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Swimmers rated underdogs in Saturday's Iowa State meet

The UNL's men's swim team will host Iowa State Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Coliseum Pool. Based on past performances they will be heavy underdogs.

Coach John Reta's squad failed to score in its only meet thus far this season, the Big 8 Relays Dec. 6-7. Iowa State finished third in the event with 66 points, behind champion Wisconsin (141) and Oklahoma (86).

Defeating the Cyclones may be difficult because Iowa State enjoyed what Reta termed "the finest recruiting year of any school in the Big 8."

Against the Cyclones, the Huskers will also attempt to erase the stigma of a last place finish in the Big 8 in 1974. Iowa State was third behind Oklahoma and champion Kansas.

Reta remains hopeful, despite the odds. "Every meet we'll go into this year will be difficult," he said. "But we'll go into every meet with the idea we can win it."

Saying "time will tell," Reta preferred not to evaluate any of his 11 returning lettermen or other squad members until after the Iowa State dual.

Based on last year's performances, Jack

Alexander, a Wayzata, Minn., sophomore, should be a Husker pacesetter. As the top Husker scorer, Alexander set varsity records in the 500 and 1,000-yard freestyle events and placed second in the Big 8 meet in the 400-yard individual medley while setting another varsity mark.

Terry Seymour is a team co-captain and the only senior. A three-year letterman, the Grand Island native is the varsity record holder in the 200-yard breaststroke.

Paul Duxbury, from Minneapolis, the other co-captain, specializes in the freestyle sprints and is one of 10 sophomores on the young Husker team, which includes five freshmen and four juniors.

Reta did say divers Tom Folsom and Dave Watermeier have improved under the direction of diving coach Ed Craren, who was hired this year.

Despite the team's past performance, Reta said he is pleased with the squad's attitude during the twice-a-day practices conducted since Jan. 2.

"I'm encouraged with the way they worked over the Christmas vacation," he said. "They are beginning to work as a unit. It's easier to do in a sport such as football but I think they are beginning to put it all together attitude-wise."

More participants, talent, success

Women's gymnastic team improves

By Becky Morgan

Improvement is the key word describing the UNL women's gymnastics team. The team, in its fourth year, has more participants, more talent and so far, more success than ever before.

The gymnasts, coached by Karen Balke, placed third and scored 65.75 points at a meet Dec. 14 in Grandview, Ia. According to Balke, the team's previous high score was 45 points.

"We're stronger this year," Balke said, "because we have more women out for gymnastics and we can enter the maximum number of individuals in each event."

"We have depth," she added, "something we've never had before."

With nine meets remaining on their schedule, Balke said the season's outlook

is much improved. There are four freshmen, five sophomores, one junior and two seniors listed on the roster.

"We have individual strength in each event," Balke said. "However, we do need more people who excel in several events. We are beginning to see some overlap with the increase in the size of the team."

The team's major shortcoming, according to Balke, is lack of experience.

"Gymnastics is just catching on in high school," Balke said. Most of the team members have not had many years of experience before participating on the college level. The only other Nebraska collegiate school having a women's gymnastic organization is Chadron State, according to Balke.

The women's gymnastic program at

UNL is also the only school in the Big 8 giving scholarships, with five girls now receiving them.

Coming up this weekend, the team will travel to Drake University in Des Moines Ia., where they will take on Drake and Washburn University. They will then stop at Iowa State at Ames for a tournament Saturday with: Central Missouri, South Dakota State, Northwest Missouri, Drake, University of Wisconsin and Western Illinois.

"The meet at Drake should be close," Balke said. "We certainly have a much better chance this year with our new depth. The competition at Iowa State will be tough."

Outstanding performers for the team include Kathi Ruddick on uneven parallel bars, Peggy Newport on the beams, Sandy Czaplewski on floor exercise performance, and the best all-around individual, Peg Van Beek, who excels in vaulting and floor exercise. Van Beek, a senior from Lincoln, is the only team member who was a member of the first team four years ago. Each year, she has been the team's high point scorer. She qualified for regionals twice in her three years as a UNL gymnast.

No UNL women's gymnastics team has ever qualified for the regional tournament, held this year at Iowa State. To qualify, a team must score 68 points and an individual seven points at a meet during the season.

"This (qualifying for the regionals) is our goal this year," Balke said. "We're really excited about doing it."

Chess Club fourth in college tournament

By Scott Jones

UNL's Chess Club was the butt of some jokes during competition at the American Intercollegiate Chess Tournament Dec. 26 at Louisville, Ky., according to club president Loren Schmidt.

It wasn't that they played badly. They finished fourth among 90 four-man collegiate teams from throughout the Western Hemisphere.

