

NU's Conner, Flores bolster tourney slate

■ The two players have recently recovered from injuries.

BY DAVID DIEHL
Staff writer

Traveling to Bethlehem, Pa., for the Billy Sheridan Tournament, Nebraska's starting wrestling lineup is beginning to take the shape that was intended at the beginning of the year.

Although 125-pounder Paul Gomez is still three weeks away from being eligible to wrestle, redshirt freshman Justin Flores, NU's projected starter at 141 pounds during the preseason, will make his first collegiate start.

After having arthroscopic surgery on his knee in early November, Flores has returned a week ahead of schedule. Coaches had hoped to have him back in time for the Missouri dual next weekend.

Assistant Coach Mark Cody said Flores definitely gives the team a boost headed into the 12-team tournament, which Lehigh will play host to.

"He gives us the opportunity to challenge to win the team title," Cody said. "I think without him it might be kind of tough."

While Nebraska was solid at the

141 spot last year with All-American Jose DeAnda, Flores will be the third wrestler to start at the weight this year. DeAnda finished eighth at last year's national meet and was one of the most talented wrestlers on the 1998 team.

But Head Coach Tim Neumann has confidence in Flores' ability to take DeAnda's place. He said that the coaches had planned on Flores taking over the 141 spot at the beginning of this year, and they recruited him to fill the void left by DeAnda.

Cody said that Flores had a great week in practice, and though he still isn't in top shape, he expects Flores to fare quite well this weekend.

"Technically he looked real sound," Cody said. "He needs to get himself in a little bit better shape, and then he'll be ready to go. But he's so sound technically that it may not make a difference this weekend."

Also back from injury for the open is 174-pounder Ati Conner. Conner sat out of the Black & Decker Cornell Classic two weeks ago resting a knee he slightly injured in the season opening dual.

Conner said he aggravated the knee in Wednesday's practice but said he feels he can still fare well in his matches on Saturday.

"As long as I don't get it twisted I'll be all right," Conner said. "On my feet it's about 80 percent. But on the mat I can't bend it."

Sanderford questions seniors in loss to Drake

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Wisconsin game. Against a team like Drake, you have to slow them down, and you can't make defensive errors."

NU tied the game at 61 at the nine-minute mark, but the Bulldogs had one more run in them as they went on a 15-4 run to put the game out of reach. The Huskers would cut the lead to five but could get no closer.

Drake Coach Lisa Bluder said the difference between this year's game and last year's game, a 75-72 Nebraska win, was the rebound margin.

The Bulldogs held a 51-45 margin on the glass, despite a career-high 20 rebounds from Nebraska's Charlie Rogers. NU out-rebounded DU 55-31 at Drake last year.

"As I told my players, I'm

thrilled with their character," Bluder said.

"You hope that you don't get yourself in those kind of holes, but we hit some big shots down the stretch and got some good boards."

Sanderford, on the other hand, wasn't so pleased with Nebraska's effort. Schwartz, Rogers and Nicole Kubik combined to score 61 of Nebraska's 77 points. Sanderford said he begged and pleaded all night for his team to get the ball inside but to no avail.

"I was disappointed with our decision making and our shot selection," Sanderford said.

"I'm disappointed that we lost. I told our players that they have to be accountable. We have mature players that aren't playing like seniors. Maybe we need to play freshmen. We have to do whatever we have to do to turn this thing around."

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San Diego pounds JMU

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON
Staff writer

Somebody forgot to tell San Diego's setter Katie Lindquist that Nebraska is a lock to waltz through this weekend to the Sweet 16.

Tonight, San Diego and the Huskers hook up at 7 in the NU Coliseum in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Lindquist is as confident as any that the Torero of USD can take out the Huskers after her team's 15-3, 15-7, 15-11 win over James Madison, which pushed the Torero record to 26-7.

"I think we're ready for them, and we're ready to take that step into the Sweet 16," Lindquist said.

Lindquist's case for an upset over the Huskers is made stronger by the fact that she can flip the ball to the talents of her All-American teammate Petia Yanchulova.

Yanchulova can have the same dominating presence that All-American Nancy Meendering brings for the Huskers, as she showed with her 15 kills and .560 hitting percentage Thursday night.

San Diego 15 15 15

J. Madison 3 7 11

With the score tied at 11 in game three against James Madison, Yanchulova put down a ball from the back row, propelling a 4-0 spurt to put the Dukes away.

"I'm excited about the match with Nebraska," she said. "I think we can come up with a good strategy and come out confident."

Nebraska Head Coach Terry Pettit said that San Diego has what it takes to give the Huskers all they want.

"They don't give you any points, and you have to go out and earn them," Pettit said. "They are a consistent, good ball-handling team that doesn't make many errors."

Pettit's team frustrated first-round opponent Davidson with its size and should have a significant advantage in that department against San Diego.

That size factor doesn't faze Lindquist.

"We have smart players on this team, and when other teams are bigger, we know where to put the ball," she said.

"I think we're ready for them, and we're ready to take that step into the Sweet 16."

