

sports

Top-ranked gymnastics teams to meet

By Shelley Smith
Sports Editor

Some have called it a pre-Olympic qualifier. Others have called it a national championship sneak preview. But, most will agree that Saturday's gymnastics triangular between top ranked Iowa St., Oklahoma and Nebraska in Lincoln, will be one of the most explosive meets ever.

"It's the biggest meet of the year," Nebraska Gymnastics Coach Francis Allen said. "You can bet everyone's worrying about it."

However, Oklahoma Coach Paul Ziert said because all three teams are ranked nationally, some of the pressure everyone's talking about might not be there.

"All three teams have won nationals—so no one is trying to make themselves known in the gymnastics world," he said.

However, both Allen and Ziert said the meet is important for confidence and national standings.

Ed Gagnier, gymnastics coach at Iowa St., said it is the importance of the competition, not the pressure, which has built the fervor to a peak level.

"In these kinds of meets the coach doesn't have to rely on a pep talk. We're all aware of the rankings and that builds its own excitement," he said.

All three coaches agreed the person to watch is Nebraskan Jim Hartung.

Hartung, a sophomore from Omaha, last year helped lead the Huskers to their first national championship in any NCAA sport.

However, in the Huskers' win over Colorado last week, Hartung was beaten by his own teammate—freshman sensation Phil Cahoy.

"You know, Oklahoma is good all around, Iowa State is coming with a couple of studs, but Nebraska—Nebraska has Cahoy and Hartung," Allen said.

Last week Hartung didn't perform as sharp as he could have and was probably at the lowest he has ever been, Allen said.

However, Hartung is on the upswing—he's rested and healthy, and should be the strongest competitor Saturday, Allen said.

Challenging that strength will be Iowa State's Ron Gallimore. Gallimore beat Hartung in the Windy City Invi-



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Nebraska gymnast Phil Cahoy performs on the still rings during the Huskers' victory over Colorado last weekend. Nebraska faces top ranked Iowa State and second ranked Oklahoma Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

tational last fall, and according to Gagnier, is set to do it again.

Allen said Hartung will be watching Gallimore closely Saturday because "he sure doesn't want Gallimore to beat him again." Allen said competition between the two

schools has gotten to be a "personal thing" between Hartung and Gallimore.

However, Hartung said it isn't true.

"I just want to win—I just want the team to win," he said.

Fehr: shaky attitude is wrestlers' big problem

Perhaps "seeing is believing" isn't always the best adage to follow, especially for the UNL wrestling team, according to Head Coach Bob Fehrs.

Fehrs said the Huskers' main problems stem from automatically associating dominance with opposing uniforms.

"We've got an attitude and confidence problem in terms of looking at a uniform and deciding that they're good and probably going to win," Fehrs said.

Coming off of a 314 win against UNO Wednesday night, the Huskers now have an 11-3 dual record.

The Huskers face the Missouri Tigers Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Against Missouri, Fehrs said he hopes the Huskers use the UNO win as a momentum builder.

Missouri will be competitive at every weight, Fehrs said, but added that the 126-pound class should be the Tigers best weight class.

This will pose problems for Nebraska since Rick Whitehead, who wrestled at 126 pounds, underwent knee surgery Tuesday afternoon to repair torn ligaments suffered in Monday's practice.

Whitehead, who has a 10-3 dual record, but will probably be out for the rest of the season, according to Fehrs.

Brad Smith, a junior from Waynesboro, Pa., will take Whitehead's place.

KSU next Husker challenge

By Ron Powell

Although winning on the road is a tough task to fulfill in the Big Eight, the UNL basketball team might be happier playing Kansas State before a sellout crowd at Ahearn Fieldhouse in Manhattan.

The Wildcats, 14-3 overall and 4-1 in the conference, have won road games at Oklahoma State, Colorado and Kansas. At home, however, the Cats have lost to Oklahoma, but beat Iowa State 73-63 Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the 13-6 Huskers, who share a 4-1 conference record and first place with KSU and Missouri, have felt at home on the road, beating Iowa State and Colorado.

"We've been playing disciplined defense and getting the ball up the floor well on the road," said Husker guard Mike Naderer.

