

UNL on wrong end of ISU gymnastic showcase

By Jim Kay

Ames, Iowa—A UNL gymnastics team trip ended in a fall to Iowa State University (ISU) here Saturday.

What was expected to be one of the closest meets for UNL this year turned into an ISU gymnastics showcase.

ISU outscored the Huskers in every event to give them a 217.5-210 victory. So dominant were the ISU gymnasts that Husker ace Larry Gerard finished fifth in the all-around competition.

ISU freshman Stacy Maloney won the high bar and parallel bar events as well as the all-around title with 53.30 points. Maloney was followed by three of his teammates in the scoring for the all-around.

"Stacy was probably one of the top two recruits in the nation along with Bart Connor from Oklahoma," ISU head coach Ed Gagnier said. "He was kind of a late bloomer, but we're awfully glad we got him."

Team effort

Gagnier credited the ISU win to a total team effort.

"Even our first men in each event were important to us in this meet," Gagnier said. (In gymnastics, the weaker competitors usually go first.) "We were counting on everyone hitting today. We built on each man's score as the meet progressed because you can't depend on any two or three guys."

That lack of consistency was one of UNL's main problems Saturday, Allen said.

"I might as well have sent only four guys in each event" (instead of the usual six competitors), Allen said. "When one guy is off, it screws everyone up. They were coming back to the bench and looking at Gerard. He can't do it all himself."

Allen said it is tough to win when the opposing team is scoring eights and nines with their weakest competitor as ISU did.

Pommel horse

Gagnier said the key event in the meet was the pommel horse event.

"That was probably the key when we scored eights in the horse," Gagnier said. "Nebraska kind of went flat after that. I can't remember when we won every event in total points against Nebraska. And to shut them out in the all-around is quite remarkable because Larry Gerard is an international competitor."

Gagnier said he felt optimistic about ISU's chances for a Big 8 Conference championship.

"I'm as optimistic now as I was at the first of the year," Gagnier said. "It's particularly pleasing because of the success of our training program."

Gagnier said his gymnasts practice under meet conditions everyday.

"It's like scrimmaging everyday," Gagnier said. "They aren't judged on their routines, but they are expected to perform

in practice as if they were being judged. It's a demanding program but it becomes routine. We're showing good mid-season form and our training techniques are showing up. Of course you have to have the athletes who are willing to work under those conditions."

Gagnier added that every time ISU won the national championship the team used this training technique.

Won't give in

Allen said UNL was not ready to concede anything to ISU.

"The potential is there on our team. It's

just a matter of hitting each event," Allen said. "A year ago at the Big 8 meet we

were good on compulsaries and they could never catch us. I hated losing this bad because we expected it to be so tight. But we'll be back."

Mike Cosgrove proved to be the only individual winner of the day for UNL when he won the pommel horse event with a 9.30 score.

The gymnasts next meet will be a triangular against the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota Saturday in Iowa City.

sports

KU outruns UNL trackmen

By Kevin Schnepf

The University of Kansas ran past the Huskers Saturday in the Huskers' first indoor track meet of the year.

Nearly 3,000 spectators witnessed perennial track power KU defeat UNL 81 and one-half to 58 and one-half in the first meet on the UNL Sports Complex indoor track.

Although the Huskers dropped their first meet of the year, they took seven first place finishes.

In the mile run, the Huskers' Keith Whitaker and Matt Reckmeyer placed first and second respectively.

Whitaker ran the second best indoor mile in UNL history with a time of 4:08.4, and Reckmeyer, who had a time of 4:09.2, was assigned to run in the mile by head coach Frank Sevigne at the last minute.

"I really didn't know what to expect," Reckmeyer said. "I was supposed to run just in the 1,000-yard run. So I figured if I had to run the mile, I was going to run the race hard."

Reckmeyer said he was pleased with the way the Huskers ran against KU.

Had a shot

"We thought we had a shot at them (KU)," he said. "The mile relay could've gone either way and the two mile run and 1,000-yard run didn't turn out as well as we expected. But I was really happy the way we ran today."

The mile relay, which was the final event, was won by KU by 1.5 seconds. UNL's mile relay team of Ron Hoagland, Pat McKenzie, Ray Mahoney and Scott

Poehling had a time of 3:15.3.

Earlier in the meet, Poehling, a freshman running in his first UNL meet, won the 600-yard run in 1:10.0, which is the second fastest time by a Husker athlete.

