

UNL gymnasts compete for titles

by Kim Ball

Seniors Hoppy Batten and Larry Evermann will represent UNL as they compete in the NCAA gymnastics meet today in Eugene, Ore. They are the only NCAA qualifiers from the Husker team that finished second in the recent Big Eight Gymnastics Meet.

The NCAA meet takes the top three finishers in each event and the conference team champion. The Huskers just missed getting an at-large birth to the meet. The University of Iowa scored 316 in the Big Ten Conference Meet to get the nod over Nebraska. Nebraska, which scored 313 in the Big Eight Meet, defeated Iowa in the Iowa Open earlier in the season.

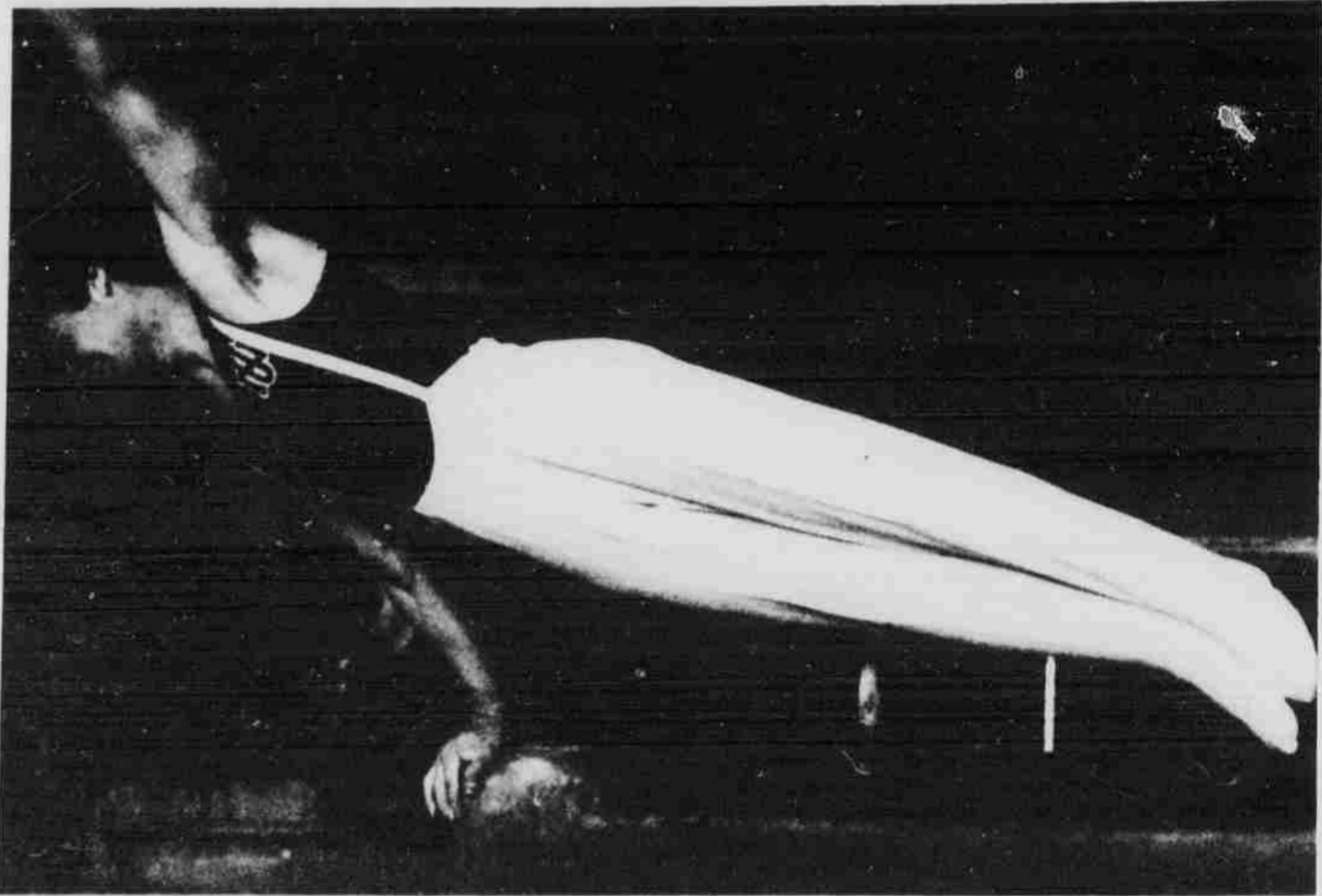
UNL gymnastics coach Francis Allen was happy about the Husker's runner-up finish, but was disappointed that Batten and Evermann didn't win their individual events.

