

# Albright wrests UNO championship

By Doug Carroll  
Staff Reporter

Despite having only two wrestlers win medals, Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann said he thought his team performed well in Saturday's UNO Open.

"For this early, this is the best we've wrestled," he said. "We beat some people who had beaten us earlier in the year."

Nebraska's heavyweight Gary Albright placed first, the Cornhuskers' highest finish. Albright pinned Oklahoma State's Tom Erickson in 5:21 to win the championship.

Neumann said Erickson is one of the top wrestlers in the country. Erickson earlier had defeated Iowa State's John Heropoulos 5-1 in the semi-finals. Heropoulos defeated Albright a week

ago. It was Albright's only loss this season.

Neumann said Albright wrestled well and is wrestling as well as he did two years ago, when he was the national runner-up in the heavyweight division.

## 'Head not in it'

Mike Radnov, who recently joined the team, was the only other wrestler to place for Nebraska. Radnov finished third in the 220-pound division despite working out for just a little more than a week. Radnov opened with a first-period pin and then lost a 5-4 decision to Northern Iowa's Dave Bossard, the eventual champion. Radnov said he thought he should have won the match.

"My head wasn't in it," he said. "He was pretty good, though."

After the loss, Radnov came back to win his next three matches 17-7, 10-1

and by a pin. He then defeated Jeff Bradley of Northern Iowa, 16-2, for third place. Radnov said the lack of preparation didn't hurt him too much, but admitted that he did start feeling tired toward the end.

At 118 pounds, Wallace Dawkins wrestled "really well," Neumann said. Dawkins won five matches, lost two and was one win away from placing. After winning his first two matches, Dawkins lost 13-8 to eventual champion Ed Giese of Minnesota. In the consolation bracket, he won three matches before losing on a criteria decision.

Neumann said that Dawkins had to wrestle several matches in a short time toward the end of the day. That hampered his performance late in the day. Dawkins' final match was stopped sev-

eral times because his upper body cramped.

Tim Kenney, who wrestled at 142 pounds, also "did a real good job," Neumann said. Kenney, a redshirt freshman, went 4-2 for the day, with his only losses coming to the eventual third-place finisher, Kurt Shedenhelm.

Neumann said he was happy with 190-pounders Mike Traynor and Joe Malecek. Their only losses came to opponents who later placed. Both finished with 2-2 records.

## Wrestlers gain experience

Four of Nebraska's top wrestlers were held out of the meet, Neumann said. Cody Olson and Gil Sanchez were both nursing minor injuries, Neumann said. Chris Marisette and Terry Cook couldn't wrestle because they had the

flu, Neumann said.

One good aspect of the meet was that all of the wrestlers got experience, Neumann said. He said of the 29 wrestlers he took to the meet, 27 won at least one match. Now the team can go back to practice and have something to work on, he said.

Nebraska's next meet will be the Husker Duals on Dec. 7. The meet will be round-robin competition, with each team competing in three duals. Three mats will be used, and the team with the best record at the end of the meet will be the winner, Neumann said.

Other teams competing will be Central State Oklahoma, Augustana, Adams State, the Air Force Academy and Northwest Missouri. The meet starts at 1 p.m. and will be in the Bob Devaney Sports Center's track.

# Spachman scores Huskers' only touchdown

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6-yard line twice, but failed to score both times. The first one came after Von Sheppard got loose at Nebraska's 42-yard line on a double reverse and ran to the Oklahoma 6-yard line.

But the next three plays produced negative yardage and the drive ended when Dale Klein missed a 23-yard field goal attempt.

Nebraska also came away empty-

handed in the third quarter. After a 16-yard Oklahoma punt, freshman quarterback Steve Taylor, who replaced starter McCathorn Clayton, quickly moved the Huskers from the Sooner 24-yard line to the 1-yard line. But Taylor fumbled a snap from center, and the ball was recovered by Oklahoma's Brian Bosworth.

Clayton, who threw two interceptions and was sacked twice, said Oklahoma's ability to stop the Huskers'

running game was a key.

"We knew we'd have to try them inside and outside to see what they were giving us," he said. "They gave us nothing."

In fact, Nebraska's only touchdown was scored by its defense. Defensive tackle Chris Spachman grabbed a loose ball and rambled 76 yards to score during the game's waning seconds. It was Spachman's second touchdown of the year.

"He's just a scoring machine," said defensive tackle Jim Skow of his fellow lineman.

Skow said Nebraska's defense made too many errors to contain the Sooners' speedy backfield, especially Holieway.

"I thought they had great speed, but that wasn't the difference," he said. "We had trouble keeping out our assignments."

"Holieway is a quick back, a good runner. He's like a field mouse. He

stops, starts and darts."

Nebraska middle guard Danny Noonan said he was impressed with the Sooners' backfield.

"I didn't think their offensive line was the best we've played, but their speed on the outside made up for that," he said.

