

Porter leads NU's struggling team

PORTER from page 10

ter as NU finished dead last in the Big 12 by 15 strokes. The team's highest tournament finish was seventh.

Porter had an up-and-down year himself - tagged by Romjue as a golfer capable of making noise on a national level, he looked as if he would live up to that claim by finishing second at the Missouri Bluffs Invitational. He then stumbled toward the end of the season finishing tied for 54th at the Big 12 tournament.

Because of his individual struggles and team's lackluster showings, the enjoyment Porter had experienced throughout all his successes wasn't there anymore.

"It is not nearly as fun as when we had a chance to win," he said.

Last year's struggles have carried over to this year. With 11 sophomores on the team this year, NU is still trying to gain experience. There's no such luxury for Porter - he said he needed to put more emphasis on his individ-

ual game.

"The future is now for Seth," Coach Larry Romjue said. "He has the capability to be a little more selfish."

Success has been hard to find for the team this season, but Porter has had several small victories. He has finished in the top 10 three times this year and leads the team in scoring average.

Though Porter said the team's youngsters have worked hard, he said it had been difficult to continue to push himself in the face of team struggles.

"I can never practice enough," he said.

Romjue said it was important for Porter to set an example for the younger players because of the position he was in.

With two years under his belt and his experience at the NCAA Championship in 1998, Porter has become a leader.

"Seth is kind of like the unofficial captain of the team," Romjue said.

However, Porter said he didn't think he fit into the mold of a leader because of the indi-

vidualism of the game. But he said he did talk to the coaches and gave his input on various issues.

These past two years won't be the only rough times for Porter, as he expects low points in the future as he tries to make it professionally.

While he would like to play at the highest level, Porter said realistically he would have to hone his skills on a regional tour or another mini-tour.

"My ultimate goal is to play professionally," he said, "but it isn't like I will go out and play with Tiger Woods right away."

But he said he was far from where he needed to be to compete at the top level.

"I still have to work on my short game and become a lot more effective within 100 yards."

Porter said he wasn't giving himself a deadline to make it to the PGA tour. If he didn't make it, Porter said he would be disappointed because he had "wasted a lot of time playing golf."

Husker men's golf in sixth at invite

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Nebraska men's golf team received strong contributions from two golfers despite windy conditions to finish in sixth place after the first day of the Colorado-Stevenson Ranch Invite held in Stevinson, Calif.

Sophomore Jim Troy shot a 36-hole total of 148 and is tied for fifth place. Junior Seth Porter fired rounds of 73 and 78 to sit in 11th place, three strokes behind Troy.

Pacific's Jason Higton leads all golfers with a three-under-par score of 141 on the par-72 course.

NU is tied with Southwest Missouri State with team scores of 617. The Cornhuskers trail

fifth-place California by 12 strokes. Kansas and Tulsa lead the 14-team invitational with a two-round score of 597.

Not all the Husker golfers could match the performance level of Troy and Porter. Sophomore Ryan Cooley ended the day with a total of 158 and tied for 41st. Sophomore Rob Arthur had a 160 and sophomore Blake Humbles shot a 164 to sit in 47th and 62nd respectively, to round out the Huskers.

Sophomore Marty Smith, who is competing as an individual, shot a 172 and is in 72nd place.

The 54-hole tournament will conclude today with the final 18 holes beginning at 8 a.m.

Sides at odds over sport cut

SWIMMING from page 10

violations committed by the former men's swimming team, Byrne was sure of what would happen if the program was still alive at Nebraska.

Byrne said NU would have faced reduced scholarships and fewer recruiting visits on the men's side.

He said the steepest penalties could mean being barred from post-season participation in the championships.

Byrne said it was likely the women's team could face these same penalties.

While the decision came down to budgetary and disciplinary concerns for Byrne, the end of the men's program was personal to its current members.

The swimmers must now either give up the sport or transfer to one of a dwindling number of schools that offer swimming. The predicament left many team members visibly angry - one swimmer in attendance wore a homemade t-shirt that read, "I've been downzoned by Bill Byrne."

The swimmers said the athletic director had earmarked the sport for possible elimination long ago without caring about their individual fates.

"(Byrne's) out to make himself - his budget - look good, and it's at the expense of myself and the other swimmers," freshman Barrett Brandon said. "To him, Nebraska athletics are a business - (the cuts) help him to give more money to sports he likes. It's just too bad for our student-athletes."

Byrne and Perlman met with the men's and women's swimming teams privately in the Devaney Center before the meeting. The private encounter, which was often heated according to Brandon, lasted about 90 minutes.

The swimmers wanted to

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Barrett Brandon
NU freshman swimmer

know why they weren't notified until this weekend that the program was being axed, Brandon said.

Many swimmers will have trouble transferring because of the lateness of the decision, and for some schools, the transfer deadline is Friday, Brandon said.

"This whole process has been very disturbing to us," said the freshman swimmer, who may transfer to Texas A&M. "It has been poorly handled by the administration and basically turned into a horrible experience for all of the swimmers."

Despite probable NCAA sanctions of its own, the women's swimming program seems safe.

Byrne said the women's program couldn't be cut because of Title IX concerns.

The Athletic Department is already lagging in the proportionality aspect of the legislation designed to provide equal athletic opportunities to women - while 47 percent of the school's students are women, only 37 percent of its scholarship athletes are female.

To avoid a lawsuit from the United States Office of Civil Rights, Byrne said the school must show a commitment to offer increased opportunities for female athletes. This means adding women's sports, not cutting them.

While the women's team is alive, both sides seemed to agree it's future prospects aren't rosy. Byrne said he expected some of the women

swimmers to transfer, while Brandon expected most of the top Husker women to leave.

In addition, the Devaney Center pool, which will still be home to the women's team, is a quickly aging facility, Byrne said. Plans to build a new pool "are in the very distant future," he said.

The women's team is also without a coach for the time being. Byrne said the Athletic Department would conduct a search for a new coach. He said former volunteer assistant and Interim Coach Paul Nelsen, who was given the coaching job in September after the Bentz and his top assistants were suspended, will be invited to apply but wouldn't be guaranteed the job.

Although some parents and swimmers are planning a last-ditch effort to raise money to save the team, Perlman said that wasn't likely.

"Bill and I will meet with them and listen to proposals that they might have, but we can't minimize the problem," he said. "(The donation) would have to be a substantial contribution and one that would be sustainable over time. ... It would require an endowment of about \$10 million."

The situation left the men's swimming team still searching for answers, Brandon said, from Byrne or anyone else.

"I came here because this was such a strong program, and that was last year," he said. "I really have no idea what happened."

Sprinter rakes in gold medals

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Nebraska sprinter Chris Chandler added one more award to go with the three gold medals he won last week.

The senior All-American was named the Big 12 Conference track athlete of the week after he earned three event titles as he helped NU win the Jim Click Shootout on Saturday. Chandler won the 100- and

200-meter dashes and was part of the winning 4x100-meter relay team during the quadrangular in Tucson, Ariz.

The Starke, Fla. native's time in the 200, 20.83, was an NCAA provisional qualifying mark. The relay's time was 39.62, the second fastest in school history and also a provisional qualifying mark. Chandler won the 100-meter dash in a time of 10.35 seconds.



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