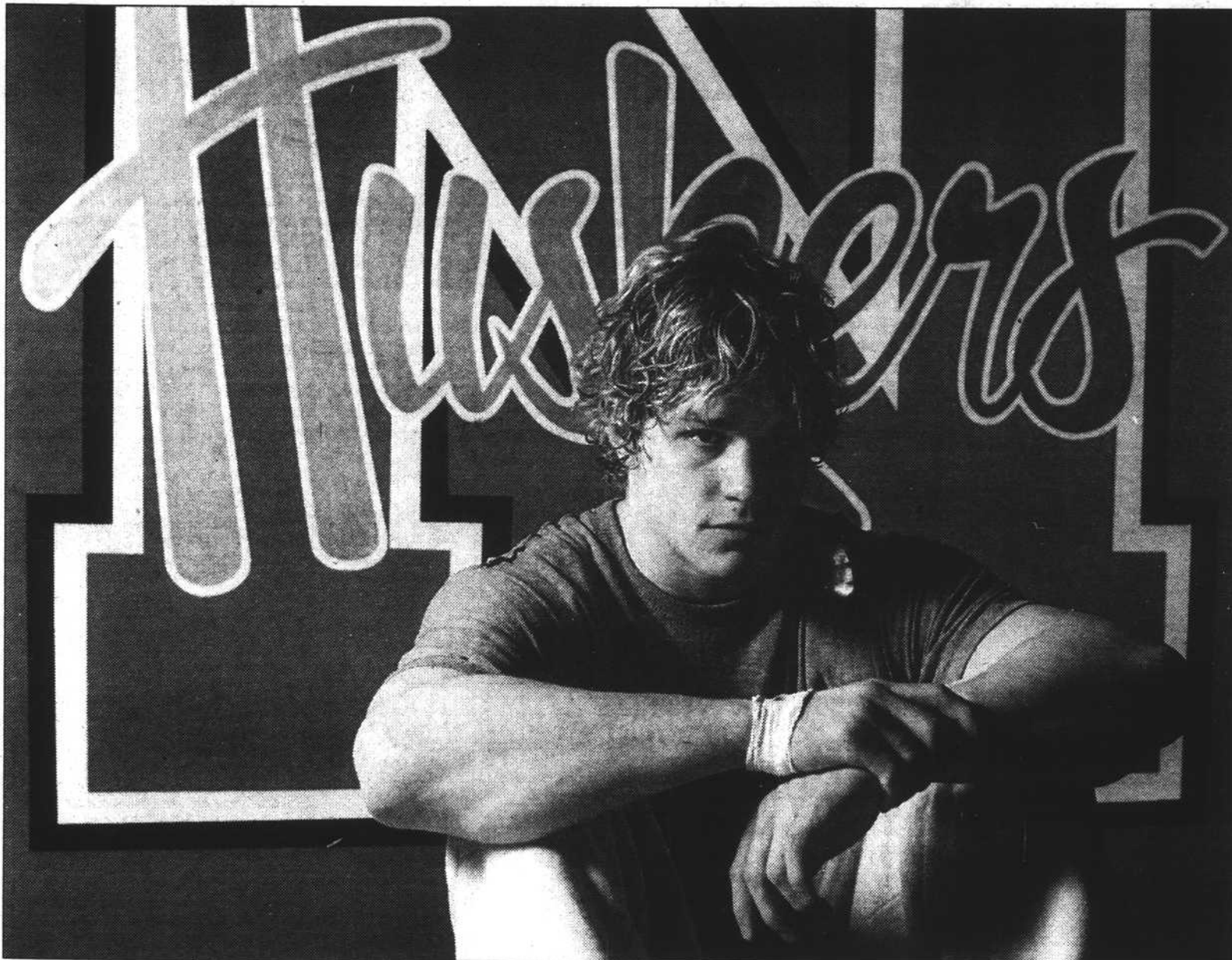


# SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1999

PAGE 7



**REDSHIRT FRESHMAN** Bryan Snyder leads the Nebraska wrestling team into Sunday's dual with Minnesota. Nearing the end of the season, Snyder has the best record among Husker wrestlers.

RYAN SODERLIN/DN

## Huskers' Snyder earns respect

Wrestler notches No. 5 national ranking, first seed in Big 12 tourney

BY LISA VONNAHME  
Staff writer

Bryan Snyder lived in fantasy land last week. He earned the No. 1 seed for the Big 12 Wrestling Tournament next month. He scored huge wins over Iowa State's fifth-year senior David Maldonado and Oklahoma's David Kjeldgaard. He helped the Nebraska wrestling team record Big 12 Conference upsets against both the Cyclones and the Sooners. And as a reward for his fairy tale accomplishments, Snyder jumped three spots to a No. 5 ranking in the latest Amateur Wrestling News poll. Not bad for a guy who started the season with little recognition and a No. 20 ranking. "It was the biggest week of my life, I think," said Snyder, the 157-pounder for the Cornhuskers. "To beat both teams in such a dramatic way - it was great. It's the stuff you write stories about."

Drama and excitement are right up Snyder's alley.

He loves big matches. As he said, "the bigger the match, the better it is."

It's quite a philosophy for the redshirt freshman from Easton, Pa. Snyder, who boasts a team-leading 25-2 record, and doesn't show the nervousness or hesitation most first-year competitors do. Instead, Snyder is confident. Some may see it as cocky.

"He thinks he can beat anybody," NU Coach Tim Neumann said. "It doesn't matter who they are, how old they are or what they're ranked. Snyder thinks he can beat them."

