

Tournament gives Huskers confidence

■ The men's tennis team won eight of 11 matches at the season-opening Harvard Invitational.

BY GABRIEL STOVALL

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott had at least eight reasons to smile after this weekend.

That's because NU began its fall season by winning 8 of its first 11 matches and placing two Huskers in the Flight A semifinals at the Harvard Invitational last Friday at Cambridge, Mass.

Nebraska also had much success against Harvard team, which is ranked in the top 50 nationally.

Hence the feeling of confidence exuded

by McDermott.

"I think our team got a good feeling from this tournament," McDermott said. "Now we feel like we can play against anyone. We feel we can be a top-50 team."

No Husker showed more confidence than senior Adman Hadzialic, who finished as runner-up in Flight "A," competition but made a champion-like impression upon his coach.

"Adman really stepped up during this tournament," McDermott said. "He played outstanding. He was almost flawless."

Hadzialic defeated fellow Husker Lance Mills in the semifinals to advance to the championship match, where he was defeated 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 by winner Oliver Choo.

Other teams competing included Alabama, Rutgers, MIT and St. Johns.

McDermott said he was somewhat disappointed that more Ivy League teams were

not competing. But he called the tournament a good way to measure his team's talent.

"We saw enough to know what we did good and where we need to improve," said McDermott, who is in his 20th season as head coach.

"We feel like a pretty veteran team with a lot of young guys competing for spots and pushing the rest to get better."

This year, the Huskers return five of its top seven players from last year, including one of its best performers in junior Mills, who spent most of last season nursing injury.

Four freshman have also joined the squad this season and have already made an impact, McDermott said.

Nebraska will try to improve on its season-opening success when it goes to compete in the ITA All-American tournament Oct. 6th in Stone Mountain, Ga.

CU looks for first win in game against KSU

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ence foes.

"We were not well prepared for that game," Snyder said. "So it wasn't a smooth beginning, not a smooth transition."

The Wildcats seem to be steadier in all departments this year, even as the top runningback and punt returner, David Allen, has been out for three games. In his place, receiver Aaron Lockett has returned two punts for scores.

What scares Barnett the most, he said, is the pressure-oriented Wildcat defense, which has given up 189 total yards combined in wins over Ball State and North Texas. Colorado had problems against the shifty blitz packages of Washington.

"We've got to deal with how they'll come at us," Barnett said.

Assuming the CU offensive line can do that, there'll be a chance for Colorado to expose KSU's cornerbacks, who play enough man-to-man coverage to be challenged on the deep routes. Receiver Javon Green, along with tight end Daniel Graham, could see plenty of passes thrown in their direction.

Assuming they have the time, quarterbacks Zac Colvin and Bobby Pesavento have been able to deliver the ball with efficiency

in 2000. Both have better than 60 percent completion rates; neither have thrown an interception. Barnett said Pesavento will again get the start, and Colvin will probably see time.

At runningback, CU gets Cortlen Johnson back for Saturday, and Barnett indicated that Johnson would start over true freshman Marcus Houston, who has filled in with nearly 300 yards in three games.

K-State's offense hasn't missed many cylinders since a sub-par opening game against Iowa. Especially good has been Beasley, who completed 12 of 15 passes for 202 yards and rushed for five touchdowns against North Texas. The senior, generously listed at 6-foot-1, has settled down into the Wildcats' offense.

"He has the level headedness, an even keel," Snyder said. "He'll just ride the tide."

Colorado would prefer to get off the tide it's on. The schedule directly afterward—games against Texas and Texas A&M—isn't any easier.

Barnett isn't complaining about it as he did before the season. Now it's about winning. The stiff lip in the face of close defeat is getting old.

"We just want to get on top," Barnett said.

Celtics' Pierce stabbed in face

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Pierce, an emerging star on the Boston Celtics, was recovering Monday after being stabbed in the face, neck and back at a night club.

He was with several friends when he was attacked during a fight in the pool room of the Buzz Club in the city's theater district.

The 22-year-old Pierce was treated at New England Medical Center, police spokeswoman Mariellen Burns said. The hospital would not release information except to say he was in fair condition.

"He's doing fine. We're all hoping for a speedy recovery," coach Rick Pitino said as he left

the hospital.

WBZ-TV reported that Pierce had been hit over the head with a bottle and that most of the stab wounds were superficial except for a 7-inch deep cut to his sternum.

Several stations reported that teammate Tony Battie was with Pierce at the club early Monday morning.

There were no immediate arrests, and it was unclear what role Pierce might have played in the incident, Burns said.

Celtics players, coaches and officials visited Pierce throughout the day Monday. His family was en route from California.

"He was very lucky," said K.C. Jones, a former Celtics standout and coach. "He had

the angels on his side."

The nightclub will be cited for allowing an attack on its premises, Burns said. She said there have been several other violations there in the past year, including at least two assaults.

Pierce was to report for the start of training camp next Monday.

He apparently was in Massachusetts to participate in Red Auerbach's charity golf tournament Monday in Salem.

