

Gymnasts host Big 8 meet, Allen hopeful of '64 repeat

Cornhusker gymnastic coach Francis Allen said he is anxiously awaiting the Big Eight Conference gymnastic championships being held this Friday and Saturday in the UNL Coliseum.

Allen's anxiety is caused by the fact his Cornhusker squad is expected to make its best showing since Nebraska won the team championship in 1964.

The 30-year-old Allen was a member of the '64 team when he won the parallel bars and placed in the top five in six other events. He also placed in three events at the NCAA championships that year.

But Allen said that the sport has changed drastically since he was a gymnast.

"The guys are more dedicated, they work harder and longer. They have more finesse and better technique," he said.

"I won the Big Eight with an 8.7," Allen added. "With a score like that now, I wouldn't even be able to make my own team, let alone place in the Big Eight."

Allen, who is in his fourth year as head

coach, said he thinks that the Huskers are in peak condition.

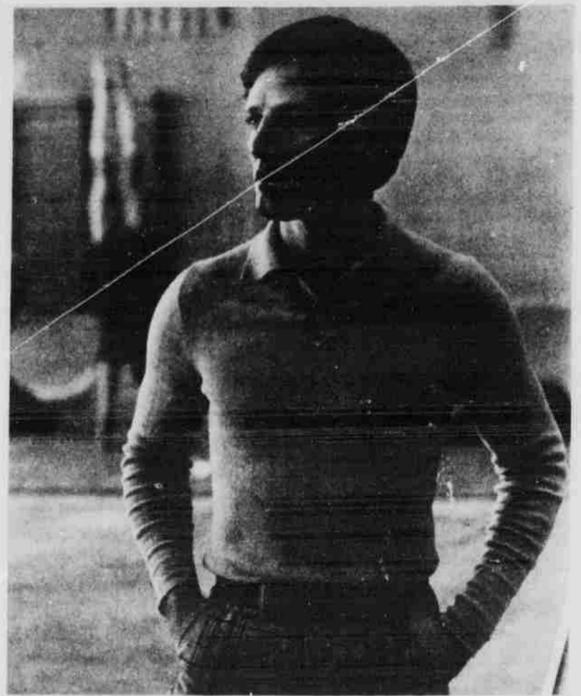
"The kids have been doing great, the best I've ever seen them," Allen said. "I couldn't point out one guy without mentioning the whole team. If they keep the momentum up, they're gonna be tough as hell."

Iowa State coach, Ed Gagnier, gave credit to Allen for upgrading the UNL program during a recent telephone conversation. (Iowa State won the last four Big Eight titles and won the NCAA championship in 1971).

"Nebraska is quite a formidable foe," Gagnier said. "We're as about as leary of Nebraska as we are of anybody in the conference."

Allen said: "I'm going to be very disappointed if we don't come close to Iowa State. It's not going to be as easy for Iowa State as it has in the past."

The meet will have three sessions at the Coliseum. The compulsories will be performed at 1 p.m. Friday, the optionals are scheduled for noon Saturday with the finals being scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday.



Gymnastic coach Francis Allen . . . said his Huskers are in peak condition for this weekend's Big Eight meet.

Pitching sparkles in Husker openers

SHREVEPORT, La.—Paced by two strong pitching performances, Nebraska's baseball team successfully started its 1973 season Tuesday by sweeping a doubleheader from Centenary College, 7-2 and 6-2.

Ryan Kurosaki spun an eight hitter for the Cornhuskers in the opening contest and Terry Redler followed in the night game, giving up only two hits during the first six innings.

Clutch hitting by shortstop Bryant Akisada in both games, paved the way to victory for Nebraska.

The sophomore transfer from Honolulu, Hawaii, had three hits for the Cornhuskers and drove in three runs in the first game and then sparked a four-run rally in the final inning of the second game with a tie-breaking single.

Coach Tony Sharpe's Huskers had to rally for four runs in the top of the seventh inning to win the second game.

The rally started when catcher Richard Wilson and Kurosaki reached base on errors, then advanced on a sacrifice by second baseman Dennis Shibata. After Akisada singled home Wilson, Kurosaki scored on an error by Centenary's centerfielder.

Bob Munson's single kept the rally alive and Rich Sanger walked to load the bases. Dan Ekfelt singled in Akisada and Munson scored on another Centenary error.

Errors played a big part in the wins as Nebraska committed only one compared to 10 by Centenary which saw its record drop to 3-5.

Nebraska third baseman Jim Smith backed up Akisada's hitting by pounding out three doubles and knocking in two runs.

Cook leads Celtics to intramural title

by Andy Riggs

The Celtics, led by Dan Cook's 12 points, defeated Kappa Alpha Psi 32-29 in the men's intramural basketball finals Tuesday night at the Coliseum.

The game, viewed by about 200 fans, was close all the way.

Tom Gregory, Celtics' leading scorer, was held to only three points, but his passing and ball handling against the Kappa Alpha Psi full-court defense made the difference in the second half.

The Celtics were led by Cook with eight first half points. Both teams had no foul trouble.

In the second half, Kappa Alpha Psi came out running, making their first five shots. Randy Watts hit three in a row from the field. Meanwhile, the Celtics were stifled by the man-to-man defense thrown at them by Kappa Alpha Psi. The Celts shifted to a zone defense and began to regain their lead.

The game was close, however, until Maury Damkroger hit a free-throw, putting the Celts ahead 30-27. Damkroger finished with seven points.

Phil Sienna, director of intramurals, said he was pleased with the close game.

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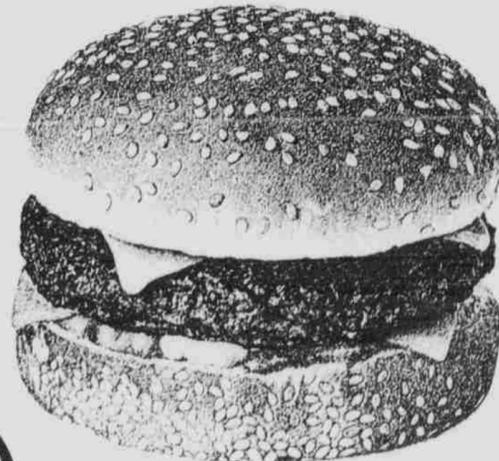
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