Snyder, who leads the team in dual takedowns, dual points and major decisions, will get a chance to demonstrate his poise on Sunday at 2 p.m. when he faces top-ranked Chad Kraft of Minnesota. The No. 4 Huskers (16-5 overall and 2-3 in the Big 12) will look for their third upset in two weeks as they take on the No. 2 Golden Gophers (13-2 overall and 7-0 in the Big 10) in NU's final home dual of the season.

"A lot of guys will worry all week about going up against the No. 1 guy," NU Assistant Coach Jason

Kelber said. "Bryan doesn't worry about things like that. He just thinks about how he's going to attack."

Snyder said his confidence has simply carried over from his high school days in 1997. Snyder credits his father, a former wrestler at Penn State, and his best friend, Jamarr Billman, who now wrestles at Penn State, for pushing him to a stronger mentality.

With so many roots at Penn State, Snyder admitted it was difficult for him to choose Nebraska.

"It was hard to tell my dad that I wasn't going to Penn State," Snyder said. "But it was something I had to do. I felt like I just clicked with the guys and the coaches right away."

Not only does Snyder know he made the right decision, he knows a lot lies ahead of him at NU.

Again, his confidence shines through - not only in himself, but in the entire team.

"We have so much talent," Snyder said. "Everybody works so hard, and we all see that. We're as good of friends out of the wrestling room as we are in the wrestling room."

## NU looks to recover on road

Nebraska's baseball team will try to turn around a 1-2 start.

BY ADAM KLINKER  
Senior staff writer

Something just didn't add up last weekend when the Nebraska baseball team finished the Showdown in the Desert Tournament in Peoria, Ariz.

The Cornhuskers went 1-2 and hit .308 compared to the .343 mark set by their opponents. NU dropped two one-run games in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Yet the Huskers still managed to outscore their adversaries 23-22.

"We played well as a team," Husker third baseman Danny Kimura said.

"But those hard losses in the ninth, those take their toll."

But the promise showed last week is something NU is hoping manifests itself in the victory column this weekend in the Bone and Joint Classic in Ruston, La.

The Huskers lead off this afternoon at 2 p.m. with Louisiana Tech. The Bulldogs (0-2) are still searching for their first victory of the season after losses to Northwestern State and Southwestern Louisiana.

La. Tech is bolstered by the bats of second baseman Brian Myrow and outfielder T.J. Soto. In 1998, Myrow hit .337 with 21 home runs and 66 RBI. Soto slugged 19 homers and racked up 51 RBI.

On Saturday, NU will take on the Lamar Cardinals (4-0), a team that has put its offense into high gear early in the season with doubleheader sweeps against Houston Baptist and Prairie View A&M.

In their four games, the Cardinals have outscored their opponents by a count of 46-8, including a 23-0 victory over Prairie View. They also are hitting .402 as a team.

Sunday, the Huskers play a twin-bill with the Bulldogs and the Cardinals.

Kimura said a bounce-back is expected this weekend, especially to give NU some momentum going into the Feb. 19-21 Marriott West Loop Invitational Tournament in which the Huskers play second-ranked Rice.

"Our team is good," Kimura said. "We can bounce back and hopefully we'll pick up four this weekend."

## NU wary of let-up after KU win

Nebraska hopes to continue winning in the Big 12 with a game against the Cyclones.

BY ADAM KLINKER  
Senior staff writer

The Nebraska men's basketball team is looking for an encore performance of sorts this weekend - a performance that would ideally result in a revenge victory.

Sandwiched between two of NU's most crucial games of the Big 12 Conference season is a 6:00 p.m.

game at the Devaney Center with Iowa State, who spoiled the Cornhuskers' last win over Kansas and upset a five-game winning streak Jan. 30 in Ames.

Now, NU (16-8 overall and 8-3 in the Big 12) has beaten the Jayhawks again and is looking forward to a battle in Lincoln with Oklahoma State on Feb. 17.

"We've just got to keep winning," Husker Coach Danny Nee said. "We've got to win them one at a time."

That credo has remained constant as the very watchwords of the Husker success this season, even though it might be easy to look past ISU, a team on a three-game losing streak - nonetheless, a team that has beaten

NU this season.

The Huskers were the Cyclones' last victims before ISU began their current slide.

Heading the ISU attack is Big 12 player of the week Marcus Fizer, who leads the conference in scoring average with 18.1 points and 8.0 rebounds per game. In the Cyclones' 77-61 loss to Missouri on Feb. 8, Fizer scored 14 points and had 10 rebounds.

Against the Huskers on Jan. 30, Fizer led all scorers with 16 points, including 12 in the second half to lead the Cyclone charge.

Nee said that once again, he's hoping to have his team prepared for whatever the Cyclones bring into Lincoln.

## Huskers hope to end road woes against KU

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

It's no secret the Nebraska women's basketball team has had trouble winning on the road this season.

The last time the Cornhuskers (16-8 overall and 5-6 in the Big 12 Conference) won away from the Bob Devaney Sports Center was Dec. 28 against Kent.

Since then, NU has dropped six consecutive road games, five of which have been conference matchups.



Sanderford

Now, the Huskers have to travel to one of the most unfriendly places in the Big 12 - Lawrence, Kan. - for a game against the No. 21 Kansas Jayhawks.

Nebraska has not won in Lawrence in 11 years.

"(Losing on the road) is a mental situation," NU Coach Paul

Please see ROAD on 8