At the news conference after the game, Osborne accepted an offer to play in the Fiesta Bowl from bowl representative Alex Crutchfield.

"I'm sorry we didn't play better," Osborne told Crutchfield.

However, Osborne said the loss didn't ruin the season for him or his players.

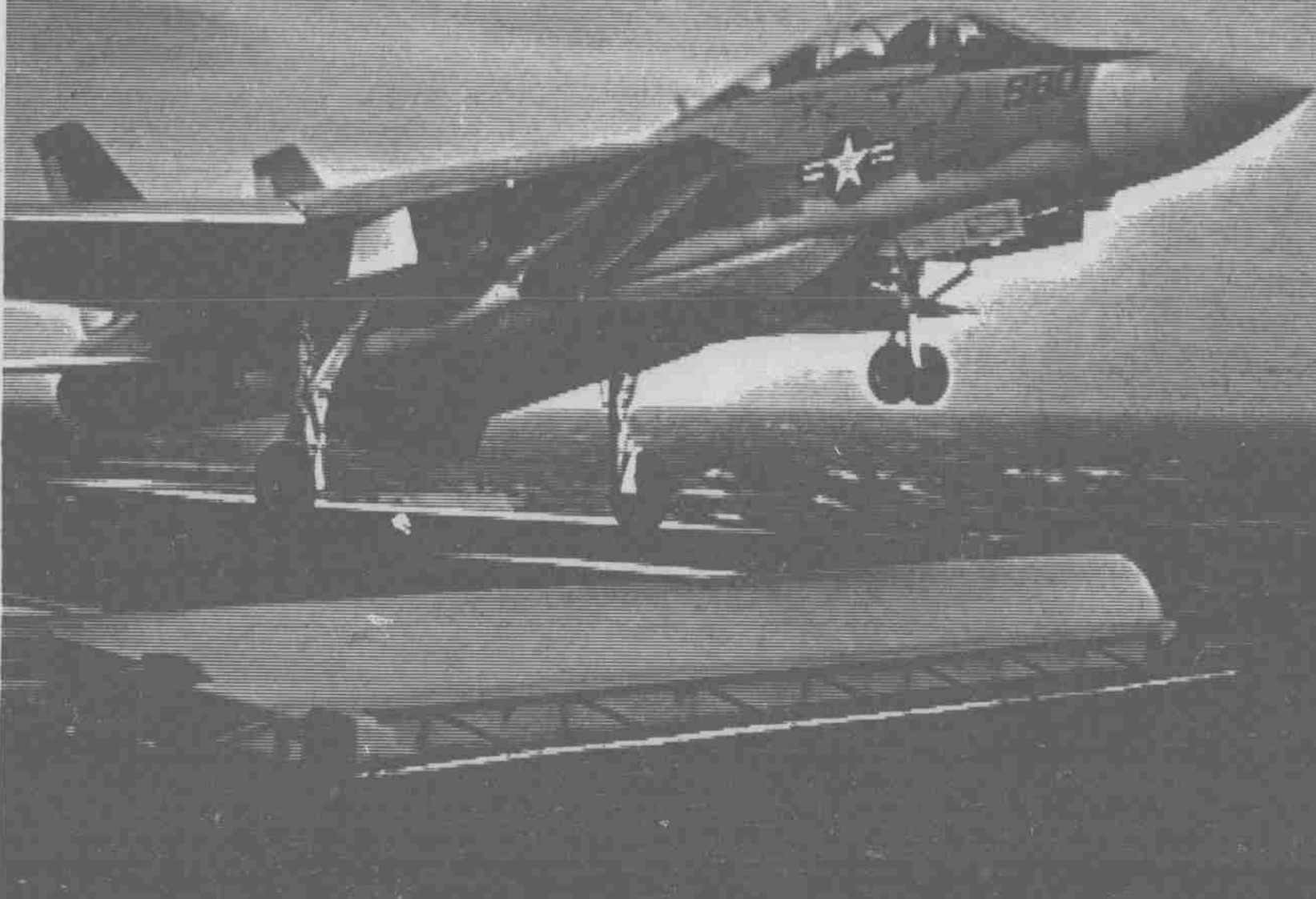
"I'm not too proud of the way we played today, but we tried hard, and our guys have had a great year," he said.

Husker fullback Tom Rathman said the loss affected him two ways.

"I still think we've had a successful season," he said. "A lot of people never thought we could win nine games."

"It always seems Nebraska has a chance to win a national championship. All the years I've been there, we've come up one game short. It's a shame."

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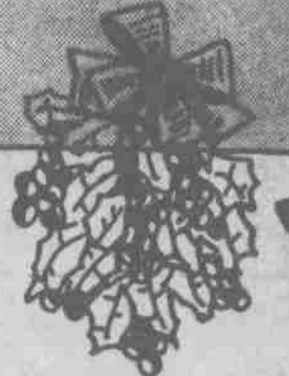
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