Also in his first UNL track meet was Husker football player Jeff Lee, who tried a school record in the 60-yard low hurdles with a time of 6.3 seconds.

Lee edged KU's Anthony Coleman, who earlier outraced Lee in the 60-yard high hurdles. Both Lee and Coleman had times of 7.1 seconds, but Coleman was declared the winner.

Winning jumps

Other first place finishers for the Huskers were high jumper Dean Herzog with a jump of 6 ft. 10 in. and triple jumper Neville Murray with a leap of 47 ft. 2 and three-quarter in.

Husker sprinter Ron Hoagland won the 300-yard dash with a time of 31.2 seconds and UNL grabbed the first three places in the 880-yard run.

Jeff Thurman placed first with a time of 1:53.2, followed by Huskers Ron Fisher and Paul McClain.

The Big 8 indoor Track Championships will be at the Sports Complex Feb. 25 and 26, marking the first time the meet will be outside Kansas City.

Reckmeyer said the new track is one of the best in the country, adding that it is very fast.

"There may not be as many fans here as in Kansas City," he said, "but there will probably be a lot of records broken in the Big 8 meet because the track is so fast."



Photo by Ted Kirk

Argon Vasha was UNL's only winner against the University of Minnesota Saturday. He is shown here winning a decision over Golden Gopher wrestler Gene Shaw.

NBC's Jay Randolph says sportscasting job a steal

By Rob Barney

St. Louis sportscaster Jay Randolph said his occupation "is like stealing, really, because it is so much fun."

Randolph, who spoke to a UNL broadcasting class Friday, said, "Basketball is my greatest love."

"I like the college freshness," he said. "Right now, it's a hot item."

"You have regional telecasts every Saturday and a national game on Sunday," Randolph said. "And those games do well against the NBA game on CBS."

Randolph was in Lincoln to do the play-by-play of the UNL-Oklahoma State Big 8 Conference Game of the Week for NBC.

Randolph, 42, has been doing the Big 8 game for several seasons, teaming up with former Iowa State University basketball player, Gary Thompson.

Many college basketball observers look at the Big 8 Conference as a weak one, Randolph said, but he disagreed.

A balanced league

"Missouri was only two points away from the final four last year, and Kansas State was only a game away a couple of years ago," he said. "You don't have a Wilt Chamberlain or a Willie Smith or a Scott Wadman but there is more balance in the league this season."

"It's the best crop of freshman I've ever seen in the conference," he said. "With the new talent and new buildings the Big 8 should do well in the future."

Oklahoma has the best young talent in the conference, Randolph said. He added that Oklahoma will be the team to beat in the next few years.

"That guy out at Colorado (coach Bill Blair) is going to do a job out there," Randolph said. "He's not going to let any talent from Denver get away anymore. And, with the breaking ground for their fieldhouse, Colorado's going to improve."

Besides his basketball duties, Randolph does a full schedule of NFL games, covers golf tournaments and does TV play-by-play for about 30 games during the summer for the St. Louis Cardinals Baseball team.

Great performers

In his 18 years in the business, Randolph said he has seen many great performers in all sports. His list of greatest sports performers includes Jimmy Brown, former running back of the Cleveland Browns, as the best football player.

"O.J. might be on the highest rung of the second level, but nobody is comparable to Jimmy Brown," Randolph said.

"Arnold Palmer did the most for the game, but Jack Nicklaus is the greatest

golfer," he said. "I never saw (Bobby) Jones play," he said.

"I saw (Ted) Williams play, (Joe) DiMaggio, (Stan) Musial, but the greatest baseball player I've seen is Bob Gibson (former pitcher from Omaha for the St. Louis Cardinals)," he said.

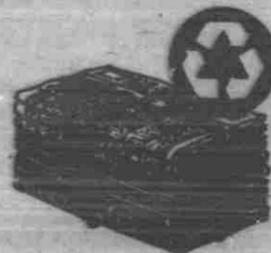
"He was the greatest competitor around. He had a great body and was a great team player," he said.

Randolph said his greatest thrill

probably was the ski jumping in the 1972 Olympics in Japan.

NBC is involved in negotiation rights with ABC and independent SATRA for broadcast rights for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, Randolph said.

"The Russians are trying to offer us a propaganda package," he said. "They want to show Russia the way they see it. That would be a mistake if anybody accepted their terms. If we (NBC) do the games we'll show Russia the way we see it."



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