

# Gymnasts take Big 8 meet title

By Jim Hunt

Boulder, Colo.—Husker gymnastics coach Francis Allen and his team are aiming at the NCAA national meet Thursday through Saturday after winning the Big 8 Conference meet here March 19 and 20.

The Huskers won their first Big 8 title since 1964, halting the Iowa State University (ISU) Cyclone's dominance of the meet. ISU won the last seven Big 8 meets and



Photo courtesy of Scott Steen

UNL senior gymnast Gene Mackie.

## Coach is optimistic despite 2-10 mark

By Jim Zalewski

As far as UNL baseball coach Tony Sharpe is concerned, the adage "it's not who wins or loses but how well the game is played" still applies.

The Huskers, who went 2-10 on their annual southern swing, showed enough positive signs to leave Sharpe optimistic.

"It's hard to be real happy with that record, but overall we're very pleased," he said. "The team, with the exception of our hitting, played real well, especially the first eight games."

Junior Kirk Eymann and sophomore Jerry Yingling posted the Husker victories. Eymann blanked Rice 2-0, while Yingling relieved freshman Jeff Costello to gain a 2-1 victory over Lamar University in Texas.

"We're real happy with our pitchers," Sharpe said. "Dave Buchrer (senior) and Eymann both did real fine jobs and Jeff Costello gave us a real good game against Lamar."

But the Huskers were betrayed by termites in the bat bag. No one, with the possible exception of junior Bobby Thomas, had a good hitting series, according to Sharpe.

"Bobby Thomas seemed to get better every game and he's established himself at third base," he said. "Dick Anderson (last year's starter) will now probably be our designated hitter."

Sophomore Doug Miller apparently has won the short-stop job and sophomore Jon Henne has established himself as the number one catcher, Sharpe said. Sophomore Larry Winum and senior Randy Benish will continue to alternate at first base, while the outfield remains stable with juniors Steve McManaman and Paul Hass and senior Norm Glismann patrolling the gardens.

"We got a chance to play everyone, and we found out we have some kids who can play ball," he said. "Our hitting is always slow to get started and you must remember we ran into some very tough pitchers who had already thrown five or six games."

The Huskers, who figured to have a potent hitting attack this year, have a chance to get off their losing track against Buena Vista College Tuesday in a 1:30 p.m. home doubleheader. Sharpe said he has no information on Buena Vista this year, but added they always have fielded a good small college team.

10 of the last 11. The Huskers out-scored second-place ISU 419 to 411.2.

"It was really a good team effort," Allen said. "I predicted that if our all-arounders did a good job we would be in the meet."

And it was a good meet for the Husker all-arounders, with Larry Gerard and Gene Mackie finishing first and second. It was the first time in 11 years that a Cyclone failed to win that event.

Gerard, sophomore from Lincoln, finished with a score of 105.45, while Mackie, senior from Omaha, tallied 103.70 points.

"Our goal was to do good in the meet," Allen said. "We still didn't do our best, though. Last year we went all-out for every meet. This year we didn't. We were trying to peak for the Big 8 meet and nationals."

"We should be close to making the top three in nationals this year. Last year we finished fifth at the NCAA meet, and we have a better team this year," Allen said.

### A little more fame

"Fame helps when you get to nationals," he said. "This year we have a little more fame. The judges evaluate you better if they know something about you. Last year they didn't know anything about my team. When they know you, they look for you."

The Huskers had a 6.35-point lead over ISU after the Friday compulsories, which a team must have to win the meet. However, the Huskers also out-scored the Cyclones in the optionals 212.95 to 211.50.

"I was a little bit worried during the meet," Allen said. "But six points is too much to give up. Everyone could have done mediocre, and we would have won. It was kind of downhill after the vaulting."

### Individual champion

The Huskers claimed only one individual champion in the meet—Gerard in the high bar. Gerard tallied 18.875 points in the event, highest score in any individual event.

## sports shorts

All three UNL crew teams won against Washburn University Saturday in Topeka, Kan. The varsity men's eight beat Washburn, 7:24.9 to 7:42.4, over 2,000 meters. In another 2,000-meter race, the Husker junior varsity men's eight won, 8:36.9 to 8:40. The UNL women's eight downed Washburn, 4:06 to 4:14, over 1,000 meters.

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The Husker golf team finished third of five squads in the Galveston Invitational at Galveston, Tex., Tuesday through Friday. Texas Tech University won with a 1,144 score, followed by the University of Oklahoma (1,177), UNL (1,190), Wichita State University (1,212) and St. Louis University (1,281).

Sophomore Doug Smith took seventh in the individual standings with a 291 total. Other scores for the Huskers were: junior Craig Moyer, 297; freshman Steve Statton, 305; junior Todd Thorson, 308; freshman Dave Donachie, 311 and freshman Tony Pesavento, 316.

