Injuries slow female gymnasts

By Scott Ahlstrand

A hobbled UNL girls' gymnastics team travels to Denver Saturday to compete against the University of Denver, Colorado University and Kansas University.

The Huskers won their third consecutive Big Eight championship last week and scored a season high with 140.55. But a win in Denver will not be easy because of injuries, according to Coach Judy Schalk.

We won't be taking our full team there, and that, combined with Denver scoring in the 130s, could make the meet close," she said.

The injuries that Schalk refers to have been a season long problem. Currently senior all-arounder Patty Carmichael-Gerard and freshman Sue Litrenta are both out with foot injuries. Debbie Harrison is sidelined with possible fractured ribs suffered in an accident in Wednesday's practice.

Another possible obstacle to Nebraska's performance is a possible letdown after winning the Big Eight championship, according to Big Eight all-around champion Renee Reisdorff.

Great win

"We'll definitely be feeling different in this meet," Reisdorff said. "Winning the Big Eight was such a great win. We have three more duals before regionals and we're just going to have to concentrate and work hard in all of them."

"I think we're beginning to level off now," assistant coach Duane West said. "From here on in it should be a gradual build up for us," replied Schalk.

Nebraska is ranked sixth nationally. Schalk said the high rating is because of solid team depth.

"We have six good all-arounders," Schalk said. 'That, along with our few specialists, keep us a very

The success of the Huskers hasn't been a great surprise to either of the coaches.

Predicted results

"I predicted the team's results exactly so far," Schalk said. "It's not a surprise. It's been well calculat-

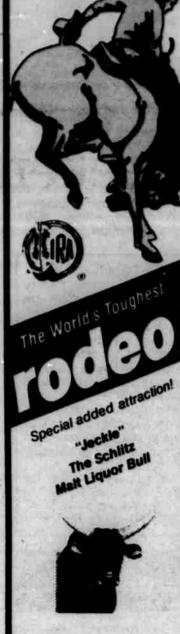
"We're right where we want to be right now," said West. "We started a little shaky, but we're performing very well now."

Reisdorff, who has a sprained finger, has had her share of injuries this season. "I feel like I've had a little bit of everything," Reisdorff said. "It's a matter now of me staying healthy."

Reisdorff said she expects bigger things from both herself and the team.

"The success I've had has been long anticipated. I knew I had the capabilities. It was just a matter of putting it all together and staying consistent," Reisdorff said. "I definitely don't think the team has reached its peak."





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