The 6-foot-7, 220-pound Pierce played forward and guard last season for a team trying to break a streak of five seasons without making the playoffs.

He averaged 19.5 points and ranked second in the NBA in steals with 2.08 a game.

Former NU swimmer Alshammar gets silver

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Former NU swimmer Therese Alshammar captured a silver medal in the Olympic 50-meter freestyle Sunday.

The medal was Alshammar's second silver and third medal overall of the Sydney Olympics. She finished second in the 100-meter freestyle, and captured a bronze with Sweden's 4x100-meter relay team.

Current Husker Adam Pine of Australia also got into the NU medal parade, winning a silver as a member of the host country's 400-meter medley. Pine didn't participate in the finals but did swim the third leg for the Australian team in the preliminaries.

Benson named Big 12's top defender of week

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There's a reason for all the shutouts the undefeated Nebraska women's soccer team has posted this fall.

The Big 12 recognized one of those reasons Monday, as NU senior defender Jenny Benson was named the Big 12 Defender of the Week.

Benson, who garnered All-Big 12 honors last season before switching to defender in the off-season, has helped the NU defense post eight shutouts in 10 games this season. Last weekend, Nebraska blanked Baylor and Creighton, extending its scoreless streak to 420 minutes.

The Huskers, who remain third behind Notre Dame and Clemson in the latest NSCAA poll, will return to action on Friday when they travel to Missouri.

Coslet resigns from 0-3 Cincinnati Bengals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unable to win, barely able to even score, the Cincinnati Bengals found themselves with a new coach Monday with the season all of three games old.

Bruce Coslet unexpectedly quit as coach of the NFL's worst team of the past decade and was replaced by defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau in the first NFL coaching change this season.

The resignation came a day after the Bengals lost their third game in a row and second straight without scoring a point. They have been outscored 74-7 this season and haven't made the playoffs since 1990, the league's longest current streak.

"He's a good teacher... he's good with players," Bengals owner and president Mike Brown said of LeBeau. "I think he can step in now and get our situation back on course as quickly as anybody could."

Coslet coached the New York Jets from 1990-93 and became coach of the Bengals in 1996. Under Coslet, the Bengals were 7-9 in 1997, 3-13 in 1998 and 4-12 in 1999.

LeBeau said he was stunned by Coslet's decision.

"I tried to talk him out of it," he said. "He was not to be swayed."

Brown, too, was surprised. "It was hard for me because he's a good man, a friend and a good coach," Brown said.

"That was his call and he made it. It's behind us now."

Brown questions whether the Bengals gave Coslet the support he needed.

"I think we all wonder," he said. "If we had better answers, maybe we would have had success."

Brown intends to continue to run the team as general manager rather than hire someone else.

Collier stresses discipline

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Mouton said NU's goal is no different from other successful programs across the country.

"We are not asking ungodly things," he said.

One thing the coaches are asking is that the Huskers come together as a group.

"You could poll one or two guys from our team, and there would still be a substantial amount of unity work to be done to have our guys become more of team," he said.

Collier met with Ffriend and fellow senior Cookie Belcher after workouts on Wednesday to discuss leadership issues.

Ffriend said the relationship between Belcher and himself will go a long way in determining how the team gets along.

"Cookie has been here for five years and knows the system," said Ffriend, who has had his differences with Belcher in the past. "For the team to be successful, we have to get along. And we do get along. I really respect the guy because he knows what he wants."

Ffriend said Collier told the two they must lead by example, and the team will follow if they do the right thing.

Collier said he is pleased with the efforts the two have made in looking forward.

"They have not been full-fledged teammates yet because Cookie was out last year," Collier said. "There is give and take involved with both of them."

"They are very important and are working toward that end. I have seen significant improvement."

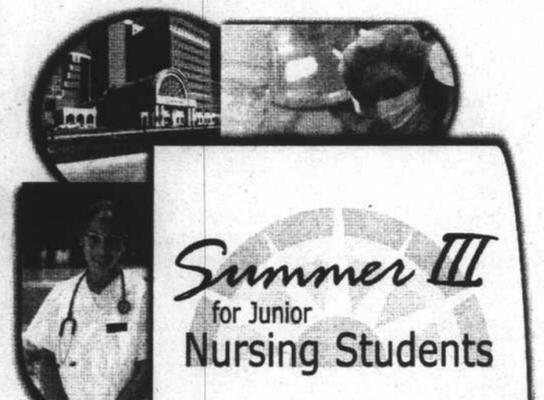
Despite Collier's not being 100-percent satisfied with the team at this point, Cochran said the Huskers are headed down the right road.

"We are doing things the right way," he said. "It has been the ideal situation thus far for us to get better."

Husker Notes:

Transfer Danai Young will find out on Wednesday whether his wrist will require surgery when he visits the Mayo clinic. If needed, the surgery, comparable to Belcher's last season, would require Young to redshirt.

The 6-foot-4, 190-pounder is in line for playing time at small forward, left vacant by the departure of senior Larry Florence and the transfer of Louis Truscott.



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