UNI goes after NCAA spots in regional qualifier at Drake

Gazette assistant sports editor

hat started out "dismal" could turn out fantastic for the Northern Iowa wrestling team tonight and Saturday at the NCAA Division I West Regional at Drake Fieldhouse in Des Moines.

The national-qualifier starts tonight at 6. Saturday's action begins at noon with finals slated for 3 p.m. Twenty-one wrestlers will qualify for the NCAA Championships, March 16-18 in Oklahoma City. The 10 champs and 11 wild-cards, as determined by the coaches, will advance.

Besides UNI, the nine-team field has Drake, Notre Dame, Illinois State, Southwest Missouri State, Eastern Illinois, Northern Illinois, Marquette and Valparaiso.

Northern Iowa is favored to win its fifth straight crown this weekend, but it didn't start out that way for the Panthers.

"AT THE BEGINNING of the season, it looked pretty dismal," Coach Don Briggs said of UNI's 1-4 start. "Then, every meet, they just got a little bit better; a little bit better."

The Panthers ended the regular season at 17-6, winning seven of their final eight duals. They finished ninth in Amateur Wrestling News' final dual-meet top 20.

"A key to the whole thing has been Mark Schwab and Duaine Martin," Briggs noted of his 118- and 126-pounders. "They really go out and go after it. Just seeing Schwab out there has been a great inspiration for the team."

Schwab, an All-American during his 49-9 freshman campaign in 1985-86, underwent eight knee operations after winning 17 of his first 20 bouts last year. An infection after the initial athroscopic surgery caused the problem.

It was feared Schwab may never walk again. But the junior from Osage re-joined the team after the first semester and is 10-2 overall. He is 76-12-2 in his career.

everybody in the lineup," noted Briggs, who will Ostrander (5-13) at 158, Bob Christner (14-5) at have All-American Chris Lembeck (7-3) in the 177 and Dennis Rockhill (18-15-2) at heavylineup at 158 for the first time since Dec. 9. "At weight.



Joel Greenlee Chris Lembeck

one point, we had five voids; five guys out. "I see an attitude on the team now that 'yeah, we're ready to go.' "

The Panthers' lineup also will have Pat Hamilton (17-16-3) at 134, Gary Steffensmeier (29-7-2) at 142, Pat Hogan (17-5-1) at 150, Todd Lappe (18-11) at 167, Rich Powers (21-7-1) at 177, Doug Downs (15-7) at 190 and second-ranked Joel Greenlee (37-1) at heavyweight. Martin, who outdueled Mark Pustelnik for the 126 spot, is 19-

"Realistically, I'm going to say seven," Briggs said of the number he hopes to take to Oklahoma City. "Anymore than that would be great; any less than that would be disappointing."

Notre Dame, which finished the dual season at 11-3 and ranked 18th by AWN, is expected to be UNI's toughest challenger, but Briggs said "from what I've heard, they aren't that tough."

Drake finished the dual season 19-9 and is led by Jon Anderson at 134 and Vance Light at 118. Anderson is 41-5, former Lisbon standout Light

The Bulldogs also have South Tama's Rod Lyman (27-17-2) at 167, Benton Community's Jason Eckenrod (20-17) at 150 and Bret Sharp (20-10-1) at 190.

The rest of Drake's lineup has Terry Huch (4-"THIS IS THE first time all year that we have 17) at 126, Brent Helmkamp (18-7) at 142, Mike

Voigt in 3rd All-American quest

By J.R. Ogden

ornell junior Shawn Voigt will vie for his _ third All-American honor while Central, Buena Vista and Wartburg will be chasing top 10 finishes this weekend at the NCAA Division III wrestling championships in University Heights, Ohio.

The two-day meets begins today and ends Saturday night at John Carroll University.

Voigt, 100-15 in three seasons at Cornell, finished third at 142 pounds last year after a sixth-place finish as a freshman. Voigt, fresh off his third straight Midwest Conference championship, is 33-2 at 150 this year.

His toughest competition will come from Montclair State's Karl Monaco, a two-time national champ at 142 who also made the jump to 150 this year. Monaco also is a Division I All-American and is rated second to Iowa State's Tim Krieger nationally.

BUENA VISTA, despite finishing second to Central in the Iowa Conference Championships, enters the meet ranked sixth nationally, Central seventh. Wartburg is rated 10th.

Buena Vista, Central and Coe have six national qualifiers each, Wartburg five, Cornell four and Luther three.