KATIE LINDQUIST
San Diego setter

Nebraska played San Diego last season and won in three games, but outside hitter Mandy Monson doesn't expect as easy a go this time around.

"They're a lot better team than they were in the spring," Monson said, having spent time playing against several of the USD players during that time.

Jennifer Torns, first-year San Diego Head Coach, is pleased to be heading into the Nebraska match with a win under her belt in the NCAA tournament.

"The monkey is off our back after that first round," she said. "Now, we will feel a little freedom to play more aggressive and be less timid."

Horns' QB challenges Nebraska

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schemes.

"They're Nebraska, and they're good, but they are not very complicated," Applewhite said. "It's not going to be calculus."

Come Saturday, an ABC national television audience will see if Applewhite has the perfect equation drawn up for beating the NU defense again.

Putting pressure on Applewhite appears to be the big key to NU walking out of the Alamodome with the Big 12 trophy, junior defensive tackle Loran Kaiser said.

"We've learned that we can't ever quit getting in his face," Kaiser said. "If you quit pressuring him, he's going to pick you apart."

Football Starters

Nebraska starters

Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
SE	3	Matt Davison	6-1	185	LR	81	Aaron Willis	6-2	250
LT	69	Adam Julch	6-5	320	NT	96	Steve Warren	6-2	305
LG	63	James Sherman	6-4	285	DT	91	Loran Kaiser	6-4	295
C	54	Dominic Rialo	6-2	295	RR	83	Kyle Vanden Bosch	6-4	270
RG	55	Russ Hochstein	6-4	290	SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-1	220
RT	58	Dave Volk	6-5	300	MLB	13	Carlos Polk	6-2	250
TE	85	T.J. DeBates	6-3	250	WLB	50	Julius Jackson	6-1	240
QB	7	Eric Crouch	6-1	195	LCB	3	Keyuo Craver	5-10	190
FB	15	Willie Miller	6-1	245	FS	19	Clint Finley	6-0	205
IB	38	Dan Alexander	6-0	245	ROV	21	Mike Brown	5-10	180
WB	82	Sean Applegate	5-9	185	RCB	22	Ralph Brown	5-10	180
PK	26	Josh Brown	6-2	185	P	17	Dan Hadenfeld	5-11	

Texas starters

Offense

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.
QB	11	Major Applewhite	6-1	205	LE	49	Aaron Humphrey	6-3	260
RB	3	Hodgee Mitchell	5-7	190	LT	64	Casey Hampton	6-1	305
RB	44	Ricky Brown	6-0	225	RT	73	Shaun Rogers	6-4	315
SE	22	Ryan Nunez	5-9	185	RE	50	Cedric Woodard	6-3	295
F	9	Kwame Cavil	6-2	205	SSL	39	Tyrone Jones	6-4	230
TE	81	Mike Jones	6-4	260	ML	4	DeAndre Lewis	6-1	238
LT	70	Leonard Davis	6-6	367	WL	2	Everick Lewis	6-1	230
LG	72	Roger Roessler	6-5	315	LCB	5	Ahmad Brooks	5-8	182
C	62	Matt Anderson	6-4	310	FS	24	Greg Brown	6-2	200
RG	76	A. Kirk-Hughes	6-3	320	SS	23	Lee Jackson	6-3	205
RT	88	Cory Quye	6-6	325	RCB	1	Ervis Hill	5-9	182
PK	13	Kris Stockton	5-9	195	PR	33	Ryan Long	6-1	190

Husker lineup thin for Ameritas

By JOSHUA CAMENZIND
Staff writer

When putting things into perspective, Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said his team has five "rookies" and is suffering as all young teams do after last weekend's Hoop and Quill Classic.

"There are five players who went into that tournament that have never played this level of basketball before," said Nee, referring to four junior college transfers and freshman Kenny Booker. "They are rookies, and we have played like rookies. We know it, and they know it."

The Huskers (2-2) face a critical two-game stretch this weekend in the Ameritas Classic, as NU will open the tournament Friday night at 6:30 against Western Carolina (2-2).

Monmouth (1-2) and Columbia (1-3) will face off in the other game at 8:30 p.m. The winners meet Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

NU will enter the tournament shorthanded at the guard position with guards Cookie Belcher and Cary Cochran out with wrist and shoulder injuries, respectively. The injuries have forced Nick Lahmers, a 6-foot-2 walk-on from Lincoln, into action for the first time this season.

Guard Rodney Fields said the team is confident in Lahmers backing up starting point guard Danny Walker.

"We got Nick stepping up," Fields said. "I got confidence in him. He'll be OK. Other players have taken him to the side and shown him different things to keep his composure and keep him calm."

Fields said the tournament represents an important part of the season and is NU's to win.

"This whole tournament is critical," Fields said. "We have had a couple of days to prepare for this little tournament, and we are going to win it. We have all the things in the world. It is at our house, and it is time to make things happen."

Nee said Western Carolina is an "athletic opponent comparable to Eastern Illinois." If that is true, the Huskers will have their hands full after taking two overtimes to dispose of the Panthers. Nee described Monmouth and Columbia as "Princeton-style teams that play smart."