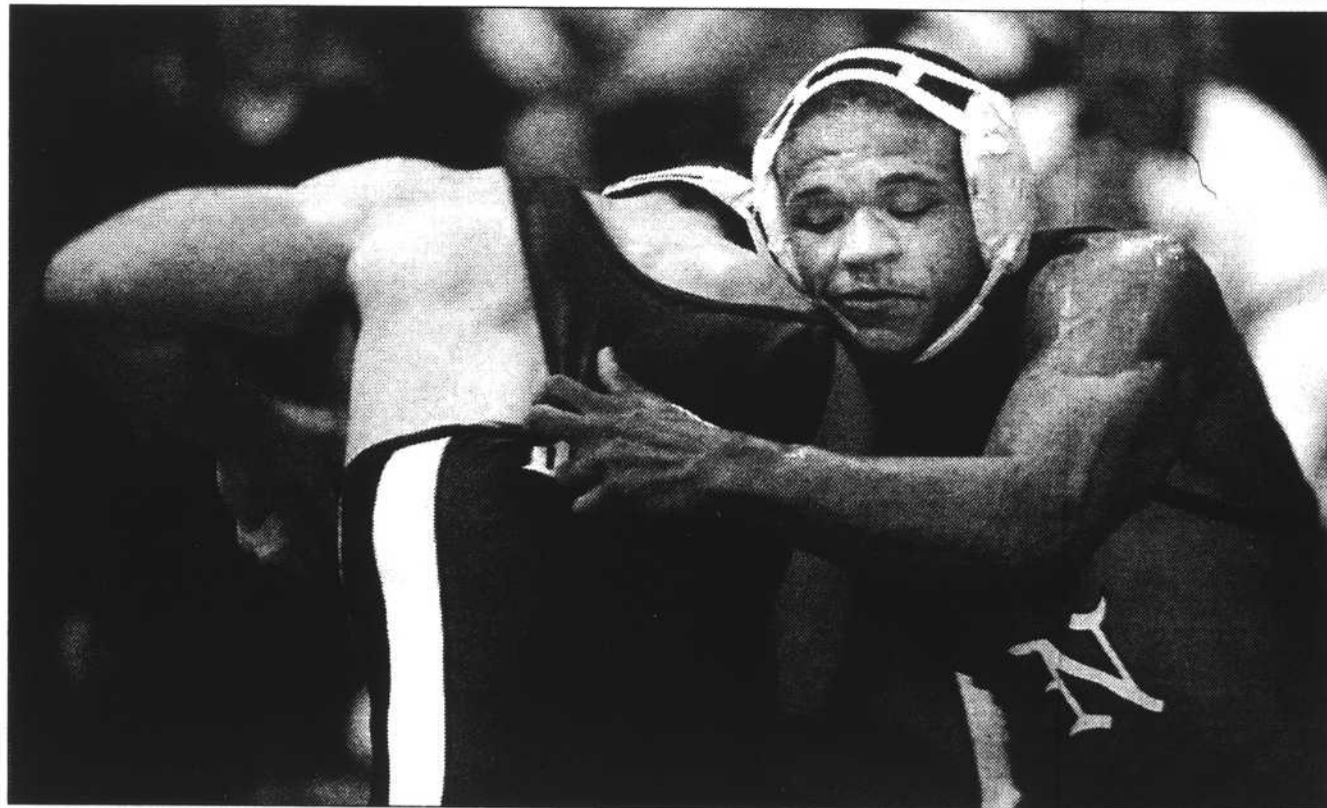


Losing their Grip

Wrestlers' title hopes crushed with disappointing finish at NCAAs



NU WRESTLER TEMOER TERRY finished his final season by earning All-American honors for the third time. Terry, one of the winningest wrestlers in NU history, racked up a 19-2 record last season. MATT MILLER/DN

By **LISA VONNAHME**
Staff Reporter

Nebraska Wrestling Coach Tim Neumann said this could have been the year for the Cornhuskers to bring home the national title for the first time in school history.

Instead, NU, which was plagued by injuries all season, ended its season with a 21st place finish at the NCAA Championships in Cleveland March 19-21.

"I hate to dwell on it," NU Coach Tim Neumann said. "We didn't meet our expectations."

The finish was especially disappointing for the four seniors who led this year's team, Neumann said.

Seniors Jeramie Welder, Brad Canoyer, Temoer Terry and Ryan Tobin combined for the most wins of any senior class in NU history.

"I had some great matches during the year," Tobin said. "I can't do much about it now, but the program will keep getting better."

Of the 10 NU wrestlers, seven qualified for the national tournament. Tobin and Terry earned All-America honors for the third time, finishing fourth and sixth.

Neumann said new weight changes, which included adding seven pounds to each weight class, hurt Paul Gomez (118 pounds), Jeramie Welder (126 pounds) and Brad Canoyer (134 pounds).

"All three were too small for their classes," Neumann said. "Brad Canoyer was essentially a 126-pounder wrestling at 141."

While the finish at the national tournament was disappointing for the team, Neumann said, the 1997-98 season was highlighted by the emergence of two fresh-

men wrestlers, two individual Big 12 titles and the naming of Tobin as the Student Athlete of the Year.

Brad Vering (177 pounds) and J.R. Plenis (heavyweight) were the first pair of Nebraska freshmen to win 30 or more matches in the same season. Vering also became the third wrestler in NU history to win a conference title as a freshman. Tobin joined

Vering as a Big 12 Champion when he won the title in the 190-pound weight class.

Looking to next year, Neumann said he hopes to have an "innocent" team.

"By that I mean we have a group of guys who only know about winning," Neumann said. "They've won state titles and national titles. They're all hungry to compete."

"I had some great matches during the year. I can't do much about it now, but the program will keep getting better."

RYAN TOBIN
NU senior wrestler

Returning All-Americans give bowlers bright future

By **SARAH DOSE**
Staff Reporter

With only one returning senior next fall, there would be reason for NU Bowling Coach Bill Straub to be a little nervous.

But he's not.

After finishing second nationally, the NU bowling team will return next season with three All-Americans, only one of whom is a senior.

"We had a good core, a good squad this season," Straub said. "The team that beat us won the national championship. Our team was good, but it just worked out that they beat us."

The Cornhuskers' three returning All-Americans include juniors Kim Claus and Jen Davis. The lone senior on the team will be Jen Daugherty, who claimed a second-place individual title at nationals.

Straub said the rest of the squad is

ready to compete, too.

"Two or three other girls are waiting with the skill and potential to perform well," Straub said. "We have a good nucleus so our team will be strong again."

Not only will key returnees benefit the team, but new recruits will also have their places.

"We just signed the top high school bowler in the nation," Straub said. "Our recruiting is going well. Diandra might be getting most of the attention, but we've got some other good ones, too."

Diandra Hyman, from Dyer, Ind., will compete with the Huskers next season.

Straub said Hyman, Daugherty, and the rest of his team give him a positive outlook for the upcoming season.

"I just can't be disappointed," he said. "If everyone just works hard, we should be fine."

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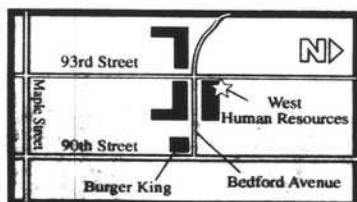
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