

NCAA gym meet provided educational enjoyment

Being No. 1 in anything is a great feeling, but claiming that distinction in front of your own fans is even more of a thrill. Nebraska's gymnastics team won the NCAA team title Saturday afternoon in the Bob Devaney Sports Center in front of about 6,000 fans, and it now appears it may have the opportunity to win its third consecutive title in Lincoln next year.

Even though the tournament was during spring break, more than 2,000 fans attended Thursday evening's compulsories, 6,000 Friday night and 14,000 for Saturday's afternoon and evening sessions.

quainted with gymnastics, but were drawn in by the opportunity to see a Nebraska school win a national championship. Obviously the organizers were aware of this and provided easily accessible information to keep the fans interested.

The huge scoreboards placed at the east end of the arena and the name cards placed on the portable score displays made the meet much simpler to follow. On the whole, this year's meet not only entertained—it educated.

By the end of the meet, Nebraska fans knew as much about 9.75s as they did about a touchdown and an extra-point. That makes having a meet here next year even more of a possibility.

are on campus, not at home.

It may have just been a coincidence that it worked out that way this year, but

Tennis . . .

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Wood said Judy Huerter and Ann Swanson were ill at the beginning of the trip while Kerry Distefano was ill in the middle of the week.

Mental prowess

Wood commended the play of number one singles player Sue Sloboth and freshman Cindi Reiman, the Huskers' number three player.

"She (Cindi) played fantastic down there, the best she has played since coming here," Wood said. "Sue Sloboth played some real good tennis at times, and had an excellent mental game."

Wood said she is uncertain where her team will finish at the Big Eight meet, but added she is certain the Huskers will finish higher than last year's sixth place.

"Before the Arizona trip just by looking at the other teams we were looking at fifth place," Wood said. "But based on how we played in Arizona we could easily finish third or fourth. If they play as well as they did in Arizona, winning the championship is not out of the question."

Two year winners

The women won the Big Eight crown in

1977 and 1978. Porter said the men's week in Arizona should have helped the team prepare for its opening matches in Big Eight play in Lawrence, Kan., this weekend. The Huskers play Kansas Friday, and Missouri Saturday and Oklahoma Sunday.

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"The team is looking pretty good," Porter said. "They continued to improve down there, but we still have a long ways to go before the conference championships. Hopefully, we'll keep playing good and then peak at the conference meet."

Porter said he was especially happy with the play of number three singles player freshman Hal Koch, who won six of seven singles matches. Porter also was happy with the play of sophomore Dale Christian and senior Larry Rugg.

The Huskers lost to Kansas and Missouri 6-3 last fall, but Porter said he isn't counting his team out.

"Last fall, we had some close matches that could have gone either way," Porter said. "If we can turn those matches around, we have a good chance of winning."

brent robinson

That kind of attendance alone is probably enough to get the meet scheduled in Lincoln next year, but there are additional factors.

I have to admit I am no expert when it comes to intercollegiate or international gymnastics meets, but I felt the past weekend's meet was one of the most well-run and simplest to follow I have seen.

Easy information

Many of the fans were not well-ac-

Outstanding crowds

The crowds drawn to this tournament were outstanding, according to NCAA standards. Considering that the scoreboard has already been built in Lincoln and could be used again next year makes things look better.

Central location is another thing which makes Lincoln and UNL the logical choice. The only illogical thing about this year's meet was the timing. Having the meet during the UNL spring break cost the meet around 5,000 fans, if not more, over the three days.

It would seem the NCAA would want the meet while the host school's students

Softball team sweeps two in Monday's Drake games

By Tad Stryker

Clutch late-inning hitting helped the Nebraska women's softball team to a sweep of a doubleheader against Drake Monday at Ballard Field.

Shelley Scott's two-out single in the seventh inning brought in Kathy Foley to give the Huskers a 2-1 win in the opener. In the nightcap, Foley's bases-load triple in the sixth keyed a five-run inning and a come-from-behind 8-4 victory.

Coach Don Isherwood, whose team is now 5-5 this spring, was pleased at the way the Huskers played when it really counted.

"We were beginning to wonder if we could win close games," he said. "Three of the five games we lost on our southern trip (into Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri) we lost by one run—either in the seventh inning or in extra innings."

The team won three games on the trip and had eight games rained out.

Connie Gonyea pitched a three-hitter

and appeared to be in command of her pitches in the first game. The only Drake run was scored on a triple and an error. In the third, though it took a third-to-first-to-home double play on an attempted sacrifice bunt to get her out of a jam.

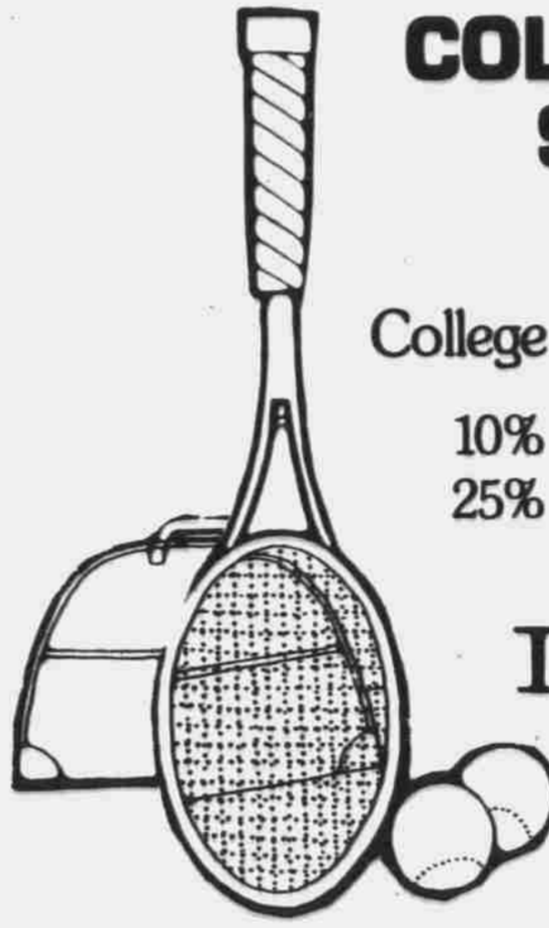
Linda McCrea got credit for the win in the second game.

The Nebraska hitting attack has shown improvement over last fall, according to Isherwood.

"We started workouts in the fieldhouse at the beginning of February, and we worked solid for two months on hitting. We hit poorly last fall, so we let some other things go. They're still not hitting as good as I want them to."

Foley and McCrea collected all the extra-base hits for Nebraska. Foley went four for eight with two doubles, a triple and three RBI's. McCrea delivered four hits in six trips to the plate, including a double and a three-run, inside-the-park home run.

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