



Senior Pete Studenski is one of the nation's top competitors in the still rings.

Gymnasts' KSU meet to be 'matter of pride'

By Scott Jones

If UNL's gymnastics team adopted a slogan, Pete Studenski's proposal might sound something like this:

We may not be much when we come here, but we're going to be the best we can before we leave.

Still-rings specialist Studenski and his teammates will host Kansas State Saturday in Henzlik Hall at 2 p.m. Although the Wildcats were last in the Big 8 last year, Studenski promises to do his best.

"It's a matter of pride," he said. "If you're putting something in front of the public you want to do your best."

Studenski's best has been better than that of most of his competition this year. He won blue ribbons in the still rings at two large invitational meets, in Denver and Chicago, in addition to the Big 8 Invitational and the East-West All Star meet.

Although he finished second to Iowa State's Keith Heaver Saturday during the Husker's 215.80 to 210.90 loss, he has won four of his seven meetings with the defending national champion.

But unlike Heaver, who was an Illinois state champion, Studenski's gymnastic development has been slow. At Omaha Burke High School, he started in gymnastics as a junior and placed seventh in the still rings as a senior at the state meet.

"In high school I wouldn't let my parents come to meets because I was so bad," he said. "There really was no coaching at Burke at that time. Most of the gymnastics I learned was from Francis (Husker coach, Allen) during clinics in the summer."

As a Husker sophomore, Studenski was fifth in rings at the Big 8 meet. Last year he missed a third place finish, and a ticket to the national meet, by only .005 of a point.

Although he weighs only 145 pounds, the muscular Studenski said that is heavy for a still rings performer. He said Heaver is 5 feet tall and weighs about 110 pounds.

"Bulk is not really what you want," he said. "You want the most strength per body weight. If you have less weight it's easier to move it."

He said he gets his strength from doing push-ups and other exercises on the rings but he doesn't lift weights.

Studenski, a computer science major, and Lincoln native Jim Unger are the only seniors on the Husker squad. He said he is hoping this year to profit from his hard work.

"This year is the payoff for six years of work," he said. "It's just getting so I can win. I figure I won't be able to work out next year or the rest of my life so this is my last chance."

Coach Allen said Studenski now is among the top five still rings performers in the nation.

Saturday's meet with Kansas State will be the first of four consecutive home meets for the Huskers since the season opener Oct. 26 against Iowa State.

"He's been working for this for four years and he's not going to ease off now," Allen said. "He doesn't drink or carouse like they do in some of the other sports. He doesn't want to be a star athlete, he just wants to be as good as he can be."

It follows consecutive Husker losses to Colorado and Saturday's loss to Iowa State. Allen said subpar performances in the pommel horse and parallel bars hampered the Huskers against the Cyclones.

Wrestling meet Friday

Athlete stresses confidence

By Pete Wegman

Coaches and athletes constantly stress the importance of confidence in athletics and sophomore Bill Hoffman, a 177 lb. wrestler on coach Orval Borgianni's Husker squad, is no exception.

"I think confidence makes a big difference," Hoffman said. A wrestler since seventh grade, Hoffman said he lost his confidence after losing his first three matches this season.

Last week, Borgianni said Hoffman has improved more since Christmas break than any Husker wrestler. While Hoffman failed to make such a claim, he said he felt he had improved recently.

Ankle injury

Plagued by an early season ankle injury, his record was 2-4 when the semester break began. Since then he has raised his overall mark to 10-6.

Hoffman and nine of his Husker teammates will be facing South Dakota University Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Coliseum. Last year Nebraska defeated South Dakota, 33-13.

"We should be able to beat them easily, but I guess you never can tell," he said. Hoffman said he had thought the Huskers would beat Missouri easily Saturday, but the Huskers needed a Missouri forfeit in the heavyweight division to defeat the Tigers, 21-16.

Hoffman, who posted a 31-2 record at

Atlantic, Iowa, as a high school senior, said he decided to come to Nebraska because it was the only Big 8 school where he could have wrestled as a freshman.

Worst of the best

"Nebraska was the worst of the best," he said, adding that he thinks the Big 8 is the best wrestling conference in the nation. He was 11-14 last year as a freshman.