Batten won both the horizontal bar and the vaulting at last year's meet, while this year he only managed a third place on the horizontal bar and didn't make the finals in vaulting. Evermann, a third-place finisher on the pommel horse a year ago, finished third again.

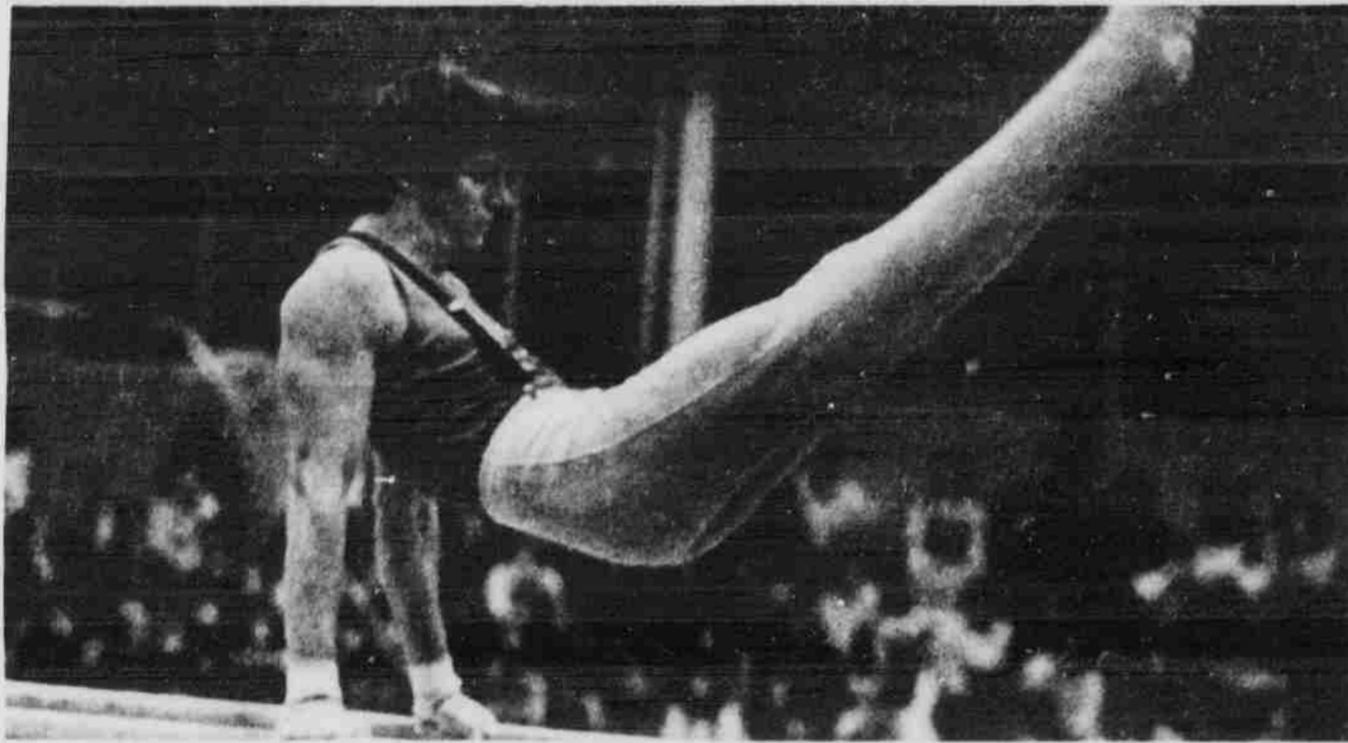
"Hoppy was undefeated in vaulting," Allen said. "He had beat last year's national champion, twice."

"He's still the best vaulter in the country but he screwed up," Allen added. "He had a bad day on vaulting and the horizontal bar, but he had his career best on the parallel bars and the rings."