The Beavers are led by All-Americans Dave Jordan at 118 pounds and Jeff Bakken at 134. Both repeated as Iowa Conference titlists this year and were joined by Kurt Chesmore at 126 and Brian Bos at 134. Both former Gazette-area preps, Chesmore is an ex-East Buchanan standout and Bos starred at Cedar Rapids Jefferson. BV also has Greg Hoing at 177 and Rich Caldwell at

Central has All-American Chris Hoffman at 118 and loop champs Eric Stewart at 158 and Scot Dierks at heavyweight. Hoffman, a former Sigourney prep, was seventh at 118 last year. Stewart is a former Riverside Highland prep. Central also has Chad Beck at 126, Wapsie Valley's Steve Weers at 150 and Joe Stutting at

Wartburg is sending its largest contingent since the NCAA adopted its present format 16 years ago. The Knights had league champs in Jack Denholm at 177 and Dean Gavin at 190, a runner-up in Jerry Ackerman at 126 and two atlarge selections — Mike Powell at 118 and Jeff Voss at 177.

COE, WHICH dethroned Cornell in the Midwest Conference, is led by three-time national qualifier Joe Whitters at 167. Whitters, a prep at C.R. Prairie, won a third loop title recently. The Kohawks also have Bret Moews at 118, Rick Delzell at 134, Midwest Conference Outstanding Wrestler Chris Chicchelly at 142, Mark Meyer at 190 and Terry Tesar at heavyweight.

Besides Voigt, Cornell will send Kenny Johnson at 126, Mike Spading at 158 and Rob Minick at 177. Minick, a sophomore from Washington, Iowa, is a two-time Midwest Conference champ.

Luther is led by All-American Tom Beeman at 158, who had to settle for a runner-up spot in the Iowa Conference meet. The Norse also have Dean Bolte at 142 and heavyweight Tom Fye, a twotime national qualifier.

Upper Iowa will send 142-pound Iowa Conference champ Jim Bogash and Simpson has 150 league titlist Travis Young at 150.

Hawks blessed with talent on mound for '89 campaign

Gazette sportswriter

IOWA CITY - Cal Eldred and Allen Rath are ready to play baseball in the professional ranks. But before they do, they might pitch Iowa into

contention for the Big Ten title this year. Those are the opinions of Hawkeye Coach Duane Banks, who considers himself twice-blessed as he begins his 20th full year at the helm.

"I think any time we send Calvin Eldred and Allen Rath to the mound, we have a chance of winning," said Banks. "You don't get an Eldred and a Rath too often in a coaching career, and we've got two at the

same time. They're just outstanding. "They're probably as good as we've ever had at the

university." Eldred, a former Gazette Athlete of the Year from Urbana High School, was named a preseason All-American by Baseball America magazine. Rath is a strikeout artist from Highland High School of Riverside.

Both juniors are eligible for the pro draft this year. Banks said they're ready. "I'm sure they'll sign," he

But the business at hand is the 1989 college baseball season. The Hawkeyes hope to play some games against Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, Mo., this weekend, weather permitting. If they do, first Eldred and then Rath will take the mound.

Banks, 558-352 in 191/2 years at Iowa, thinks his club can compete for the Big Ten title. Solid pitching and strong defense are the ingredients for success, he said.

"This is going to be a good ballclub," said Banks. "I don't think there's any doubt about it."

He tabbed Michigan as the team to beat, but not by much.

"I really think it's going to be a dogfight," he said. "I think we have a shot at it. If we can stay healthy and do the things we need to do, we definitely have a shot at it."

The Hawkeyes, 29-25 overall and 14-14 in the Big Ten last year, don't meet Michigan in the regular season, but could in the league playoffs.

Eldred (5-6) and Rath (6-3) top a pitching rotation that includes veterans Bob Driscol (3-4) and exreliever John DeJarld (4-1). Banks thinks the quartet is solid.

The Hawkeyes will take the field with four veterans, two freshmen and two junior college transfers in the regular lineup.

Keith Noreen at third base, Tim Costo at Indiana.



Cal Eldred



Allen Rath

shortstop, Chris Hatcher in right field and Mike Bradley in left are proven commodities.

Noreen hit .331 with eight homers and 43 RBI last year. Costo hit .272, Hatcher set an Iowa freshman record with 12 homers and knocked in 46 runs, and Bradley finished at .293.

Banks has turned the catching duties over to freshman Joel Williamson, an all-stater from Illinois.

"The one thing we really worked hard on was to get a catcher that could catch Eldred and Rath," said Banks. "We were all over the country looking at catchers. He's going to be an outstanding catcher before he gets out of here. He throws exceptionally well. My gosh. He's quick and he throws very, very

The other rookie, Mike Krach from Engelwood, Colo., plays first base. "He can pick it," said Banks.

The junior college players are Erroll Shirer, a speedster from the College of Southern Idaho who will patrol center field, and Chris Malinoski, a slickfielding second-baseman from Des Moines Area Community College in Boone.

Brian Wujcik, a .176 hitter last year, starts as the

Matt Young, a freshman infielder from Cedar Rapids LaSalle, has impressed Banks. "Matt may end up being our shortstop for three years," he said. "He's going to do fine. Matty is going to be a good player some day."

