

Nebraska golfers benefit for stiffer foes in tourneys

By SAM MCKEWON
Senior editor

Life among the nation's elite has been treating the Nebraska men's golf team pretty well.

NU, which may be fielding the best team in school history, has benefited from invitations to higher-profile tournaments because of the strong lineup.

And it's shown in the rankings. The most recent Mastercard collegiate Top 60 has the Cornhuskers at 11th, their highest ranking ever. NU and Northwestern are the only northern teams anywhere near the top 10.

Recently, Nebraska is coming off a third place finish at the Stevinson Ranch Invitational in Stevinson, Calif., where Huskers were favored to win, but were behind champion Kansas and No. 24 Fresno State.

NU Coach Larry Romjue said third place was disappointing as NU was the top-ranked team there; but expecting to win is a good problem to have.

"It's always nice when you can have a team that can compete with the stronger teams," Romjue said. "There's still seven or eight teams out there who won't play you, though. They basically play each other. It's OK for them to lose to each other, but not OK for them to lose to a team like Nebraska."

Romjue includes Oklahoma State

and Texas in that group of the very elite. But the Cowboys and the Longhorns won't be able to avoid NU at the Big 12 Championships, where Romjue fully expects to contend for the conference championships.

A solid lineup allows him to think so. Seasoned veterans Steve Friesen, Jaime Rogers, Josh Madden and Scott Gutchewski have been around for two years together and form a nucleus among the best in the country.

"I think, with the four of us, we actually know that we can beat good teams now," Rogers said. "We always knew the talent was there; it was just a matter of being consistent."

Rogers said the Huskers are peaking at the right time. Friesen's been strong all year, Madden just recently won a tournament and Rogers, himself, feels his game is coming around.

"It always is like that," Rogers said. "One guys gets playing well, and we all start feeling that pressure. We feed off that success."

Romjue said a warm spring has helped to get the Huskers good practice time. It's helped NU in its continuing quest to find a No. 5 golfer, a spot where Seth Porter and Ryan Nietfeldt have alternated at during the season and freshman Dean Best might get a shot at before the season's over.

"We're still looking for the No. 5 guy," Romjue said.

Huskers ready for NCAAs

By BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

Nine men from the Nebraska swimming and diving team will head to Indianapolis this weekend to compete at the NCAA national championship meet.

After a slow start at the Big 12 championships three weeks ago, Coach Cal Bentz says a good start is key.

"We're going to place a lot of emphasis on doing well the first session of the first day," Bentz said. "Once we get halfway through the meet we're pretty much tied to the range that we'll score in. We want to get locked into the highest possible group we can and then keep trying to climb the ladder from there."

In a sport where numbers are so important, diving is one area in which the Huskers have a leg-up on the competition by virtue of qualifying two athletes.

Senior diver Danny Bergman will have to overcome a slight back injury to improve on his seventh-place finish in the one-meter and ninth place finish in

the three-meter last year.

Teammate Eric Cook, completely healthy for the first time in two years, makes his first appearance at the meet. At the Zone Diving meet, Cook defeated Bergman in both the one- and three-meter springboard competitions.

"Eric has made substantial improvement this year," Diving Coach Jim Hocking said. "A lot of people don't know who he is, so he will be fun to watch."

Australian Adam Pine is shooting to become the first male Nebraska swimmer to ever win an individual event at the NCAAs, after placing second in the 100-yard butterfly last year as a sophomore. So far this season his time of 46.71 ranks second nationally.

Pine feels good about his chances to be the first individual winner in NU history.

"Every time I go to a major meet, I seem to do better than I have before," Pine said. "I feel that I'm better than I was this time last year. It's hard to put in seconds, but I'm better prepared and more focused for this meet than I ever have been before."

"A lot of people don't know who he is, so he will be fun to watch."

JIM HOCKING
NU coach on Eric Cook

Fellow Australian, freshman Anthony Rogis, also has his eyes on a first-place finish. At the conference meet, he shattered team and Big 12 records, on his way to recording the top mark in the 200-yard freestyle nationally this year. He was rewarded by being seeded first in the event at the championships.

Cook for one is thinking about his opportunities of the present and not of the future.

"I'm going to be living for the moment right then and there," Cook said. "Who knows what next year has to bring, I might make it back, and I might not."

Huskers pound UNO with hitting

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more fun than practicing."

For the game, NU had only three more hits than the Mavericks, but UNO committed four errors to Nebraska's zero.

