

sports

Husker NFL draftees report to Miami Dolphins

By Cindy Gardner

The final round of the NFL draft ended Wednesday evening and Thursday morning some of the selected players began reporting to their respective teams. Nebraska's Andra Franklin and John Noonan were two of the first to leave. The Husker duo boarded a plane headed for Miami at 7 a.m. Thursday morning.

Although both Franklin and Noonan were part of Tom Osborne's offensive machine and both were drafted by the Dolphins, the parallels between their football careers seem to end there.

The 28th pick of the second round, Franklin said he learned of his selection while watching television.

"I was watching the draft on ESPN and I heard them call my name," the four-year letterman said.

Franklin took over the starting fullback position as a sophomore after lettering with the varsity during his freshman year. During the 1980 regular season he rushed for 678 yards on 120 carries.

The Anniston, Ala., native said he was relaxed before the draft.

"I was nervous after I found out," Franklin said. "I figured I'd go in the second or third round but I was leaning more towards the third. I'm happy to get an opportunity to play with any pro team."

Split end Noonan who was the 14th pick of the ninth round, echoed Franklin's sentiments.

"I'm happy to play with any team," the Omaha product said. "I'm excited to go to Miami. Don Schula's a great coach."

Acting as a press agent of sorts, Husker quarterback and Noonan's roommate, Mark Mauer, jokingly reported that from now on Noonan would like to be referred to as "Mr. Dolphin." "Mr. Dolphin" himself said the realization that he had an opportunity to play pro ball really hadn't hit him yet.

Unlike Franklin, Noonan was not a starter for the Huskers. During his senior year he played behind sophomore Todd Brown. The two alternated on running plays and Noonan caught two touchdown passes in the Kansas game. A transfer from UNO, Noonan claims he only recently thought he'd have the chance to play for a professional team.

"I didn't even think about the pros until after I started

playing college ball," Noonan said. "When I started actually playing in college games I thought I might have a chance."

Both Franklin and Noonan expressed pleasure in having a college teammate headed for Miami.

"It makes it a lot easier having Andra going, too," Noonan said.

"We can be pulling for each other," Franklin added.

Also packing their bags this week will be the five other Huskers selected in the draft. One of those, Randy Schlausener, will leave for Cleveland Sunday morning.

"I've never been to Cleveland," the ninth-round draft pick said. "From talking to the people up there it sounds nice."

Schlausener admitted that waiting for the second day of the draft is a little difficult.

"I'm glad it's over," the offensive guard said. "It's a tough time waiting for the phone to ring."

As the only offensive lineman drafted by the Browns, Schlausener said he hopes to have a good chance of succeeding in professional football.

"If things don't work out, I'll come back to Nebraska and go to med school," he added.