What the teams found humorous, according to Schmidt, was that the UNL quartet paid their own entry fee and travel expenses.

"We were the only team there that wasn't supported by our school," Schmidt said. "A lot of them were laughing at us because of that."

Among the teams supported by their colleges were Big 8 Universities of Kansas and Missouri, and Toronto University, which gives chess scholarships similar to athletics scholarships, Schmidt said.

"They pretty much consider chess a sport," he said. "Chess is supported at some schools by their athletic department or student fees."

Schmidt said past efforts to obtain funds from ASUN netted \$30. "We figured it wasn't worth it," he said. "That much effort for \$30. We're hoping to get some people persuaded now because of our fourth place finish."

The tournament decides the American collegiate chess champion and the collegiate champion of the Western Hemisphere. The titles this year were won by Toronto and Harvard. The UNL group won six of eight matches, finishing one-half point behind the leaders.

UNL's team is made up of brothers Richard and Mike Chess, Mike Blankennau and Schmidt.

Scoring was based on one point for a win and one-half point for a draw. The first team to amass two and one-half points wins.

Each player competed in two matches daily. One day Schmidt said his two matches lasted seven and five hours respectively.

For this reason, he said, chess is not suited for older persons. "Most people would tend to think that way but it's really a young man's game," Schmidt said. "On the international level the top players are usually under 35. Once you get over 40 you're pretty well washed up."

"There's so much physical exertion that most of them can't take it after that."

Schmidt and teammate Richard Chess are ranked first and second respectively in the state on the basis of performances at the Midwest Open last October.

The chess club now lists 20 members, Schmidt said, and jointly sponsors many local tourneys with the Lincoln Chess club and the Lincoln Chess Foundation as well as hosting several tournaments by itself.

Schmidt said the team practices in the Nebraska Union.

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Intramural Schedule Thursday

8:00-Finestkind "B" vs. H.E.P. "B"; 8:40-Plough Boys "B" vs. The Pipers "B"; Cather 6 "B" vs. Cather 2 "B"; 8:00-Delta Upsilon SF vs. Sigma Phi Epsilon SF; 8:40-Schramm 6 SF vs. Chi Phi SF; 9:20-Lambda Chi Alpha SF vs. Abel 6 SF.

MPE No. 2

6:00-Independent (Carlton) "B" vs. Ken's Drive In "B"; 6:40-Prunes "B" vs. Larson's Team "B"; 7:20-Abel 2 "B" vs. Abel 7 "B"; 8:00-Alpha Tau Omega No. 2 SF vs. Midgets SF; 8:40-Slingshots II vs. Centennial Athletic Assoc.; 9:20-Rosner's Team vs. Cardinals.

MPE No. 3

6:00-Jack's Boys "B" vs. Kappa Psi Masks "B"; 8:40-Southside Stars "B" vs. Student Vets "B"; 7:20-Abel 5 "B" vs. Abel 6 "B"; 8:00-Gooding "B" vs. Gus "B"; 8:40-Burr 1 East vs. Centennial "B"; 9:20-Burr 2 "B" vs. Burr 3 "B".

WPE No. 1

6:40-Abel 2 "C" vs. Abel 11 "C"; 7:20-Abel 5 "C" vs. Abel 9 "C"; 8:00-Alpha Tau Omega "A" vs. Phi Gamma Delta "A"; 8:40-Sigma Phi Epsilon "A" vs. Phi Delta Theta "A"; 9:20-Beta Theta Pi "A" vs. Delta Upsilon "A".

WPE No. 2

6:40-Abel 4 "C" vs. Abel 10 "C"; 7:20-Abel 7 "C" vs. Abel 8 "C"; 8:00-Beta Sigma Psi "A" vs. Sigma Nu "A"; 8:40-Theta Xi "A" vs. Sigma Epsilon "A"; 9:20-Delta Tau Delta "A" vs. Kappa Sigma "A".

UNL to host fencing tourney

A fencing tournament is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday in Women's Physical Education Bldg. Rm. 301.

Bob Dushane, who sponsors the UNL fencing club, which will host the tourney, said the only fencers ineligible to compete are those who have placed either first, second or third at an Amateur Fencers League of America tournament. There will be a 50 cent entry fee. All equipment will be furnished by the fencing club.

"The idea is to make as many people as possible aware of the fencing club by trying to have as many tournaments as

possible," Dushane said. "Instead of taking the student to the competition we're going to bring the competition here."

Dushane said enrollment has increased in all fencing classes offered through the Physical Education Dept. this semester. He said he expects club membership to increase from the 15 members now participating.

"We hope to offer more opportunities for people in fencing classes to compete after they complete the course," he added.