

# KU Jayhawks wrap up women's swimming title

By Ron Powell

With 14 Big Eight records broken at the Big Eight Women's Swimming Championships at the Bob Devaney Sports Center last weekend, the record book looks quite a bit different than it did in 1979.

But one thing that did not change was the team champion.

For the sixth consecutive year, Kansas won the team title. The Jayhawks, who scored 905½ points, accounted for 10 of those Big Eight records and won 14 events. Iowa State was second with 791 points while the UNL swimmers finished third with 663 points. It was the third consecutive year the Huskers have finished third.

Husker swimmers broke 13 school records in the meet and qualified two individuals in three events and two relay teams for the AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) National Meet March 19-22 in Las Vegas, both of which pleased Husker Swimming Coach Ray Huppert.

"These kids have done a real good job," Huppert said. "I am proud of all our girls. They've battled adversity all year, but they never quit. This was the first time all year our entire team has been healthy and I think it showed."

### Spectacular win

Although the Huskers had only one winner, freshman Sheri Hayward in the 200-yard backstroke, it was spectacular. Hayward's winning time of 2:04.79 was a school record and shattered the previous Big Eight mark by more than 3.5 seconds. The time also qualified Hayward for the national meet and the Olympic trials.

"That swim was unbelievable," Huppert said about Hayward's performance. "To me, that was one of the most impressive swims I've ever been associated with."

"I wanted a 2:05 to make the Olympic trials," Hayward said. "But when I got inside that, I was really surprised."

Huppert said he thinks Hayward can get her time down to a 2:02 at nationals, which, he said, could place her in the top eight there.

"It will take a lot of work to do that," Hayward said. "But I realized Thursday (the day of the 200 backstroke) that nothing is impossible."

Another Husker swimmer to qualify for nationals was sophomore Rene Sullivan. Sullivan qualified in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle events, and finished second in both to KU's Tammy Thomas. Sullivan's :24.08 in the 50 and :52.66 in the 100 also were school records. She set a school record in the 200 freestyle preliminaries.

### Improvement

Huppert said Sullivan has improved tremendously since last year when sickness and an injured shoulder held her back.

"She (Sullivan) could barely break :55 last year in the 100 (freestyle)," Huppert said. "This year, she has put forth a great deal of pride and has stayed healthy."

The 200 and 400-yard freestyle relays also qualified for nationals. The 200 freestyle team of Ann Kennedy, Marla Thompson, Carol Hall and Sullivan finished third in a

school record time of 1:38.26. Hall, Hayward, Kennedy and Sullivan combined for a second place finish in the 400 free relay and a school record as well with a 3:34.06 timing.

Another top performer for the Huskers was sophomore diver Carol Berger. Berger finished second in the one and three-meter events.

Twenty-nine individuals and teams qualified for nationals at the Big Eight meet, and Huppert said Nebraska and the Big Eight will be recognized at nationals.

"The Big Eight will be heard at nationals," Huppert said. "If KU swims as well as they're capable of, they could place in the top 15."

"We've never scored at nationals, but this year we will. I don't mean to sound cocky but these girls know where they're at and what they can do."

