

sports

UNL diver-gymnast Elliott takes a rare time-out

By Ron Powell

Monday and Tuesday, UNL's diver-gymnast Steve Elliott did something he hadn't done for a long time—rest and study.

Despite the fact that the NCAA gymnastics meet is only two weeks away and there is still a possibility that Elliott could dive in the NCAA meet in Boston March 27-29, Elliott didn't work out at the beginning of the week.

"I missed two days of school last week (because of the NCAA Regional Diving Meet in Austin, Tex.) and I've probably missed about 40 percent of my classes this semester traveling to meets," Elliott said. "I've also been training very hard going into the meet last weekend, so my body needs a rest before getting ready for the national gymnastics meet."

Elliott finished seventh in both the one and three meter events, but only the top six in each event qualified for the NCAA meet. The Huskers' Scott Hinrichs qualified in the three meter event finishing sixth.

So close

"I was disappointed I didn't qualify, because I had set that as one of my goals, and I came so close to qualifying," Elliott said. "In that situation, finishing 12th would be the same as finishing seventh."

"If I were going to lose to someone though, I'd rather have it be one of my teammates. I think Scott will do well at nationals."

Elliott is an alternate in both the low and high boards in case one of the divers from the region does not compete. Husker diving Coach Jeff Huber said one of the Texas divers that qualified may not compete at nationals because the Longhorns could insert a swimmer in his place. The number of entries per team is limited in the national swimming and diving meet.

Even if Elliott does not dive at nationals, it was still a successful year diving for the sophomore from Amarillo, Tex. Elliott

defended his three meter title and finished second in the one meter event at the Big Eight meet.

In the Mid-Winter Invitational here in January, Elliott defeated both Rick Theobald of Southern Illinois and Brent Borgsten of Minnesota. Borgsten finished eighth last year in the NCAA meet. Theobald earlier this season beat Carlos Giron, an Olympic diver in 1976.

Early peak

"Steve (Elliott) probably peaked a little early, looking at the people he beat," Huber said. "But on any given day, Steve can dive with the best and beat them."

"Had he been diving in the Big Ten (who sends 14 divers to the NAAs), he would have qualified. SMU and Texas were both in our region and are top diving teams in the country."

Although Elliott has done well diving, he might be better known for his accomplishments in his other job—gymnastics. Before coming to Nebraska, Elliott was the third-ranked tumbler in the world, and the best in the United States, and Elliott has put those skills to use for the Huskers in the floor exercise and vaulting events.

"When I came here, I didn't expect to compete for the team," Elliott said. "I just wanted to stay in shape and work out once in a while. Both Jeff (Huber) and Francis (Allen, UNL gymnastics coach) have been flexible. It's nice to be able to compete for both teams."

Although Elliott said he spent more time this season working on his diving, Elliott still has had some exciting moments in the gym.

Busy man

After winning the floor exercise during the Colorado dual here in January, Elliott had to pull out of the vaulting because he had to compete in the three-meter diving at the Mid-Winter Invitational in the Bob Devaney Sports Center at the same time. But, between dives, Elliott grabbed his gymnastics suit, and in wet hair and all, hit

a 9.9 vault. After the vault, Elliott went back and won the three meter event.

"At first, I thought about maybe getting in a vault between dives, but only jokingly," Elliott said. "But when I saw I could do it, I decided I'd give it a try. It's something I'll never forget."

The next weekend after that feat, Elliott dove on Friday against Kansas and then flew back to Lincoln to spark the Husker gymnasts to a victory over Iowa State and Oklahoma in a triangular.

Elliott said he would have liked to do the same thing two weeks ago during the Big Eight Swimming and Gymnastics meets.

"If I would've known I didn't have to dive Friday night, I think I would've tried to fly to Ames and help the gymnastics team out," Elliott said. "I don't know if the coach (Huber) would have let me. The thought never occurred to me until after the meet, because I was concentrating so hard on diving."

Elliott said competing in two sports has caused a lot of pressure to be put on him.

"With two sports and school, sometimes it's hard to maintain," Elliott said. "Both sports expect so much out of me. I remember how Francis told me how he needed me for the Iowa State and Oklahoma meet. That was a big meet, but I also had to dive that weekend too. Luckily, things worked out."

"If you don't live up to those expectations, sometimes it can be a real letdown. That's why you need a couple days to rest, unwind, and get things back together again."

Elliott said more than rest has helped him handle the pressure.

"I think the biggest asset I have going for me is being a Christian," Elliott said. "At the beginning of each meet, I turn everything over to the Lord. Everything that happens is His will, and if I don't win, I know the Lord for His own reasons, did not want me to."

"I don't have a whole lot to worry about when I lose because the Lord is by my side. I just thank him for the ability he has given me."

