&M on March 29.

Wrestlers in 19th place after 1 day

From Staff Reports

Backed by second-round wins from 158-pounder Temoer Terry and 190-pounder Ryan Tobin, the Nebraska wrestling team finished the first day of the NCAA Championships competition in 19th place.

NU scored 14 team points through the first two rounds before a sold-out crowd of 11,989 at the Convocation Center in Cleveland.

"We had a lot of guys that wrestled passive today," NU Coach Tim Neumann said. "We can't wait for something to happen. We've got to go out and make things happen."

Terry advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Maurice Worthy of Army 6-4 for his third win of the tournament. Tobin, a No. 4 seed, beat Chris Zike of Central Michigan in the second round to advance.

Brad Canoyer (134 pounds), Brad Vering (177) and J.R. Plienis (heavyweight) all posted first-round wins before losing in second-round competition. Paul Gomez (118) and Jeramie Welder (126) both lost first-round matches but stayed alive with wins in wrestle-back matches.

The tournament will continue today before wrapping up on Saturday.

Maintaining Excellence

The Daily Nebraskan is now accepting applications for senior positions for the fall semester. Any major field and class standing is eligible, as long as you are carrying at least six credit hours and have a 2.0 GPA or higher.

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