

Huskers seal big win over MU

From staff reports

Nebraska wrestlers used wins in seven of nine weight classes and a forfeit in another to blow past Missouri 32-6 in the annual "home away from home" dual with Missouri.

Four of the Cornhuskers' seven wins were major decisions or technical falls, and Missouri failed to place a wrestler at 125-pounds opposite Joe Malia, earning NU six points.

The dual's highlight match was in the 174-pound division, where MU's No. 15 John Kopinsky outlasted Ati Conner, 4-3, earning the Tigers three of

their six points for the dual.

Conner took an early 2-0 lead in the match when he took Kopinsky down with 1:55 left in the first period. The third period started with the wrestlers tied at three, but after a Kopinsky escape, Conner didn't score any more points, and Kopinsky won the match.

Nebraska's Joe Henson won the only match featuring two rated opponents. The 15th-ranked Henson earned a 8-3 decision over Missouri's Jeff Urban, No. 19 at 149 pounds.

Urban was within one point at the end of the second period, 4-3. But after a Henson escape and another take-

Nebraska 32

Missouri 6

down of Urban, Henson won the match 8-3 after being awarded a bonus point for riding time.

Todd Beckerman (133), Bryan Snyder (157) and Charles McTorry (184) all won by major decisions. Team captain Brad Vering earned a five point technical fall, defeating MU's Kevin Herron 19-4.

The Huskers are now 2-0 in duals this year. They beat Lock Haven 20-16 at home to open the season.

Osborne named coach of the decade

Man who led the Huskers to three national championships honored.

From staff reports

Former Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne was honored last Thursday at the ESPN College Football Awards Show as the coach of the decade.

Osborne retired after the 1997 season, after he saw his Cornhuskers

win a share of the national title with a 42-17 victory over Tennessee. It was the third national championship that Osborne won in the 1990s. No other head coach won more than one national title in the '90s.

In his first two national title runs in '94 and '95, Osborne's teams went 25-0.

After defeating Miami 24-17 in the 1995 Orange Bowl and Florida 62-24 in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl, the Huskers were the first repeat national champions since Alabama repeated in 1978 and 1979.

Osborne was points shy of a national title in 1993 when an 11-0 NU team lost, 18-16, to Bobby Bowden's Florida State Seminoles.

Osborne, 62, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1998 and had a 87-11-1 record in this decade, winning conference titles six times. In his last five years, Osborne won 60 of 63 games.

In 25 years at NU, Osborne compiled a 255-49-3 overall record, good enough for fifth all-time among Division I-A coaches with at least 10 years of service.

Former Husker impressed by NU

Basketball team would be 'really good' if Belcher were well, Johnson says.

BY MATTHEW HANSEN
Staff writer

The most interested observer during Saturday's Devaney Center matchup between Nebraska and Pitt may have been a college junior with connections to both schools.

Chad Johnson, who started 15 games for the Huskers one year ago, transferred to the University of Pittsburgh for the 1999 school year. Saturday, Johnson, unable to play because of NCAA transfer rules that require a year off, watched his old and new teams square off.

Johnson was one of three Huskers to transfer following last season, and one of six lettermen lost from the 1998-99 team that finished 20-13. The mass exodus due to graduation and transfer resulted in an unusually large Nebraska recruiting class.

Following the 69-57 Nebraska win, Johnson said he was impressed with NU's new faces.

"They basically have a whole different team than we had here last year," he said. "It's unfortunate for them that Cookie is hurt, because if he was

healthy, I think this would be a really good basketball team. The new guys like Danny Walker and Steffon Bradford are good basketball players."

Huskers topple Panthers

BELCHER from page 10

has been glaring so far early in the season - turnovers. NU committed 23 to Pitt's 11, with every Husker turning it over at least once.

"Our problem is turnovers," Nee said. "We just have to learn how to take care of the basketball, and we will be fine. If we take care of the turnovers, it is a totally domineering game for Nebraska."

NU Notes: Up next for NU is Arizona on Saturday in the Las Vegas Showdown. Belcher is questionable for the Wildcats, and he said his playing status will depend on his wrist after Nee said he will not play in the game. Kimani Ffriend has 26 blocks in eight games, an average of

3.25 per game. Danny Walker was 4 for 7 on 3-pointers for the game. On the season he is shooting 19 of 46, a 41 percent clip from beyond the arc. Steffon Bradford, playing with an injured hand, was one rebound shy of his third double-double this season.

"We just have to learn how to take care of the basketball...."

DANNY NEE
NU men's basketball coach

Cubs trade for 2 players

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) - Convinced they need more than Sammy Sosa, the Chicago Cubs kept reshaping their roster, getting pitcher Ismael Valdes and second baseman Eric Young in a five-player trade Sunday with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

While the New York Mets talked about mega-deals for Ken Griffey Jr. and Manny Ramirez, and other teams discussed Chuck Finley and Tony Fernandez, the Cubs made a move for the third-straight day at the winter meetings.

Chicago sent reliever Terry Adams, minor league pitcher Chad Ricketts and a player to be named to the cost-conscious Dodgers. Earlier, the last-place Cubs reached tentative agreement with free agent catcher Joe Girardi and got center fielder Damon Buford in a trade with Boston.

"I know we're a heck of a lot better than when I got on the plane in Chicago," general manager Ed Lynch said.

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