

UI Sports

NCAA's on tap for XC teams

Both the Iowa men's and women's cross country teams will head to the NCAA's District meet this weekend.

By Chuck Blount
The Daily Iowan

The distance increases, as will the competition for the Iowa men's cross country team this weekend when they travel to Ames to compete in the NCAA District V meet Saturday.

The 31-team field will be a tough one, with three teams in the top-25 in Iowa State (14th), Oklahoma State (18th) and Nebraska (23rd). Iowa's season rival Minnesota, who has beaten the Hawkeyes in two of the teams three meetings, will also compete in the NCAA Championship qualifying meet.

In five of Iowa's six meets this season the course distance has been run at 8000-meters. The District V meet will be extended to 10,000-meters.

"You don't approach the race any differently," Iowa senior Jared Pittman said. "We practice all season for the 10K, so it's an easy tran-

sition." The only time Iowa has competed at the 10K distance was early in the season at the Illinois Invitational. If anything, the increased distance may be a blessing in disguise for the Hawkeyes; the last time Iowa raced at the distance all five scorers turned in top-30 finishes, one of the teams best team finishes to date.

Iowa coach Larry Wiecezorek has taken his team to eight straight district meets, with his best finish coming last season when Iowa placed seventh. At the recent Big Ten Championships, Iowa placed fifth, tying as the best Iowa finish at the meet to date in the coach's 11-years at the helm. With a team that has shown the ability to run with the best, the coach feels it's just a matter of getting everyone to have their best day on the season's biggest day. If those results take form, the coach won't have to settle for a tie for best ever.

"We haven't run our best race yet," Wiecezorek said. "We just haven't fired on all cylinders. If we can do our best this weekend we can make a run of qualifying for the NCAA Championships."

Larry Wiecezorek
Iowa cross country coach

Iowa's top-three (Chad Schwitters, Stetson Steele and Pittman) have carried the team all season, but they have yet to all run dominantly on the same day.

"Our key for success is for our top three guys to all have outstanding days together," Wiecezorek said. "Also our fourth and fifth guys need to close down. Right now they are 55-seconds down and they need to be at 35 seconds."

Women's Cross Country
This week: The Iowa women's cross country team travels to Bloomington, Ind., for the NCAA District IV Championships, Saturday.

Meet Notes: Iowa is coming off the recent Big Ten Championships, where the team finished ninth for the second year in a row...Look for Mandy Vitense to again lead the Hawkeyes; Vitense has been the top finisher for the team in every meet she has competed in...Julie Wuorinen, Jill Scheibel, Rachel Ballweg and Kristen Haefke should round out the scoring runners for Iowa. Unlike the distance change in the men's district competition, the women will run the standard 5000-meter course...Next season the NCAA District meets will extend to 6000-meters...This will be the season finale for the Iowa women.

Coach's Comments: "It's going to be a tough meet, I still don't know exactly what to expect because I've never been to a meet like this," Iowa coach Sara Swails said. "I just hope the girls continue to improve to give us something to work on for next season."

Women's hoops/Iowa vows revenge

Continued from Page 1B

Nadine Domond, who missed practice time this week with strained hamstrings, are more likely to play. Both are listed as probable starters against the Bulldogs.

Tangela Smith, Amy Herrig and freshman point guard Cara Consuegra round out the Hawkeye starting lineup. Herrig and Smith will face one of their toughest challenges of the season against Drake

center Tammy Blackstone.

"It's two people on the low block who are extremely effective," Lee said of Herrig and Blackstone. "They are both strong, they both have great hands, they're both able to score from the inside. That's just a great matchup."

Last season Blackstone outplayed both Herrig and Smith combined. The Bulldog center finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds,

while the Hawkeye post duo combined for seven points and three rebounds. Smith played just nine minutes due to foul trouble.

Although Lee didn't want to place more emphasis on the intrastate battle, last season's rout raises the stakes for the Hawkeyes.

"To say that our kids aren't motivated by being embarrassed by that game -- yes, I think there's a definite motivation," Lee said.