Naderer said winning in Manhattan isn't an impossible task.

"Since I've been here, we've done very well down there," Naderer said.

"You've got to believe in yourself to win on the road and this team does," Naderer said.

Husker assistant coach Tom Baack said the Huskers play well in Manhattan because it's a great place to play.

"The fans are great," Baack said. "They're very noisy, but they're not rude. And that helps to get the competitive spirit out of the players."

Regardless of where the game is, the consensus of the Husker coaches about K-State is one of respect.

"K-State probably has one of the best teams in the conference and maybe the

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Last year's strength helping men's track team

By Tad Stryker

The season begins Saturday for the Nebraska men's track team as the Salukis from Southern Illinois come to the Bob Devaney Sports Center for a dual at 1 p.m.

"I'm looking forward to it to see what we've got," Nebraska Head Coach Frank Sevigne said. Sevigne is entering his 25th year as head coach.

"It's kind of like the first football game of the year for us."

The Huskers return almost all of last year's squad, which placed third in the Big Eight indoor meet at Oklahoma City and fourth in the outdoor meet in Lincoln.

Scott Poehling, a senior from Fremont and last year's NCAA 800-meter indoor champion, heads the list. Poehling, who also won the 880 at the Big Eight indoor meet, is one of four All-Americans returning to UNL. Brian Dunnigan, Paul Downes, and Everton DeCosta are the other three. Dunnigan and Downes, juniors, teamed with Poehling and Mark Fluit on last year's NCAA champion two mile relay

team, and will make up the Huskers' middle-distance strength.

A surprise

DaCosta, a junior from Manchester, Jamaica, who runs the 400 intermediate hurdles said he was somewhat skeptical of the Husker's attitude about Southern Illinois.

"Most of the guys don't know what SIU's got. We should win but they might surprise us."

He said he hopes to improve his last year's second place finish in the Big-Eight outdoor meet, "but it shouldn't be a walk-over," he said.

Many other athletes should add to the Huskers' strength, Sevigne said. These include Jeff Keeler in the triple and long jumps, Randy Raymond in the pole vault, Phil Trent in the sprints, and Randy Brooks in the hurdles.

Raymond, a junior from Fremont, finished second in the Big Eight indoor pole vault with a 17-foot effort last year. He has already qualified for the NCAA indoor meet this year by vaulting 16-6 at the Eastern Tennessee Invitational earlier this

month. However, Raymond aggravated a slight foot injury at Tennessee which slowed him in practice this week, he said.

"I don't know what is for sure, but I'm taking medication and wearing a special pad in my shoe—it'll be alright in a couple weeks."

Fine group of freshmen

Keeler, Trent and Brooks said they feel more confident with a year of experience behind them. Keeler, a junior from Lincoln East, specializes in the triple jump. He said, "We've been jumping pretty hard—a lot harder than last year at this time." Keeler was hurt most of last year and, now that he's healthy, said he wants to prove himself.

Brooks, a sophomore from Omaha, said he's feeling stronger than he did last year. He said he likes the shorter races, like the 60 high hurdles, and hopes challenge for Big Eight supremacy in that area.

In addition to the proven veteran track men, the Husker squad will be strengthened by "the finest group of freshmen we've had since I've been here," according to

Poehling, who stressed that "this year's group really wants to win."

Jamaican runners strong

Mike Cielocha, a graduate of Columbus Scotus, will help the NU quarter-milers, along with Charles Lawrence, one of three freshmen on the Husker team from Jamaica. Following Lawrence to UNL were John Nones and Herman Mills, who broke the Jamaican high school 200-meter record previously held by Don Quarrie, the 1976 Olympic gold medalist in that event.

Ricky Simmons, a Greenville, Texas native, should strengthen the sprints, as evidenced by his 9.3 time in the 100 yards last spring.

The two mile relay team of Dunnigan, Downes, Tim McCashland, and Poehling has qualified for the NCAA indoor meet, and should continue to be strong.

Lee Kunz, who played football this fall for the Chicago Bears, will serve as co-captain with Poehling. Kunz is scheduled to high jump Saturday and will throw the discus later this spring when the team moves outdoors.