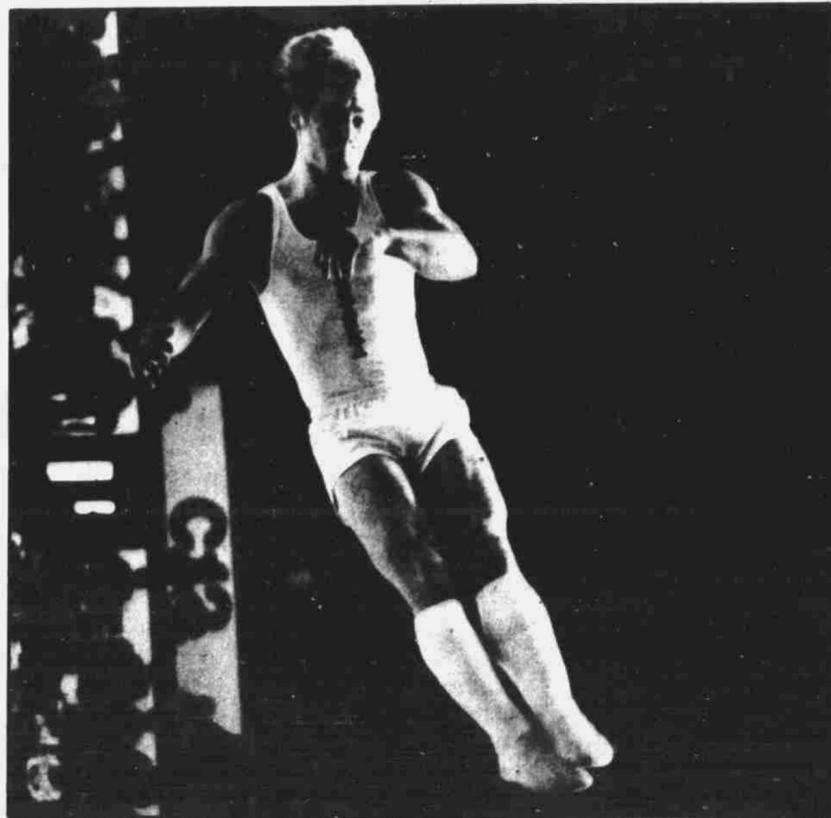


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Husker gymnast/diver Steve Elliott performs in the floor exercise event.

Correction

Daily Nebraskan columnist Brent Robinson inadvertently left out the Baltimore Orioles and the Texas Rangers from his American League predictions column. Robinson picks defending American League Champ-

ions third behind the New York Yankees and the Milwaukee Brewers in the Eastern Division. He picks the Rangers fourth behind Kansas City, California, and Oakland in the Western Division.

Baseball team smears Wayne

By Paul Martin

Coach John Sanders picked up his 99th and 100th wins at Nebraska as the UNL baseball team took a doubleheader from Wayne State, 12-1 and 11-0, Wednesday afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field.

Sanders, in his third year at Nebraska, is now 100-37 as the Huskers pushed their record to 15-2 on the year. Sanders is only the third coach in the history of the Big Eight conference to win 100 games in his first three seasons.

First baseman Tim Sinovich and right fielder Steve Oakley each hit homeruns and knocked in three runs to lead the Huskers in the first game. Also hitting homers for NU were outfielders Joe Scherger and Stan Haas.

Another one

Haas slammed another one out in the second game while batting in four runs to pace the Husker attack in the 11-0 victory.

In the first game, senior right-hander Ray Tromba picked up the win, his second of the year against no defeats. Tromba pitched only three innings to capture the win as the Huskers built up a 4-0 lead behind his pitching. Rick Evans and Steve Naasz each pitched two innings to finish off WSC.

Junior Tim Burke gained the win in game two while combining with Mike Vojtesak and Craig Dietz for a three-hit shutout.

"We've played all the games we possibly could so far," Sanders said. "Our schedule has been good and has given us an opportunity to experiment."

In the doubleheader with the Wildcats, Sanders had ample opportunity to shuffle his personnel as Wayne

State never mounted a serious challenge all afternoon.

During the afternoon the Huskers battered Wayne State pitchers for 25 hits while yielding eight to the Wildcats.

Helpful

While smaller college teams like Wayne State offer little competition for his team, Sanders feels the games are helpful.

"While we might have been lulled to sleep a little bit as a team, individually we've rotated so many people in and out it's been a big plus," Sanders said.

The losses dropped Wayne State's record to 1-14 for the year.

For their next game, the Huskers will head west to face Southern California College in a game scheduled for Friday.

Lottery starts April 8

The spring lottery for football tickets will be April 8 through April 11.

Full time students must pay \$35 individually by check, money order or cash and must present a valid ID at time of purchase. One student may represent a group as long as individual checks and IDs accompany each ticket order.

Each student or representative will draw a lottery number at the time of the purchase.

Orders will be taken at the Athletic Ticket Office from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Huppert is optimistic about team's chances

Five UNL women swimmers will be competing among 500 athletes at the 1980 AIAW Division I National Swimming and Diving Championship scheduled this weekend at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Sherri Hayward and Rene Sullivan are the only individual qualifiers the Huskers will send. Hayward will compete in the 200-yard backstroke. Sullivan will be competing in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races.

The Huskers also will send three relay teams. The 200 freestyle relay team of Sullivan, Ann Kennedy, Marla Thompson, and Carol Hall qualified by setting a new school record at the Big Eight meet with a time of 1:38.26. The same foursome also set a new school record, and qualified for nationals in the 400 freestyle.

A medley relay team qualified by adding individual times of JoDea Eckstrom, Mary Freathy, Sullivan and Hayward. Coach Ray Huppert is optimistic that, for the first time in years, Nebraska could score.

The meet, at the Paul McDermott Pool Complex, is the first Division I championship under AIAW's new three competitive division structure. The meet starts at 11 a.m. Wednesday with preliminaries. The finals will start at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The same times for preliminaries and finals are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

One of the top individuals in the meet will be Stanford's Linda Jezek, a medley relay silver medalist in the 1976 Olympics, and Texas' Joan Pennington, the American record-holder in the 50-yard backstroke.

Defending champion Florida will be one of the top contenders for capturing the team title along with Arizona State, Stanford, Texas, North Carolina and others. The national meet will complete the season for the Huskers.