As an Iowa high school student, Hoffman had a chance to attend Iowa State, the NCAA wrestling champions at the time of his graduation. Hoffman said, however, he would have spent two years on the Cyclone bench.

With the Big 8 tournament and his chance to face Iowa State still three weeks away, Hoffman said he thinks the team's attitude is down a little from what it has been. He attributed the drop in attitude to the long season, but added that the overall attitude will pick up as the tournament nears.

"The return of Bob Johnson will really pick us up," Hoffman said. Johnson, the Huskers' leading point scorer last season, has been absent with a knee injury, but worked out with the team Monday for the first time in a month.

Hoffman, who finished third in the Big 8 beat season and went to nationals, must beat defending 177 lb. champion, Rick Jones of Oklahoma State, to win the tournament.

sports shorts

Revenge may be a prevalent motive tonight when the UNL basketball team travels to Lawrence, Kan., for a crucial meeting with the University of Kansas.

The Jayhawks came from behind in the final minutes to defeat the Huskers, 63-62, at the Big 8 tourney last December in Kansas City.

After a 88-74 loss to Missouri, Saturday, coach Joe Cipriano stressed that his team will have to have a top effort to defeat Kansas at home.

Kansas also lost last weekend (to rival Kansas State) and trails the Huskers in the conference standings with a 3-2 mark.

Both the UNL women's basketball varsity and junior varsity teams will be in action tonight against Midland College at 7 p.m. in the Women's Physical Education Bldg.

Teamwork keeping Indiana on top

With the years of UCLA basketball dominance dead and buried, (I hope) this season's race for the national title is a wide open affair.

The Indiana Hoosiers are currently a solid number one in the polls, having reeled off 21 straight victories. The Hoosiers must have some smooth teamwork going for them since they have no individual stars.

The average basketball fan would be hard-pressed to name even two players from that team.

The Louisville Cardinals have done their best to live up to the national champion billing accorded them by *Sports Illustrated* at the start of the season. So far they've lost only once, despite countless close calls.

Defending national champ North Carolina State has already lost three games. The UCLA Bruins have been tamed twice this season, but still could be dangerous if they can claw their way out of the tough Pacific 8 Conference.

Maryland and Notre Dame are two good teams that could have been the two best teams in the country had they not lost eligible players to the pros.

So, who will emerge from this jumble of talent and ambition?

I'll venture that even with the chips down, David Thompson and the North Carolina State Wolfpack will walk away

with their second straight national championship.

A funny thing happened to the Creighton Bluejays on their way to the national Top Ten. After disposing of Oklahoma City and Oral Roberts, which then had a 13-3 record, Creighton dropped from 14th to 18th in this week's UPI poll.

steve taylor

taylored sports

After listening to the various Top 100 record surveys on local radio stations I recently decided to take my own poll. The following are the Top Ten 45's on the past year, as recorded by sports personalities:

1. Schools Out-Moses Malone
2. D.O.A.-George Foreman's next boxing opponent
3. You're no Good-Colorado basketball coach Sox Walseth as sung to his squad.
4. You are Everything-Muhammed Ali as sung to a mirror

5. Shaft-Michigan Football team
6. Wait a Million Years-Championship-hungry fans of the New Orleans Jazz.
7. Sure as I'm Sitting Here-Ron Taylor
8. Ring, Ring-Stan Hegener
9. My Mistake-The owner of the Portland Trailblazers, who sank his life savings into getting Bill Walton
10. No More Mister Nice Guy-Charlie Finley

Goerge Forman said Sunday he would have retired had he defeated Muhammed Ali in October.

It is hard to understand why so many people were cheering for Arnold Palmer to overtake Gary Groh in the final round of the Hawaiian Open Monday.

Here was a guy just trying to insure his family three square meals a day battling a man who would leave the tournament in his private jet.

Groh had not won in 61 tournament appearances. Groh had not made any commercials. Nor had he been the guest host on the Tonight Show, as Arnie had.

Groh's victory earned him \$44,000 and, while he's not yet a threat to Johnny Carson, he no longer has to qualify every Monday just to earn a spot in a PGA tournament.