



Gymnast Michele Schmal . . . glides over the uneven parallel bars.

Gymnasts tumble to victory



All around event winner Peg Van Beek . . . competes on the balance beam.

The UNL Women's Gymnastics Team defeated Drake and Northwest Missouri in a triangular meet at the women's P.E. Building Saturday.

It was the first win of the season for the Cornhusker team, the only women's gymnastics team in the state.

Gerry Dukich, Deb Jurgens and Peg Van Beek all won for Nebraska, which finished its regular season with a 1-3 record.

Dukich won the balance beam and Jurgens the side horse vaulting. Van Beek was a double winner, taking first in both floor exercise and all-around.

Nebraska led the way with a team score of 41.95, followed by Drake at 32.15 and Northwest Missouri's 27.30.

The Nebraska girls will now compete in the regional tournament in St. Peter, Minn. on March 16-18.

Rugby Club meets Thursday

There will be an organizational meeting for anyone interested in joining the Rugby Club at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Nebraska Union.

Tourney madness descends on city

Often referred to as "March madness," or "lunacy in Lincoln," the high school basketball tournament is upon us once again.

Tip-off time is noon tomorrow at four different sites: Pershing Auditorium, Lincoln High, Lincoln East and the UNL Coliseum.

The wind-up of the three-day tournament will be played Saturday at the Coliseum when four new champions will be crowned in classes A, B, C and D.

The annual basketball carnival is definitely the biggest state high school sporting event of the year. It always adds an air of excitement to the capital city matched only by Nebraska home football games.

State tournament time holds memories for almost anyone who attended high school in this state. It affords high school students the opportunity to get out the old hometown and head to the big city, even if their team isn't playing. It also gives UNL students a chance to cheer for the old alma mater if it was fortunate enough to survive the districts playoffs.

It's a time of celebrations, reunions, cheers, tears and parties galore. All in all, it's a happening that everyone enjoys, win or lose.

dave sittler instant replay

So why not make the whole thing last a little longer? It could be done, and in an interesting manner.

Nebraska's High School Athletic Association always awards championships to four different schools, something that sort of takes the luster off the whole thing.

Many states have systems that end, declaring only one champion. Why not Nebraska?

Here's a plan. Start the state tourney on Tuesday with the same format for determining class winners. Decide four class champs by Thursday. Have them meet in semifinals on Friday. Then have the two survivors square off for the whole bag of marbles Saturday evening in the Coliseum.

I'm not saying that the proposed system is the best one, but it sure sounds like fun and the state could claim a true basketball champion.

Can you imagine, for example, in this years finals a game between Class D Hampton and Class A Boys Town? Stranger things have happened in states with this type of playoff.

A small school-large school championship contest, could solve the problem of what to do with the Coliseum after the University's new arena is built. If Hampton whipped Boys Town, their fans could demolish the old barn celebrating the win.

Although the plan is too late to get under operation this year, it might be a great way to open up the new 15,000-seat Robert S. Devaney Fieldhouse in a couple of years.

Four champions or one, it should be a great tournament this year with thousands of fans expected to pour into Lincoln tomorrow.

So, if some anxious fan runs over you while you are trying to get to class or a wide-eyed cheerleader spills her coke on your term paper in the Nebraska Union, don't get too uptight.

It wasn't that long ago when going to the state tournament was big-time for a lot of UNL students.

Oh yes, who's going to win those four championships? I have to go with undefeated Hampton in Class D, Howells in C, Fairbury and everyone's all-stater Bob Siegel to win B and Boys Town to win the A title under the leadership of 5-11 guard Fred Anzures.

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