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Husker women's basketball coach George Nicodemus announced the signing of four Nebraska high school seniors during spring vacation. Jeanne Marie Boller of Dorchester, Laura Tietjen of Byron, Renee Cheney of Palmyra and Susan Roubal of North Bend all signed letters of intent with the Huskers.

Tietjen, who averaged 38 points a game, and Roubal both made The Omaha World-Herald all-state team. Boller is 6 ft. 3 in., while the others are each 5 ft. 8 in.

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The Husker men's tennis team split eight dual matches during spring vacation, putting its season mark at 5-5.

The Huskers lost to Wichita State University 6-3 Monday in Wichita, 9-0 to Southern Illinois University Tuesday in Tulsa and 8-1 to the University of Tulsa Wednesday in Tulsa.

The team also competed in the Oral Roberts Tournament Thursday through Saturday, winning four of five matches.

In opening round action Thursday, the Huskers beat Northeast Missouri State University 8-1 and Drury (Mo.) College 7-2.

In Friday's second round, the Huskers defeated Ottawa (Kan.) University 9-0 before losing to Oral Roberts University 6-0.

They defeated Southwest (Mo.) Baptist College 6-3 Saturday.

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UNL sophomore Bryan Moss Friday finished 16th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 58.75 seconds at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Providence, R.I. John Hencken of Stanford won the event in 54.04 seconds.

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The Husker women's tennis team opened its season March 18 with a 9-0 shutout over Doane College at Crete. Freshman Julie Porter; sophomores Vickie Maseman, Joyce McVicker and Meg Shaneyfelt; junior Barb Scribner

He also finished third in the still rings, fifth in vaulting and sixth in the parallel bars.

Mackie placed in four events, picking up a second in the parallel bars and sixth-place finishes in the pommel horse, vaulting and high bar.

Duane West, the Huskers' third all-arounder, placed in two events. West, a junior from Lincoln, took second in the floor exercise and fourth in the high bar.

Six other Huskers placed in the individual competition: senior Steve Dickey with a second in the pommel horse, junior Kurt Mackie with a fourth in the still rings, junior Gary Jeurink with a fourth in vaulting, senior Gary Duff with a fifth in the parallel bars, sophomore Mike Cosgrove with a fifth in the pommel horse and freshman Terry Neustrom with a sixth in the floor exercise.

The NCAA meet Thursday through Saturday is at Temple University in Philadelphia.

## nebraskan sports

and senior Helen Glover all won singles matches for UNL.

The doubles teams of McVicker-Scribner, Glover-Maseman, and sophomore Chris Marcum-freshman Sharon Rase also won.

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The Husker women's basketball team finished fifth in the National Women's Invitational Tournament March 18 through 20 in Amarillo, Tex.

Freshman Darcy Williamson's 12 points paced the Huskers in an opening round 77-52 loss to Belmont (Tenn.) College March 18.

The Huskers defeated West Texas State University 67-52 in the consolation round March 19. Six Huskers scored in double figures, led by junior Kathy Hawkins and freshman Deb Lee with 13 points each.

In the consolation championship March 20, Williamson scored 29 points to lead the Huskers to a 72-69 win over North Carolina State University.

The Huskers finished the season with a 23-9 record.

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The Husker women's softball team opened its season March 18 in Omaha with wins of 1-0 over Creighton University and 19-6 over the College of St. Mary's.

Sophomore Jan Bartels allowed only two hits and senior Sue Hansen scored the only run in the win over Creighton.

In the second game, the Huskers scored 10 runs on no hits in the first inning. They managed their 19-run total on only three hits.

Freshman Kris Hermanson and junior Kris Schell each scored four runs against St. Mary's.

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Two more high school football players have signed national football letters of intent to enroll at UNL next fall.

Running back Tim Wurth from Omaha Burke High School and tight end-defensive end Junior Miller from Midland, Tex., are the new signees.

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Husker sophomore linebacker Jim Wightman received a six-month probation sentence Wednesday after earlier entering a plea of no contest to an assault and battery charge.

The charge stemmed from a Sept. 27 altercation Wightman had with Omaha police officers.

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The UNL women's track team finished third of 11 teams at the Arkansas Relays Saturday in Fayetteville.

Freshman Pam Koontz became the fourth Husker to qualify for the national meet. She threw the discus 127 ft. 7 1/2 in. to place third. Freshman Jeanene Lorenzen and sophomore Betsy Ross took fourth and fifth in the event.

In the shot put, freshman Deb Raddatz captured third with Koontz following in fourth. Freshman Peggy Liddick took second in the 100-meter hurdles and the long jump, in which she leaped a school record 17 ft. 6 1/2 in.

Sophomore Cindy Dixon placed third in the mile and fourth in the 880-yard run. Freshman Pam Baker took third in the 100-yard dash and fourth in the 220-yard dash. In the 440-yard dash, sophomore Doris Hitz set a school record of 61.9 seconds to place fourth.

In an eight-team track meet at Kearney March 20, the Huskers took fourth. Dixon was the top UNL finisher, taking second in the 880 with a school record 2:18.7.