

Huskers minus two equals 'best foe' pressure

By Kim Hachiya

The Nebraska cornhuskers will enter into Saturday's gymnastics dual with Iowa State University in Ames without two top performers, but according to Coach Francis Allen, "We're not going to go over there, lay down and die."

Olympian Jim Hartung, who was slated to miss the meet anyway because he was going to compete in a Los Angeles Invitational, may be out of all-around competition because of a sprained ankle.

However, Hartung may see some limited action on the rings and pommel horse at Iowa State if NBC television does not ask him still to go to Los Angeles.

NCAA floor exercise champion Steve Elliott will be competing in a diving meet Saturday in Iowa City and also will miss the dual.

Allen said that when he made the decision to send Hartung to Los Angeles two weeks ago, he thought he would have Elliott for the ISU meet. He said he now

regrets making the decision, although Hartung's injury doesn't change his availability for the ISU meet.

"It's tough every time we go over there (to Ames)," Allen said. "I would say they're our top competitors. When I first started coaching here, they beat me bad. They ran their compulsories and we ran our optionals and we still lost pretty bad."

Allen said the loss of Hartung and Elliott would place extra pressure on the rest of the team to hit 100 percent.

"We'll find out what some of our younger guys are under lots of pressure," Allen said. "I'm not trying to take anything away from Iowa State, but we beat them last time by one point without Phil Cahoy. It's not fun to face your best foe short of personnel. It makes us persevere more than a normal meet."

Assistant coach Jim Howard echoed Allen.

"Everyone else has to knuckle down and do that much more," Howard said. "There is more pressure having Jim not at full speed or in a meet. The guys rely on Jim, he's our workhorse, scoring a lot of points."

He added that Scott Johnson and Jim Mikus both have worked extremely hard this week preparing for the meet.

Allen said one problem with competing short on personnel is that it may be difficult to score high enough to qualify for the NCAA nationals.

Iowa State has been scoring in the 277 range and according to Howard, is 100 percent healthy.

Allen said UNL has to score at least 270 to qualify for the nationals.

"A 270 will probably get us in. It may sacrifice going in to nationals ranked number one, but it probably won't. I doubt if they'll move us down if everyone is healthy. We are the team to beat," Allen said.

Hartung said he was disappointed with probably having to miss the Los Angeles meet and was sorry he may not be competing at ISU.

"If our team can go up to ISU without Steve and me, and if we can't beat them or at least stay real close, it will be a big psychological advantage for us," Hartung said. "If everyone hits, there's a good chance that Nebraska can win. So there are advantages to it."

Allen said if Hartung had competed at Los Angeles, it would have given him more national television publicity and probably would have helped recruiting efforts. Allen said there are two outstanding gymnasts in the Los Angeles area that Nebraska is interested in signing.

sports



Photo by Kent Morgan Olsen

Jerry Shoecraft

Teammate, former coach guide athlete to UNL

By Joni Kramer

Good friends are the biggest help Jerry Shoecraft has acquired from playing basketball at Nebraska.

"Basketball's been good to me in many ways but the best part is my teammates and friends. We have fun together on and off the court. The atmosphere is good," Shoecraft said.

Shoecraft, a junior, is originally from Muncie, Ind. He said there were several factors that swayed him toward playing at Nebraska.

"I was waiting for an answer from Purdue but went ahead and chose Nebraska. I came here because my high school coach was out here. Another reason I came here is because I wanted to play with a teammate of mine, Jack Moore. He was leaning toward Nebraska so I chose it too," Shoecraft said.

The only other school Shoecraft said he had considered, besides Purdue and Nebraska, was Northwestern.

Despite the time basketball takes away from studying, Shoecraft said determination and desire for a degree keep him going when things get rough.

"It's really tough when we have to do a lot of traveling like this semester. I usually

have to take my books on the road. Sometimes it's hard to get motivated, but I just remember my desire for a degree and it keeps me going," Shoecraft said.

"Practice, traveling, games and school also make it hard sometimes for a social life. There are a lot of sacrifices," he added.

So far, Shoecraft said he's a little disappointed with the season.

"I feel our record should be a bit better than it is. I'm hoping for some progress to improve our record," Shoecraft said. "Hopefully, we'll get back on track and play some good basketball, and we hope to win the Big Eight. That's our season goal."

Shoecraft said he has learned a lot since starting basketball in grade school, and he feels it will definitely affect his future.

An accounting major, Shoecraft said he plans to go into business after graduation. He said his years of basketball with Nebraska will help his career.

"There are a lot of nice people here in Nebraska that could be good references for me," Shoecraft said.

"Because of the people I've met here, I'll probably set up business here in Nebraska. If not I'll go back to my hometown. Either way, basketball will play a part in my life," he said.

Career ends with close of season

Basketball is enjoyable chapter of player's life

By Cindy Gardner

Like the Lone Ranger riding off into the sunset, Carla Saveri, the lone senior on the women's basketball team, said an episode of her life will end at the close of the season.

For Saveri, a 5-4 guard from Nazareth,

Pa., basketball started early. As a fifth-grader and a self-described "little tomboy," she found basketball to be the "in thing." Now as a senior social work major looking back over the 11 years she has spent on the court, Saveri said she is ready to move on to other things.

"Basketball's been a long, hard road and at the end of the season I'll be ready to give it up."

Describing basketball as a chapter in a book that she will always enjoy looking back on, Saveri had little to say about her personal success as an athlete.

"To mention the honors would be insignificant," she said. "Records are made to be broken. I don't see what I've done as anything compared to what athletes today are starting to do."

Saveri came to Nebraska in the fall of 1979 after spending two years at Immaculate College in Immaculate, Pa.

"I wanted to prove to myself that I could play Division I basketball," she said.

According to Coach Colleen Matsuhara, Saveri can play Division I basketball and she plays it with a lot of enthusiasm.

"I like to use Carla in a spark-plug role. She always hustles and has a lot of spirit,"

Matsuhara said.

Although she is a senior, Saveri doesn't see herself as a team leader, but stresses the fact that the team is a unit in which everyone works together.

"Our team's a tight team," she said. "We're kind of like the coronary kids. We'll always promise you a close game."

Teammate Janet Smith agreed, saying, "Everyone is equal on our team. Age doesn't make a difference."

2nd half boosts Huskers

The Nebraska men's basketball team kept alive an impressive streak of wins at Ames, Iowa last night with a 61-56 win against the Iowa State Cyclones. The victory marked the sixth consecutive year the Cornhuskers have won at ISU's Hilton Coliseum.

Nebraska trailed through most of the first half, despite 60 percent shooting from the field, and was behind 32-26 at halftime.

The Cornhuskers stayed with the Cyclones through the opening minutes of

the second half before taking a two-point lead with just over 7:00 left in the game, and opening up a 54-46 lead with 4:50 remaining in the contest.

The Cyclones came back to within two, 56-54, with 2:00 left but Kenny Walton tipped in a missed Ray Collins free shot and followed by picking up an ISU pass to seal the victory for the Huskers.

Andre Smith led Nebraska with 25 points, followed by Walton with 12. Robert Estes had 20 points to lead Iowa State.

sports shorts

Both UNL swimming teams will be in action Friday. The men will be at Iowa State and the women will be at UNO.

The Nebraska women's basketball team has back-to-back games this weekend. Friday night, the Huskers host South Dakota. Saturday they will host Big Eight rival Iowa State.

Tip-off for Saturday's men's basketball game with Kansas is 2:40 p.m. to allow for regional television coverage.