

NU golf teams look to rebound

Men's team to face top field in St. Louis

BY KRISTEN WATERS

The Nebraska men's golf team will be looking for some redemption this week in the Purina Classics Tournament in St. Louis after a disappointing finish in Colorado two weeks ago.

"We didn't score as well as I thought we should," NU Coach Larry Romjue said. "We were only a few strokes behind a couple of teams we could have beat."

The Huskers finished the 15-team Ram Intercollegiate Tournament tied with Wichita State for 11th place with a score of 588. Nebraska was just one point behind a two-way tie between Sam Houston and Texas Tech. Colorado walked away with a first-place finish at 563 strokes.

The top finisher for the Huskers was sophomore Kevin Bryson, who tied for 28th place after firing a 73 the first day and a 72 on the final day for a total score of 145.

Team leader Seth Porter, a junior, displayed unusually high scores as he tied for 52nd place with scores of 75 and 77 for a total of 152.

Romjue said his expectations for Porter and the team are high going into this week's Purina Classic.

"Seth finished second last year, and I hope he does just as well this year," Romjue said. "Seth is a leader on the team, and when he is successful, the team is usually successful."

NU will face some of its toughest competition of the fall season at the tournament. Iowa State, Kansas and Missouri will represent the Big 12. The University of North Carolina-Charlotte, which finished first place at the Jordan Invitational earlier this year, will also be competing.

"There are going to be 18 teams there from all over the country," Romjue said. "It's definitely going to be a competitive tournament."

The weather will also be a factor for Nebraska. The high for today, the first day of play, is expected to be in the 50s.

Romjue said he will not allow the weather to be an excuse for poor play.

"If you play golf in Nebraska, you have to be able to handle the cold weather," he said.

Porter and company will tee off the first round of play today at the Missouri Bluffs Golf Club at 8 a.m. Tuesday's play will also begin at 8 a.m.

Women's team plans to step up after injury

BY TOBY BURGER

The Nebraska women's golf team looks to rebound at the Legends Invitational in Franklin, Ind., after a disappointing showing last week.

The team finished a dismal 10th at the Big 12 Fall Preview. The competition at the Legends Invitational will test the Huskers again.

Fifteen teams are competing over two days, including four other teams from the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings, which place Nebraska 18th.

Purdue, Oklahoma State, Michigan State and Ohio State are ranked 14th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd, respectively. All figure to challenge for the team title.

There are 40 teams that could be in the top 25, NU Coach Robin Krapfl said. She said she expects that with many of those teams competing today and tomorrow, the tournament should be a highly competitive battle.

"We can compete with and beat everybody there," Krapfl said.

If NU does accomplish that feat, it will be without sophomore Amanda Krane, who is out for a second week with an injury.

"We can compete with and beat everybody there."

Robin Krapfl
NU women's golf coach

Krapfl said Krane's injury has put some pressure on the team and has made others step up their games.

One person who has stepped up her game is junior Amanda Sutcliffe, Krapfl said.

"I am pleased with how Amanda Sutcliffe has been playing," Krapfl said. "She went through a kind of sophomore slump last year, but has played a real good ball for us this year."

If NU is to compete for the team title, no Husker can be off, Krapfl said.

"Last week was a case of where one or two shots means three or four strokes," Krapfl said.

The two day event is a 54-hole tournament with 36 holes played today and 18 tomorrow. The course is 5,900 yards with a par of 72.

Huskers sneak past A&M in nailbiter

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The Cornhuskers escaped a bigger hole when defender Jenny Benson tried to step in front of a pass to Michelle Royal, but Royal shot the ball just wide of the near post.

The Huskers would finally push a goal across with 17 minutes to go in the game.

Jones atoned for her missed opportunity in the first half by perfectly placing a corner kick to Latham, who headed the ball off of A&M defender Elizabeth Pavlas to score.

"Latham really stepped up," said Texas A&M Coach G. Guerrieri. "As her opponent, I wasn't real pleased with it, but as a fan, it's good to see big-time players step up."

With 4:20 remaining in the game, NU had a chance to take the lead, but Latham's blast was deflected by Thompson and glanced off the crossbar and out of play.

In the 87th minute, the good fortune enjoyed by A&M swung in the Huskers' favor.

Benson dribbled the ball up the left side of the field and crossed a pass into a swarm of players from both teams.

