

Freshman gymnasts fill . . .

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"I had all the pros and cons laid out between here and UCLA," Riegel said, "but finally, I just dropped all the pros and cons and decided to go with the momentum and superpower gymnastics here."

Suter considered a number of schools, including Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Louisiana State, but said he was impressed by the Nebraska crowds at a meet against the Chinese last December and at the NCAA meet last April.

"There were so many people there, and so much school spirit," he said. "And with the NCAA, they ended up making money."

The caliber of Nebraska's gymnasts will be a big boost to his development, Suter said.

"Just watching Hartung work out, I see so much that I should be doing," he said. "At another school,

I could be one of the top gymnasts, but I probably wouldn't work as hard."

Both gymnasts said the typical freshman adjustments haven't been much of a problem yet.

They were familiar with Nebraska's facilities and coaching methods long before signing with the team, and both had made friends with a number of Husker gymnasts through other competitions.

Riegel said his biggest adjustment so far has been getting used to working out with the other team members.

"I have to get used to working in a group," he said, "because I've always trained by myself."

Suter said the adjustment to living on his own has been most difficult so far.

"The school work's a lot different, too," he said. "I only had two classes the first day, and I thought this is going to be easy, but I came home and had so much homework to do."

Sooners . . .

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"Dupree will play this year," Switzer said. "He is a great back. He can make you miss him or he can run people over. He has a distinct advantage over most backs."

Switzer feels that in order for OU to be successful it is imperative that his ball-carriers "hold onto the football."

Oklahoma, which is the nation's winningest football program the last nine years, comes close to leading the nation in fumbles every season, as exemplified by the fact that the Sooners fumbled an astonishing 52 times last year.

Another weakness for Oklahoma is the quarterback situation where Kelly Phelps, a spot starter a season ago, gives the position quality at the top, but depth thereafter will be a problem.

"Phelps is doing very well right now," Seal said. "He's durable enough to take the punishment. Quarterback is an injury-prone position and our primary concern is who will back him up if he goes down. Behind Phelps we fall off quite a bit."

Versatile Mike Keeling will again be Oklahoma's punt and placement man for the fourth straight year.

"The key is how fast our offensive line can mature and play together, plus keeping Phelps healthy. If that comes

about OU will be a fine football team," Seal said.

On defense, the Sooners return 11 players who started at least once last season. However, this is the same group that allowed Nebraska to score on every first half possession last year en route to a 37-14 Cornhusker victory.

All-American candidate Rick Bryan and Bob Slater are solid tackles, while John Blake is a seasoned noseguard.

Jackie Shipp and Thomas Benson return as two of the Big Eight's best at linebacker. Shipp and Benson led OU in tackles last year with 182 and 116, respectively.

Four regulars return in Oklahoma's secondary including Keith Stanberry and Darrell Songy. The addition of junior college all-American Scott Case, from Oklahoma A&M Junior College, should help.

"Defensively Oklahoma will be stronger and more experienced than a year ago," Seal said.

"We have no real superstars, but we've got a lot of good players. Our team is going to be very competitive," Switzer said. "If we weren't playing such a tough schedule I think we could win all our games."

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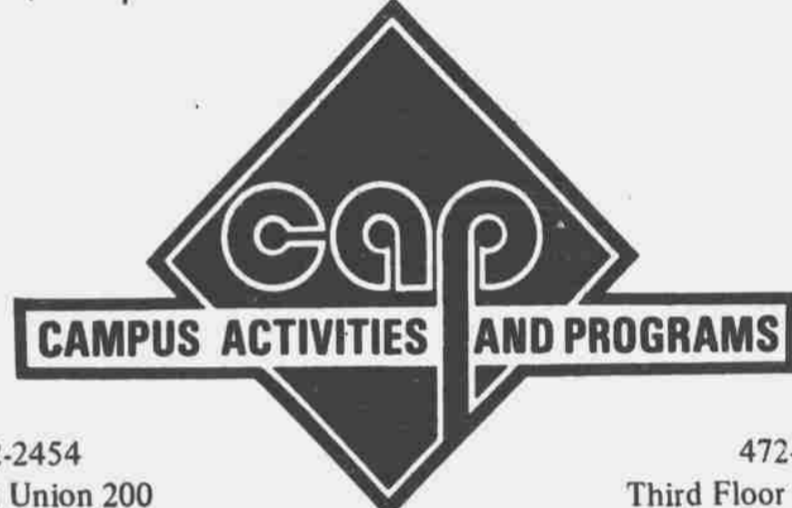
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