

Duff, Dickey aim at consistency

By Scott Jones

If, for some reason, the UNL gymnastics team decided to have secret practices, admitting only true-blue fans, it could easily keep out the impostors.

For example: Door guard: "What place did Nebraska finish in the NCAA meet last year?"

True-blue: "That's easy, fifth."

Guard: "How many All-Americans did UNL have last year?"

True-blue: "Three, Gene Mackie, Pete Studenski and Jim Unger. C'mon, let me in."

Guard: "One more. Name the senior Big 8 Conference champion and another senior who may be the most consistent performer in his event in the country."

True-blue: (dumbstruck) "What? Where's it say that in the sports guide?"

Actually, members of the gymnastics team sometimes yank people out of the Henzlik Hall lobby to come watch them practice, but if such a situation should occur, the answer to the last question would be Gary Duff and Steve Dickey.

Duff, Omaha South High School graduate, is the defending Big 8 parallel bars champion and Dickey, from Lincoln Northeast High School, has made it to the finals in the pommel horse in every major meet since he was a sophomore except one.

"When you go to a meet you don't ask, 'where's Gary Duff?'" said Husker coach Francis Allen, "but when you come to the finals he's always there." The same goes for Dickey.

"He's probably the most consistent side horse man, over the last three years, in the country," Allen said.

But when the Huskers compete at the University of Oklahoma Saturday in their last dual meet before the Big 8 meet March 19 through 20 in Colorado, Duff and Dickey realize it probably will be all-arounders Larry

Gerard and Gene Mackie who will attract the most attention.

Dickey, a construction management major, was a state champion in the side horse his senior year at Northeast. At UNL he has finished seventh, fifth and second in the last three conference meets and was ninth at the NCAA meet last year.

He has finished in the top three in most major meets this year.

Dickey said he is hoping for a Big 8 crown this year to compensate for years of practice. "It seems to get a little harder every year," he said.

Duff, who already has won a Big 8 title, has a way to relieve the pressure. It involves a Bible verse that says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for men."

"When I compete, that's what I think about," he said. Before beginning his routine, he also prays to "glorify the Lord" and this takes some of the pressure off, said Duff, a walk-on at Nebraska.

"What I'm really trying to do is my best to serve God," said Duff, who like UNL basketball center Larry Cox, is a member of the campus Christian group, the Navigators.

Duff said his strength is consistency. "Consistency has paid off for me," he said. "I've never had an outstanding set, but I just know every time I go out I can do it."

This year is the last chance for both seniors to become members of a Big 8 championship team. That means beating Iowa State University (ISU), conference champion the last eight years.

"Whoever has a bad day is going to lose," Duff said. "We're both right there and we (UNL and ISU) both know it."

sports quiz

Editor's note: During the recent Winter Olympics, countless phrases and stories were repeated by television announcers. This quiz is for Olympic fans who had to struggle through those.

1. Jim McKay wore the same sweater all 12 days of the Olympics. What color was it?
2. Dick Button repeated the stormy love life of this Russian pairs' figure skater every time she stepped onto the ice. Who?
3. There is one thing that Anne Henning "just can't believe" about United States gold-medal speed skater Sheila Young. What?
4. a. According to Button, who is the most elegant male figure skater?
b. Also according to Button, who is the most exotic and bizarre male figure skater?
5. What country had the "revolutionary" aerodynamic luge helmets?
6. What American skier is a member of the "that famous Vermont skiing family"?
7. What was "our man around town" Pierre Salinger's nickname?
8. The United States beating Russia in ice hockey would be like the Russians doing what?
9. a. According to the hysterical screaming of Bob Beattie, where were Austrian Franz Klammer and the other downhillers as they came down the course?
b. According to the mindless ranting of Curt Gowdy, where was "little" Steve Sertich of the American hockey team?
10. How many degrees are there in the bobsled turn called the Olympic spin?

1. Green (with black stripes).
2. Irena Rodina.
3. She skates without socks.
4. a. John Curry, Great Britain. b. Toller Cranston, Canada.
5. West Germany.
6. Lindy Cochran.
7. "Lucky" Pierre.
8. Coming to the United States and winning the World Series.
9. a. All over the mountain.
b. All over the ice.
10. 270 degrees.