Thompson couldn't handle the pass and deflected the ball in the direction of NU forward Becky Preston. The ball hit Preston in the stomach and tricked into the goal.

"I thought for sure the keeper would get it, but I was just there in case," Preston said. "The ball went through her fingers and fell right in front of me. I just ran it in."

A&M was unable to mount a threat in the final 2½ minutes.

As the horn sounded, signifying the end of the game, Thompson collapsed to her knees and began crying.

Guerrieri praised the play of Thompson.

"I thought (Thompson) was terrific," Guerrieri said. "She

feels bad because she made a mistake on the last goal, but for a freshman, she's absorbing more and more information each day."

The win moves Nebraska to 14-0 and gives the team a stranglehold on first place in the conference standings. The Cornhuskers are 5-0 in the Big 12, while the loss drops Texas A&M to 3-2.

In second place is Texas, which NU blanked 4-0 on Friday to put itself in sole possession of first.

The Husker defense was suffocating, shutting out the Longhorns for the first time this season. NU's defense held Kylee Wosnuk, the Big 12's third-leading scorer, to just one shot on goal.

Texas was fortunate to not give up any more goals after getting outshot 40-5.

Walker applauded NU's play. "I was very pleased with our effort," Walker said. "It was just

one of those games where the ball does everything but go in the net.

"We probably just need to relax around the net. When you're 10 yards out, it's not the power that counts."

With the two victories, the Huskers will probably move up to No. 2 in the country following second-ranked Clemson's 1-0 loss to No. 12 Duke.

Notre Dame, the No. 1 team in the country, beat Villanova 1-0.

Guerrieri votes on several soccer polls and has been voting NU No. 1 for many weeks. His team played then top-ranked North Carolina to a 1-1 half time score before losing 4-1.

"Nebraska and Carolina are similar teams in that they both throw a lot of athletes at you," Guerrieri said. "I think (NU) could be tested a couple of more times, especially as they get into the postseason. They've got the big-time players to get it done."

Nebraska natives play on other side of net

BY DAVID DIEHL

AMES, Iowa - Familiarities abounded for Iowa State outside hitters Sarah Rollman and Dana Koziol when they took on the steamroller that is Nebraska volleyball on Sunday.

First, there was the fact that each had seen Nebraska volleyball since they were first exposed to the sport. Both followed NU volleyball diligently as they grew up in Nebraska.

Koziol did especially as her older sister, Denise, played for the Huskers from 1995-1998.

Rollman, a sophomore, said squaring off against the Huskers was different than other matches.

"You just say the name and it's got such prestige and history," said Rollman, who recorded seven kills, three digs and a team-leading 21 attacks vs. NU.

Also, there was the familiarity between Rollman and Koziol on the floor. Both played together at Norfolk High School and were rejoined on the court when Koziol, who is a true freshman, decided to head to Ames to continue her volleyball career last fall.

Rollman said having Koziol around this season has made her second year in college easier than her first year when she didn't know anybody.

"You find yourself remembering things from back in high school," Rollman said. "She knows people that I know. It's nice to have someone I'm familiar with here."

Squaring off together vs. the No. 1 team in the land and also their home state team made Koziol and Rollman approach the game a little differently.

"I was really looking forward to this game," Koziol said, "because I know a lot of the players (from NU) because of my sister playing there."

Rollman said she also had friends on the Husker squad, especially Laura Pilakowski, who she still hangs out with during breaks from school and volleyball. Koziol and Rollman had family in the stands watching them play on Sunday, much the way it is almost every home game, both said.

It was a weekend of reminiscing for both Koziol and Rollman, watching the Huskers battle ISU in football on Saturday and taking on the Cornhuskers themselves on Sunday.

"I'm still a Nebraska fan," Koziol said, "but only in football."

NU beats ISU in straight sets with reserves

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tough.

"Sometimes it is hard to stay at this same level," McWilliams said.

"I think we did a good job of playing our style of volleyball and not playing down (to their level)."

The Huskers traveled to Iowa on Saturday night after watching the Nebraska football game on television and then endured another one-hour bus ride on Sunday morning from their hotel to Ames.

Combine that with the fact that many matches are not scheduled for a Sunday afternoon, Cook said, and it makes giving it your all even more difficult.

"It is out of our typical routine," Cook said. "We didn't get a chance to practice here last night, so we had to bus up this morning to practice. Add that to the fact that Iowa State has struggled a little bit and mentally it was tough."

Jill McWilliams
setter



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