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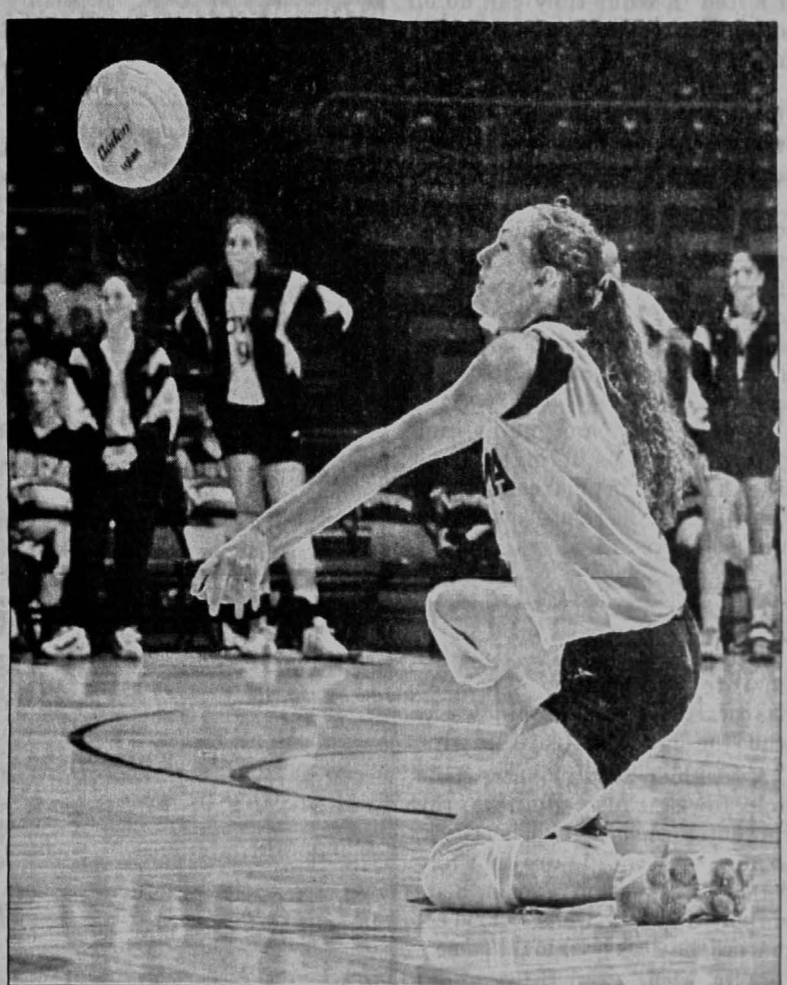
UI SPORTS ROUNDUP

Volleyball
This weekend: After losing to both Northwestern and Michigan in five games at Carver-Hawkeye in September, the Hawkeyes are hoping to avenge the two losses. The women are to begin play tonight at 7 p.m. against Michigan. Saturday they will travel to Northwestern and play the Wildcats at 7:30 p.m.

Team Notes: Hoping to finish a disappointing season on a winning streak, Iowa wants to improve the 9-16, 2-10 record that is compiled. With senior Jen Bell and sophomore Julie Williams carrying the team at the net, the rest of the team is looking to help Bell finish her senior season on a positive note.

Coach's Comments: "This should be a good weekend," coach Matt Sonnichsen said. "We felt that these were two teams that we felt that we either should have beat or could have beat. This late in the year we just want to try and get a win, because they are playing well. We've done everything but win. Statistically, emotionally, and effort wise we're better than last year. We really want to find out a way to squeeze out a couple of victories here in the last few matches, just because our kids deserve it."

-Meagan Manfull



Brian Moore/The Daily Iowan
A member of the Iowa volleyball team bumps the ball back to the opponent against Minnesota back on October 16.

