## Arch rival ISU to be Husker gymnasts' first foe <br> By Rob Bamey <br> Alen mid junior Lany Gerard will be a showpiece for

An aurn of excitement surrounds UNL's symnastics team as it preparts to open its season Saturday ageinst archrival Iowa State University (ISU).
The guys are really excired about performing in the New (UNL) Sports Complex," Husker Eymnastics coach Francis Allen said. "We would like to perform well enough to be the minor sport that gets to perform in the main arena."
The gymnasts have a good chance to do that, Allen said. TJ.
"Tm more comfortable now than I was at this time latt year," Allen said. "Before I just put on the best four men, but this year I can put sixi guys out on the floor and count any four (for scoring) without being hurt.
"For the past diree years the conference has been the. toughest in the country," he sald. Alen said the Huskers, ISU and Oldahoma Univenity would be the top three teams in the country this year. and lowi State had some fine retuming pooplen he neid and lown state had some fine returning people," he sild.
 trons point will be their specilius, Alien said. "If We He mit the tean will be looking to seniors for leatership. and (Gere going to look to (Kurt) Meckie, (Duane) West and (Gary) Juerink to be the bicitiones of our team," Alien said. "They are going to be the ones that meetin,

## Former Southeast gymnastic coach no stranger to Cornhusker system

By Jim Kay
Gymnastics coach Francis Alien thinks he has plenty of help for the upcoming season.
Allen's new assistant coach, Columbus native Jon Blocker, coached UNL gymnasts Larry Gerard and Gary Jeurink during his four years at Lincoln Southeast High School. And he is no stranger to the UNL gymnastics
system.
"'ve been working with Francis since I got out of college," Blocker said. "I used to come over and help him out after the season was over at Southeast. We've also worked together in his age-group gymnastics school." Blocker was a UNL letterman during the 1970-71 and 71-72 seasons. He took the Southeast job in the fall
of 1972 . of 1972.
Blocker said working with Big 8 Conference champion Gerard is nothing new.
"I've worked with Larry off and on ever since his ophomore year in high school," Blocker said.

Blocker said that he thought both Gerard and Duane West had good chances at Big 8 and national honors this year.
"Larry has an especially good chance in the high bar and still rings events," Blocker said. "He was fourth in the NCAA and the Big 8 champ last year in the all around."
Alien said his job is easier because of Blocker and unpaid assistant Jim Howard.
"They are both excellent coaches," Allen said "They're going to put me out of a job. It's getting so all I have to do is pitk up my paycheck."
the team. Gerard made it to the Olympic tryouts this year.
"Larry will score an eight in one meet and then come beck with 97 the next," Allen said. UNL will debut two freshman soxingt ISU, Mark Williams and Joseph Reymond.
"Williams could be the bent symnast we've ever hat here, and that includes Gerand," Allen seid. "It midht toke him more time than Germerd beceuse Lany started out so fast. But he's got the potential.
"Raymond is good in his routines, but he's weak on hi compulsories," Allen sail. "We're strong on connpulsories so I think we'll help him out there. We made him wort on compulsories for ISU, which could hurt him but it should make him stronger in the long rum."
Saturday's meet, which will start at $7: 30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$., is the fint of two dual meets between UNL and ISU this season. Allen said the teams are getting a jump on other teans because they are opening with each other instead of waiting for the big meets.
Last year, the Huskers split duals with ISU, winning in Lincoln while losing at Ames. The Huskers then nipped the Cyclones to win the Big 8 championship. They went onto finish 4 th in the NCAA meet.
Allen said that judges did not play any part in the outcomes of last year's meets.
"I took a judge over there with me, and lowa State fumished one. It just happened to be that they were better at the start of the year and we were better towards the end," Allen said.
ferent ideas," Allen said. "I guess you might call it a pooling of ignorance.
Btocker said he was looking forward to the upcoming season and in particular Saturday's opening meet with perennial national power lowa State University.
"Both teams look stronger," Blocker said. "We don't have the specialists on our team this year like we did last year. Our all-arounders are going to have to fill in."

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