"I was disappointed in both of those guys, but they're going to be tough at nationals. They're tough competitors."



Larry Evermann...hopes to perform well today in the pommel horse event at the NCAA gymnastics meet.



Hoppy Batten... will compete today in vaulting and horizontal bar events.

Batten had no explanation for his sub-par Big Eight performance while Evermann said that he was too cautious.

"I played it safe, which is something you can't do if you want to win," Evermann said. "I decided I just wanted to qualify for nationals and then bust my rear at nationals."

The NCAA meet will be nothing new for Batten or Evermann. Evermann has qualified the last three years while it is Batten's second trip.

"I know what to expect now", Batten said. "Last year it was confusing to me."

Evermann, who was tenth on the pommel horse a year ago, is optimistic about his chances.

"As far as the critics are concerned, I'm not a contender," Evermann said, "and that's just fine with me. I'd just as soon not have the added pressure."

Batten, who was seventh in vaulting and eighth on the horizontal bar at last year's meet, is not quite as optimistic.

"My chances aren't real good for a national title—slim and none", he admitted. "Some of the top men are going to have to screw up if I'm going to have a chance."

Golfers seek to improve 1972 finish

After a disappointing last place finish in the Big Eight last year, the Nebraska golf team finished third in the Galveston, Tex. Invitational meet last week. That finish gives new hope to the young team and Coach Larry Romjue.

Junior Dan Bahensky finished sixth, leading all UNL team members. He has never won a letter at Nebraska, having transferred from Kearney State College. He was 1972 state amateur champion.

The four returning lettermen are senior Rick Schultz, and sophomores Gary Anderson, Steve King and Bob Meyer.

Romjue said he believes the Huskers should place third in the Big Eight this year, or possibly second.

This week the Huskers will host the Cornhusker Invitational, with 36 holes to be played on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

The teams playing in the tournament are Iowa State, South Dakota, South Dakota State, Mankato State and Creighton Universities.

Romjue said he believes UNL will win the tournament. "If for no other reason than us being the host team and playing on our home course, we will be the team to beat," Romjue said.

Bahensky will play in the number one slot this week. Schultz and King will follow him, he said.

"Bahensky and Schultz are about equal in their playing abilities," Romjue said. "They both are fairly consistent at Holmes Golf Course."

The only team in the meet that Romjue said he thinks is as good as the Huskers is Mankato State team.

"Mankato won their conference last year and has always had a fairly good team. We don't really know what to expect from them this year. But going on their past record, they should give us a run," Romjue said.

Showers dampen UNL baseball

by Dave Sittler

Nebraska's baseball team will try to get a bit of cooperation from the weatherman this weekend as it heads to Lawrence, Kansas for three-game series against the Kansas Jayhawks.

Coach Tony Sharpe's squad has seen its last ten games, including last week's conference opener with Iowa State, cancelled because of heavy spring showers.

"People can't understand why we don't make those conference games up," Sharpe said. "But there is a conference rule saying you must play them the weekend scheduled or not at all."

Sharpe added that his team has not even been able to practice outside since March 23 and this could put a damper on their hopes for a good season in league play.

"We're actually more worried about practice time than about playing," he said. "We're probably setting a record for college teams not practicing outdoors."

Weather permitting, the Huskers, who are 3-2-1 on the season, will play the Jayhawks in a doubleheader Friday afternoon and a single contest Saturday.

The Jayhawks opened their league schedule last weekend, dropping a doubleheader to Oklahoma State, 6-2, 5-1, in Stillwater.

Sharpe said he plans to use the following starting lineup against the Jayhawks. Dennis Shibata, 2B; Bryand Akisada, SS; Bob Munson, RF; Sam Sharpe 1B; Rich Sanger, LF; Jim Smith, 3B; Dennis O'Doherty, CF; and Doak Fowler, C.

Pitching duties will be handled by Ryan Kurosaki, Terry Redler and Brandt Glover.

"Kansas will be playing at home and they did get some conference games under their belt last week, so they'll have some advantages there," Sharpe said. "We just hope we can get some good pitching and defense because any hitting we get will sure be a bonus after this long layoff."