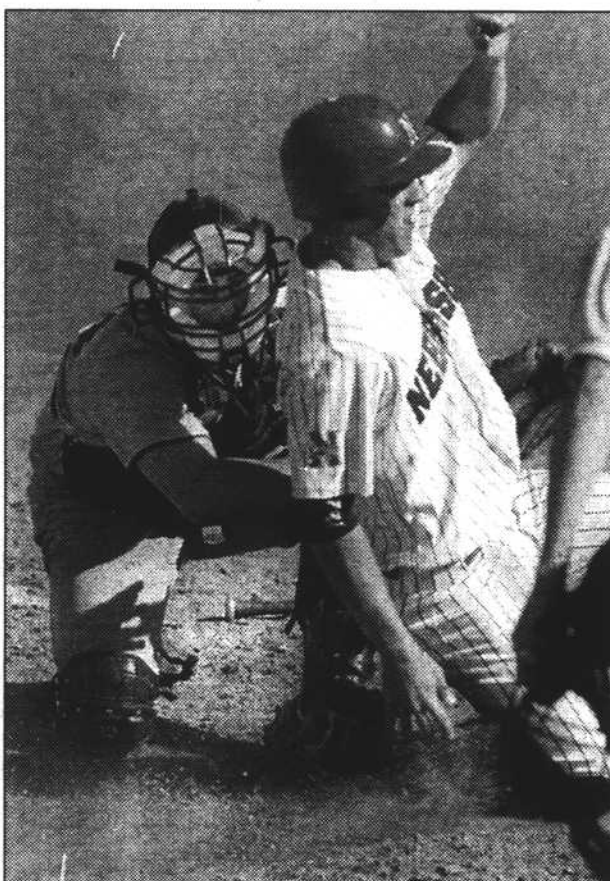
Freshman right-hander R.D. Spiehs, who had allowed 13 earned runs through 11 2/3 innings pitched for a 10.03 earned run average, picked up his first win of the season tossing 2 1/3 scoreless innings. He gave up four hits and struck out one in his stint on the mound for NU.

"I just threw strikes for two innings and let my team come back," said Spiehs, who entered in the fourth. "These games let us fine-tune some things. Some guys on the pitching staff that don't have innings - it lets them get some work. It's just an all-around good situation to get ready for this weekend."

With starters Shane Komine and Steve Hale, who had combined for 7-2 record this season, out with injuries this weekend, Van Horn said, the Huskers will have to rely on less experienced pitchers when they play host to Texas, a team that has already swept the defending national champion Southern California earlier this season.

But that doesn't concern Spiehs. "We're rolling right now," he said. "I know the confidence on this team is as high as it's been."

The 30th-ranked Huskers (5-1 in the Big 12 Conference) will face the Longhorns (21-8 overall and 8-1 in the Big 12) at 7 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday at Buck Beltzer Field.



RICK TOWNLEY/DN

NU JUNIOR OUTFIELDER ADAM SHABALA slides into home base and is tagged out in the fourth inning. The Huskers went on to beat UNO 15-2.

60 mph fastballs ...underhand



Come listen to NU Softball Coach Rhonda Revelle this Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Nebraska Union. Room to be posted. Also, come learn about getting priority seating for Husker football season tickets. Anyone planning on getting student football tickets is strongly encouraged to attend.

For more information contact the Athletic Marketing Office at 472-9839 or huskerfury@huskers.unl.edu. HuskerFury is open to every full-time student, except student-athletes.

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Third tutor admits wrongdoing in Minnesota basketball scandal

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A third tutor says she wrote a paper for a former University of Minnesota men's basketball player.

Graduate student Alexandra Goulding said when she told Coach Clem Haskins she wouldn't do it again, Haskins responded that the player, Courtney James, "needed a lot of help," the Saint Paul Pioneer Press reported Wednesday.

The next day, Goulding said, team academic counselor Alonzo Newby told her she would not be offered a contract to continue working as an athletic department tutor.

Goulding, a doctoral candidate in sociology, said Newby had watched her write the paper on her first day as a tutor in 1995.

Goulding said she discovered that James' paper about his goals in school was due the next day, and that he was not proficient in typing or putting his thoughts on paper. She said she sat down at the computer and began typing the paper with James beside her.

"From yes and no statements from him, I created the sentences," she said.

Goulding said she then told Newby that "I cannot and will not

write his papers. I said you will have to get him (James) some remedial tutoring."

Goulding said she later repeated these concerns to Haskins.

However, Goulding said she does not believe Haskins witnessed her writing the paper for James.

Ron Rosenbaum, attorney for Newby, said he needs to investigate the latest allegations.

Ron Zamansky, who represents Haskins, said the coach stands by his earlier statement denying wrongdoing.

This week, two law firms hired by the university began investigating earlier allegations by two former tutors.

Two weeks ago, Jan Gangelhoff, a one-time tutor and former academic counseling unit office manager, said she completed 400 pieces of coursework for 20 players from 1993 to 1998.

She furnished the Pioneer Press with computer files containing more than 225 examples of coursework for 19 players that she says she wrote and players turned in.

Gangelhoff's sister, Jeanne Payer, also said she did coursework for players during the 1997-98 school year.

Point guards could be key to national title

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history. He averaged 17.1 points and 4.3 assists per game this season.

"I have known all along that Scoonie was a premier player," O'Brien said. "He is a better player now than he was in his two years at BC. He matured and became stronger during the year that he sat out."

The point guards, while a big part of the battle, won't have the entire final say. Premier players typically have premier games when it counts.

For that measure, Duke's Brand or Langdon, Connecticut's Richard Hamilton, or the Buckeyes' Michael Redd might be the difference.

But even if they dominate the scoring, they'll need a point guard to get the ball to them. And floor general in a Final Four is about as pressurized as it gets.

Or as Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski said: "It's a bigger spotlight now. And it keeps getting bigger."