The Hawkeyes are scheduled for six games at the Texas A & M tournament March 11-14, and plan to play nine games on their trip to Florida March 18-25.

The home opener is March 30 with Mankato State, with the Big Ten opener in Iowa City April 8 with

Banks: Let's start season together

By Jim Ecker

IOWA CITY — University of Iowa baseball coach Duane Banks doesn't mind a fair fight.

But Banks, the new president of the American Baseball Coaches Association, says northern colleges aren't getting it when they play warm-weather schools that begin their season in late January.

That's why he's calling for a standardized starting date.

"It really bothers me when we go on a southern trip, those teams have played 25 or 30 games. They've played almost half of their schedule," said Banks. "And we get our fannies kicked, because we're not ready to play with them. And still we have to play somebody to get ready to play our season here."

Banks suggested an opening date of March 1.

"It would really help the northern schools," he said. "We want to have an opportunity in the northern part of the country to be somewhat equal. Because, my gosh, we're not.

"I think it's going to be an issue we have to face."

The Hawkeyes are scheduled to



Duane Banks

open this weekend in Springfield, Mo., weather permitting. The national tournament is held in late

Banks said playing a Januaryto-May schedule puts too much academic pressure on players, and also conflicts with basketball, hurting baseball's exposure when the sports overlap.

Banks became president of the 5,700-member ABCA in January after serving as first vice president last year. His term lasts one The ABCA is an autonomous

group and might be able to suggest changes to the NCAA, said Banks. But he said his group does not have the power to impose schedule limitations. Banks said college baseball is

riding a surge of popularity, thanks in part to having games regularly televised by ESPN, and also to CBS now showing the College World Series. "I think college baseball is

better than it's ever been," he said. "I think it's at an all-time high. There is more interest in it

Banks said he likes serving as ABCA president, even though it

consumes considerable time. "I'm not sure it's a nice honor

or not," he laughed. "I haven't been able to see the bottom of my desk since I took over.

"I enjoy being in the middle of things, having an opportunity of knowing what's going on instead of guessing what's going on."

Ex-Hawk Harmon potential witness

CHICAGO (AP) — A stellar Alineup of witnesses, including NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and former Iowa football player Ronnie Harmon, may be called to testify in the trial of two sports agents charged with using threats and payoffs to get athletes to sign contracts.

"I have the notion that this is going to be a very interesting case," U.S. District Judge George Marovich told prospective jurors mate, Ron Rowan, was deemed to Wednesday. "If you have the opportunity to sit on one jury in your lifetime, this is the one you'd like to sit on."

Sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom are charged with using gifts and cash to sign dozens of college athletes, then falsifying the dates of the contracts to preserve eligibility.

Forty-three athletes, including Harmon, who is now with the Buffalo Bills, dealt with the agents and have agreed to cooperate as witnesses to avoid prosecution.

Harmon got more than \$54,000 from Walters while an undergraduate at Iowa.

In addition to Rozelle, the famous names among the prospective witnesses included former University of Notre Dame President Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, Chicago Bears receiver Ron Morris and defensive back Maurice Douglass, Chicago Bulls forward Brad Sellers, Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler, Texas Gov. Bill Clements, Big Ten Commissioner Wayne Duke.

ALLEN: A financial boon

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Allen, a 6-foot-8 forward from Florida State, became a father last week when his wife, Kelly, gave birth to the couple's first child. "We just got the doctor bill today. This is really going to help." The Kings have had a roster

opening for several weeks, since Ricky Berry went on the injured list. Rodney McCray also is on the injured list.

"Hopefully, I'll get out there and get a chance to do something so they'll want to keep me," said

Allen's place on the Cedar Rapids roster will be taken by center Steve Hayes, who was to join the team in Albany today. Hayes, 33, had retired from playing in early January and has been the Silver Bullets assistant director of player personnel since.

Cedar Rapids Coach Gary Youmans said he was unsure what the team would do to fill Allen's place on a permanent basis, should that be necessary.

According to Youmans, Allen's promotion might be a blessing in disguise.

"Randy's been struggling lately," he said. "His knee's not 100 percent. This could be like a rest for him in a way."

Allen is the first Silver Bullet to be called up to the NBA.

"I'm happy for him," said Youmans. "It's great that he gets this opportunity because he's worked so hard. As far as the Silver Bullets go, we just have to suck it up that much more and keep after it."

Upon Youmans' recommendation, Allen was invited to Sacramento's preseason training camp last fall, where he caught the eye of Kings Coach Jerry Reynolds.

Allen said he feels his training camp experience with the team

will ease his adjustment to his new club.

"I think it makes a big difference," he said. "I know the system. It's not a brand new situation." Ironically, Allen's road room-

be headed for Sacramento before last week's trade that brought Danny Ainge from Boston to the

tion," said Allen.