Men's Swimming
This Week: The Hawkeyes travel to Champaign, Ill. this weekend to take part in the Illinois Extravaganza on Friday and Saturday. Iowa is the pre-meet favorite and will use this meet as a chance to do some experimenting with the line-up. Iowa will take on Southern Illinois Friday night, then attack Cincinnati at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Bowling Green at 5 p.m.

Meet Notes: Last week Iowa upset Big Ten powerhouse Minnesota 159-141, in what head coach Glenn Patton called, "the upset of the winter sports season"... Iowa freshman Jay Glenn and Jason Lathrum both won their first career Big Ten events last weekend against the Golden Gophers. Glenn was a double winner, taking the 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke... Cincinnati handed Big Ten rival Ohio State their first loss to an in state school in seven years.

Coaches Comments: "This is going to be a very exciting weekend for us."

-Tony Wirt

- UPCOMING HAWKEYE EVENTS**
- Wednesday, November 19**
Volleyball at Minnesota
 - Weekend of November 21**
Women's swimming away
Men's swimming at Nebraska
 - Tuesday, November 25**
Women's basketball at UConn
 - Weekend of November 28**
Volleyball away
Women's basketball hosts Prairie Lights Classic
Wrestling at Northern Open, Friday
Men's basketball hosts Long Island, Saturday 8:05 p.m.
 - Thursday, December 2**
Men's basketball hosts Drake
 - Thursday, December 4**
Men's and women's Swimming at U.S. Open
 - Weekend of December 5**
Men's and women's swimming hosts Iowa
Invite Friday and Saturday
Men's and women's swimming at U.S. Open
Women's basketball at Louisiana Tech, Saturday
Women's gymnastics hosts Intrasquad meet
Wrestling at Northern Iowa Open

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11/19 Scarlett Runner
11/20 Boogie Shoes w/ Blue Turtle Taparty
11/21 Ekostic Hoookah w/ Bambu
11/22 Dennis McMurrin and the Demolition Band
11/26 Modern English w/ Pompcit V

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By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press

A couple of weeks ago, Kansas City Chiefs were looking at this week's meeting with Denver Broncos as an opportunity to challenge for the AFC West title.

Now they have to look at it as a survival game. Elvis Grubbs went for a while with a broken collarbone, they were thumped 24-10 in Jacksonville last week, next week they go to Seattle, then are home for San Francisco. Good luck.

The Broncos re-established themselves last week with a 30-17 win over Carolina after two point wins and a loss. But it was at Mile High Stadium, where Darrien Gordon's punt return gave them early momentum.

This week, the Broncos favored by 3 1/2. Too much Arrowhead Stadium is one of the toughest places in the NFL to play.

Add motivation (desperation) and make it...

CHIEFS, 17-16
Washington (plus 6) at Dallas
Just because the Cowboys lost to the Cardinals, Jerry Jones thinks there's a miracle in the works. Make it five of six for Norv Turner against his old team.
REDSKINS, 17-16

Ditka's time getting tight

"I think it's silly to keep a coach on the coach, especially on this coach. With some guys it's probably OK, just put people to sleep. But when, keep it on me, it makes guys want to go out and buy guns and hand grenades." - Mike Ditka, 1986.

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

Since the camera never blinks, Coach better -- before it's too late. Mike Ditka's act is getting tight. He looks way too desperate way early into his tenure in a new town to last. He is back to yelling at everyone all the time, doing many of the unpredictable, unductive things that got him to Chicago. At this rate, he'll wear out either his heart or his come before the Saints go marching anywhere near the playoffs.

Still, Mike being Mike, that's exactly what Ditka dangled front of the locals when he strolled New Orleans in January: play by the end of one season, a Super Bowl by the end of three.

Making too many promises been a long-standing problem. distance between Ditka's brain his mouth is apparently so sl that whatever breaks into the usually escapes the second. In this case, Ditka's pronouncements were more than just misguided optimism. They were proof I warned even a shrewd coach's speculative can get when he's squeezed into a blazer and seated in front of TelePrompTer for a few years.

The thing that Ditka couldn't from way up in a broadcast booth -- what a snakepit the New Orleans offense had become --