Basketball team awaits tournament

By Susie Reitz

Coming off a 78-53 win over Kearney State College Tuesday, the UNL women's basketball team heads into Large College Division state tournament action Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. 313.

The Huskers now are 15-6.

UNL's first game in the three-team double-elimination tournament will be against the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). The Huskers defeated the Mavericks in two previous encounters, 52-46 the first time and 76-55 the next.

The winner of Friday's game will play Wayne State College at 1 p.m. Saturday. UNL lost to Wayne State 68-53 in their first game but won 62-61 in a home contest last week.

Although Wayne State is a small college according to American Intercollegiate Athletics for Women standards, it is competing on the large college level in basketball. That option is available to colleges with less than a 3,000 female enrollment, said UNL coach George Nicodemus.

Having the state tournament on home grounds will be an advantage, Nicodemus said.

"When there's a crowd that backs the team, they (the players) want to perform better," he said. "One of our best-played games yet this year was the preliminary game we played in January against Central Missouri (State University). There the crowd made a real difference," he said. The women played before the Men's game against South Dakota University and won 75-47.

For the first two days, the state tourney will be played in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. The finals Sunday will be at the Coliseum.

In the Kearney State game Tuesday, freshman Darcy Williamson of Arapahoe led the scoring with 23 points. Omaha junior Kathy Hawkins was next with 14, followed by Lincoln sophomore Sherry Brink with 13 and Lincoln freshman Jan Crouch with 12.

At the Big 8 Conference tournament last weekend, in which UNL finished third, the Huskers beat Oklahoma State University 52-49 after losing to Kansas State University 51-47 in the opening round.

After the state tournament, the team's last home appearance will be in a preliminary before the men's game against Iowa State University Feb. 28. The women will play the Sportsman's of Alkeny, an AAU team from Des Moines, which was fifth in the national AAU tournament last year.

nebraskan sports

Nine Nebraskans, six out-staters ink

Nine Nebraskans and six out-of-state high school seniors signed national letters of intent Wednesday to attend UNL next fall on football scholarships.

The national letter of intent binds a player to the school with which he signs.

Two weeks ago, the players signed the Big 8 Conference letter of intent, merely binding them to play at Nebraska, should they choose to play in the Big 8.

| In-State | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Player | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown |
| Joe Adams | 6-4 | 220 | Bellevue |
| Kim Baker | 6-3 | 190 | York |
| Mike Bruce | 6-6 | 210 | Omaha |
| John Fischer | 6-3 | 185 | Columbus |
| Brian Hedrick | 6-2 | 190 | York |
| Brad Humphrey | 6-2 | 190 | Bellevue |
| Dave O'Doherty | 6-3 | 225 | Omaha |
| Dan Pensick | 6-5 | 212 | Columbus |
| Frank Taylor | 6-0 | 170 | Omaha |
| Out-State | | | |
| Steve Davies | 6-3 | 215 | Murray, Utah |
| Gary England | 6-4 | 225 | Salt Lake City |
| Mike Polk | 6-4 | 230 | Lawrence, Kan. |
| Chris Juehring | 6-3 | 205 | Davenport, Iowa |
| Glenn Lewis | 6-1 | 194 | Edina, Minn. |
| Thor Jacobs | 6-2 | 215 | Cincinnati |

sports shorts

Anyone interested in trying out for the women's softball team should contact coach Myreen Loveless, 472-3924. Prospective team members are practicing daily.


Freshman Ellen Hollander won three events to spark the Husker women's swim team to a 86-44 win over Kearney State College Tuesday at the Women's Physical Education Bldg. pool. She won the 50- and 100-yard breaststrokes and the 100-yard butterfly.

Freshman Lise Magee took the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke and tied for first in the 50-yard freestyle. Other Husker winners include freshman Kristi Wells in the one- and three-meter diving, sophomore Mikki Crosby in the 50-yard butterfly, junior Deb Petersen in the 50-yard backstroke and the 200-yard medley relay team with Magee, Crosby, Hollander and senior Ruth Spencer.

Mark Ebel, UNL coordinator of recreation, will present a color slide show of the interim backpacking trip to Barranca De Cobre Canyon in Mexico tonight at 7 at the Recreation Office at 1740 Vine St.

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