

sports

Injuries to six gymnasts hamper team's progress



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Junior Patty Carmichael prepares for the women's gymnastics team's next dual against Oklahoma State and South Dakota State this Saturday. Carmichael is one of three upperclassmen on the squad this year.

By Ed McClymont

The 1978-79 UNL Women's gymnastic season can be summed up so far in one word—injuries. Six of the team's performers have been slowed by injuries varying from ankles to elbows.

The three upperclassmen of the squad—senior Peggy Liddick, and juniors Patty Carmichael and Chrissy Robertson—have all been hurt at one point in the season. Liddick has been out with a knee injury, Carmichael with an ankle injury, and Robertson with a back injury. The casualties figured in the Huskers' fifth place finish in the five team Midwest Open in Chicago, and a tie with Minnesota in a dual.

"It's been a real problem with all the injuries we've had," Head Coach Judy Schalk said, "although we just had an all around poor performance at Chicago."

Lost top all-rounder

The team also is suffering from the loss of Jeanne Concannon, who dropped out of school.

"She was the top all-rounder for us last year as a freshman," Schalk said. "We would have been super this year with Peggy, Chrissy, and Patty had Jeanne stayed out for the team."

The Huskers will be counting on strong showings from five freshmen—Marcia Austin, Martha Clark, Vicki Harvey, Karen Madsen, and Tammy Pawlichka—to repeat last year's Big Eight Championship.

Next semester, Schlak says her squad will be joined by Renee Reisdorff, whom Schalk calls the "top gymnast in the state." Reisdorff will be on full scholarship when she graduates from Omaha Bryan High School this month.

Presently, UNL is gearing for the Rocky Mountain Open at Colorado State later this month.

"It's a prestigious meet," Schalk said. "We finished second last year and we'd like to do that good again this year."

Upcoming meets

Schalk figures the team probably will peak about the time of the meet, but could be thrown off again by the semester break.

This year's Big Eight meet is February 16-17 at the University of Colorado, and will be a close race again.

"It's strictly up for grabs," Schalk said. "All the Big Eight schools competing have fine teams. It should be closely matched."

Following the Big Eight Championships is the Regional meet at Iowa State. Qualifiers proceed to the national meet at Penn State.

UNL's next contest is a triangular Saturday with Oklahoma State and South Dakota State. The meet begins at 2 p.m. at Mabel Lee Hall.

"The level of competition is improving quite a bit," Schalk said. "We need to get more interest generated."

University intramural sports crowd into recreation areas

The UNL intramural season is beginning its third stage of the 1978-79 year with men's volleyball and handball, and women's basketball, acting as the major team sports for the winter.

"The programs have run real good," intramural director Gale Wiedow said. "The weather played a big part in that because we didn't have much rain or snow."

There have been few problems this year organizing games, according to Wiedow. The biggest problem seems to be finding enough space for purely recreational activities.

"We're getting in intramurals okay as far as facilities, but then there is no place for recreation sports to play," Wiedow said. "I personally believe we need more space for recreation, but we're still five years down the road as far as making any recommendations for additional buildings."

This year there are 100-150 paid students who are officiating and supervising the intramural program. There are an additional 30 students who supervise the facilities and grounds.

This year 80 sports are being offered UNL students and six sports for the UNL faculty. One of the biggest problems is the quality of officiating and forfeiture of games, Wiedow said.

"We have to hire people with little or no experience as far as officiating, and any training they have is usually on their own."

"Forfeitures have been reduced because of the enlarged playoff system, but it is still a problem because of the waste of officials, equipment, and maintenance when nobody shows up to play."

Wiedow also said the number of students participating in intramurals has dropped this year.

Bowl bucks fill Big Eight coffers and expense accounts

By Val Swinton

Some Husker fans still are complaining about the Oklahoma-Nebraska rematch in the Orange Bowl, but for many people, the news is as sweet as Florida citrus. The other Big Eight schools probably are quite pleased that two conference teams will be playing each other in a major bowl game, for financial reasons if nothing else.

"Good Lord, yes," said UNL Sports Information Director Don Bryant. "It's a gold mine for the Big Eight."

Estimated gate receipts confirm Bryant's statement. Big Eight officials are estimating that each team will earn over one million dollars as a result of the game. The money is not sent to the two schools, but given to the Big Eight Conference, which gives expense accounts to the two schools, then divides up what is left among all eight teams in the conference.

Divided eight ways

Nebraska and Oklahoma will receive about \$331,000 apiece for expenses, which should leave close to \$1.5 million to be divided eight ways. However, since Kansas State is on probation for recruiting violations, one third of its share will be deducted and redistributed among the remaining seven teams.

That's a far cry from the money Nebraska received last year when the team traveled to Memphis, Tenn. for the Liberty Bowl. According to Dick Fleming, Director

of University Information, the school received only \$125,000 for expenses.

As a tribute to the quality of football in the Big Eight, two other teams will also be traveling to bowl games this year, contributing further to the conference coffers.

Bowl bucks

Missouri will go to the Liberty Bowl this year, earning about \$315,000 for the Big Eight and Iowa State travels to the Hall of Fame Bowl, which means an additional \$175,000.

Sending four teams to bowl games is about average for the Big Eight. According to Bill Hancock, Director of the Big Eight Service Bureau, three teams went to bowl games last year, and four the year before.

But the best year, according to Hancock, was in 1972 when five teams were picked for bowl games. That year Oklahoma went to the Sugar Bowl, Nebraska played in the Orange Bowl, Iowa State went to the Liberty Bowl, Missouri was picked for the Fiesta Bowl and Colorado played in the Gator Bowl.

But even though this year is not the best year in terms of the number of teams playing in bowl games, it may well be the best year in terms of money received from those games, Hancock said.

"Payoffs have increased greatly since then," Hancock said, referring to 1972. And he added, "Television money is up quite a bit."

Expense account

The expense account Nebraska receives this year is evidence of how much more profitable it is to play in a bowl game this year than in the past. Fleming said Nebraska's figure of \$331,000, which includes expenses and mileage, is about \$100,000 more than six years ago.

Who goes to Miami on the Nebraska expense account? According to Fleming, over 500 persons from UNL will be receiving an expense paid trip to the Orange Bowl.

The players, coaches, managers and trainers, of course, will be making the trip, as well as the band and the cheerleaders. In addition, the regents, the governor, and the administrative staff from the university are entitled to go.

Two waves

Members of the administrative staff can take one other person on the expense account, but because of an Attorney General's ruling, the regents and the governor will have to pay out of their own pockets if they take someone else.

According to Bryant, there will be two "waves" leaving for Miami next month. The first wave, consisting of the team and coaches, leaves December 24. The second wave, which includes the rest of the 500 persons, leaves Dec. 28. Most of the people will be in Miami for four to six days. Two planes have been chartered for the trip, which means some will be making the journey on commercial flights.