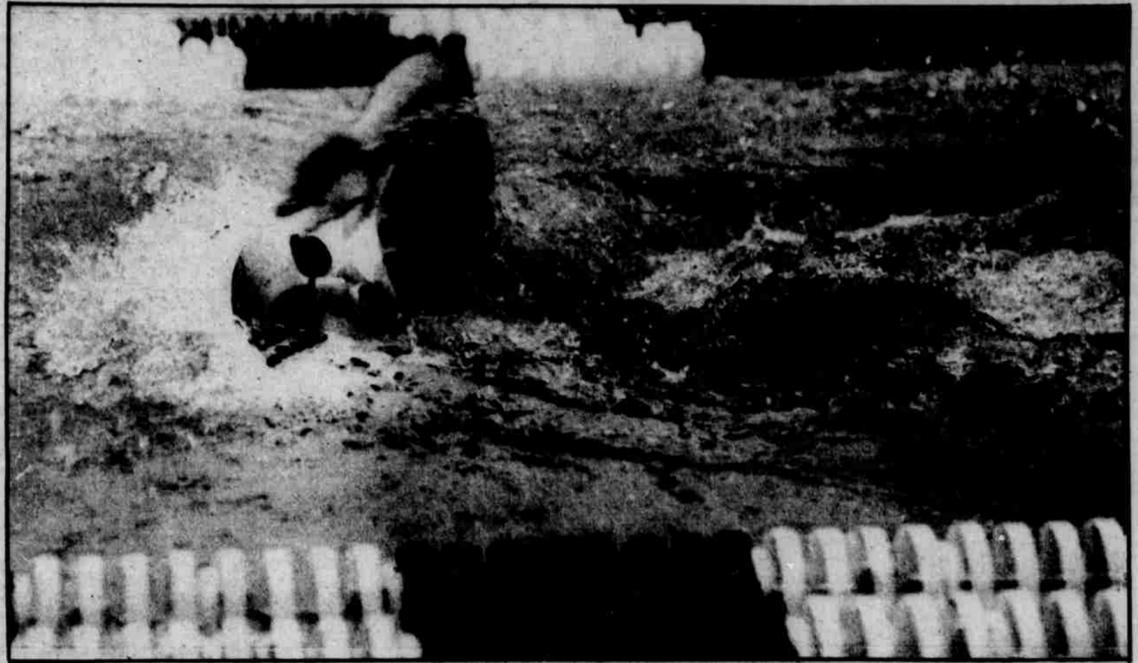


Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

Husker swimmer Ann Kennedy swims the first leg of Nebraska's 200-yard freestyle relay team. The team finished third, set a school record of 1:38.26, and qualified for nationals.

## Female cagers win, lose

The UNL women's basketball team split a pair of games last weekend, winning 59-55 Thursday at Northwest Missouri State, and losing to Kansas 71-57 at Lawrence Friday.

The Huskers trailed Northwest Missouri State 33-28 at halftime, but superior rebounding by Nebraska paid off in the second half, and the Huskers claimed their 19th win of the season.

Kathy Hagerstrom paced the Huskers with 21 points, and Diane DelVigna and Carol Garey each added 14. Patty Painter had 27 for NWMS.

The Huskers were never in the Kansas game. The Jayhawks rushed to an 11-0 lead, led 33-20 at halftime and were never threatened. Nebraska shot only 27 percent from the field.

Diane DelVigna and Chris Leigh led the Huskers with 10 points apiece, while Lynette Woodward had 25 points for Kansas.

The Huskers finish the regular season with a record of 19 wins and 17 losses, and will compete in the AIAW Sub-Regional VI tournament, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

## Male gymnasts lose to SCS

The Husker men's gymnastics team, ranked number one in the country, dropped a dual meet to Southern Connecticut State Friday, 279.7-278.3.

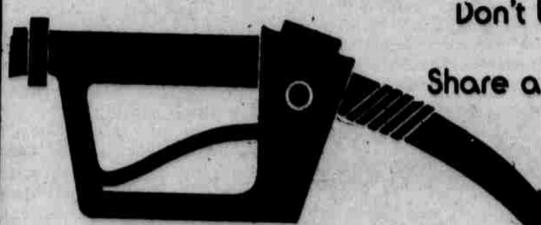
"We didn't expect them to do as well as they did," Husker Head Coach Francis Allen said. "They packed the house with 3,500 fans and put a lot of pressure on us and we didn't handle it well."

SC's Mario McCutcheon won the all-around with a 58.30 score. Husker Jim Hartung was second with 58.05, followed

by teammate Phil Cahoy with 57.85.

Hartung won the floor exercise, rings and vaulting events, while McCutcheon won the pommel horse, parallel bars and horizontal bars.

The meet was the first in a home-and-home series between the two national powers. SC, which is rated number five nationally, is to compete in Lincoln next year. The Huskers travel to Baton Rouge Sunday to meet Louisiana State University.



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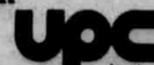
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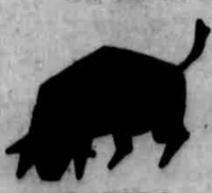
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