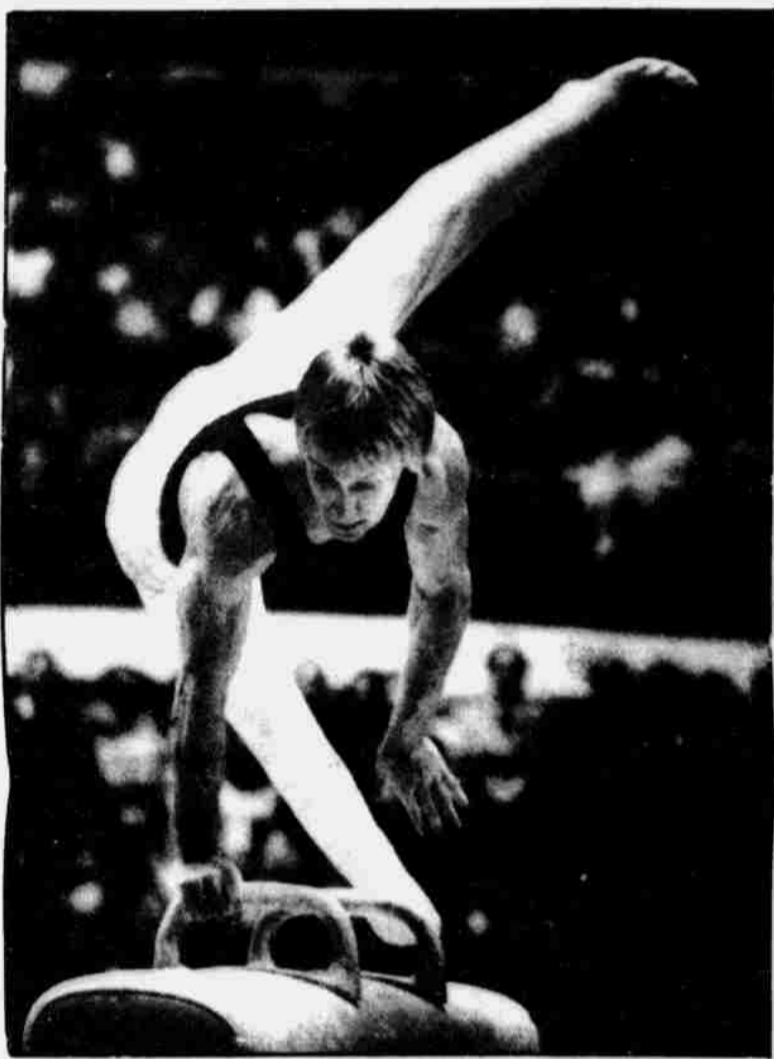


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Oklahoma's Bart Conner performs on the pommel horse at the NCAA meet. Conner will resume his rivalry with Jim Hartung at this month's United States Gymnastics Federation Championships at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Huskers vie for traveling team spot as Lincoln hosts gymnastics meet

By Cindy Gardner

Former Olympian Kurt Thomas hailed Lincoln "The Gymnastics Capital," and the city will continue to live up to its reputation when the United States Gymnastics Federation men's gymnastics championships come to the Bob Devaney Sports Center May 21 through 23.

Four Husker gymnasts will be among the field of 24 competing for a spot on the U.S. traveling team. All-around champion Jim Hartung, who scored a record 115.90 at the NCAA finale, will be joined by teammates Phil Cahoy, Scott Johnson and Chuck Chmelka as they vie to become one of the top 14 gymnasts in the nation.

Cahoy and Johnson also qualified for the meet at the NCAA championships. Chmelka became the 24th qualifier during last weekend's Midwestern regional meet at Brigham Young University.

Meet Director Scott Roth said the meet will follow a format similar to that of NCAA's. Compulsory routines will be performed Thursday evening and optional competition will take place on Friday. The all-around finals will be held Saturday afternoon and the individual event finals Saturday night.

Roth said there will be some difference in the way the meet will be scored.

"At NCAA's, the compulsory and optional scores were combined to determine the top eight individuals in each event, then those eight all started from zero in the finals," Roth said. "At the USA/USGF meet, the preliminary compulsory and optional scores will be

added together and divided by two. This score will be added on to the final scores to determine the champions."

The USA/USGF Championships should once again prove to be a match up between Hartung and Oklahoma's Bart Conner who finished with a 115.85 at the NCAA meet, he said.

"Hypothetically, they'll be at each other's throats," Roth said. "But neither one of them can come in here thinking they've got it won. They've both got to look over their shoulder at Peter Vidmar. If either one falls he could have it."

In addition to the Husker qualifiers and Conner, other Big Eight gymnasts who will take part in the Championships are Peter Stout and Matt Biespiel of Oklahoma and Ron Galimore of Iowa State.

The field will be completed by Vidmar, Mitch Gaylord, Tim Daggett and Mark Caso of UCLA, Brian Babcock of Southern Illinois, Brian Meeker and Joey Ray of Minnesota and Breck Grigas of Northern Illinois. Also competing in the meet will be Tom Beach and Billy Paul of California, Mario McCutcheon, formerly of Southern Connecticut and his teammate Wally Miller, Steve Marino of Penn State, Kevin Prady of New Mexico, Chris Riegel of Reading, Pa. and Roy Pallasou.

Tickets for the three-day event which will be covered by CBS are available at the south stadium ticket office.

According to a ticket office spokesperson, sales have been slower than they were for the NCAA championships held in March. Roth said he hopes for a crowd of 6,000 at the Saturday evening session.

Last eight months of sports offer highs and lows

A lot has happened in the world of sports since last August and it's anybody's guess who had the best year or what event was the most important. Nevertheless, here are some events and people that stick out in my mind, highlighting and lowlighting the past eight months in sports.

Most Memorable Events:

—George Brett's two-out, three-run homer in the seventh inning of the final American League playoff game at Yankee Stadium, giving the Royals their first pennant;

Least Memorable Events:

—Vince Ferragamo tries to decide which team to sign with;
—Georgia's football schedule;
—Jimmy the Greek picks the Jets to win it all;
—The NBA and NHL's regular seasons;
—The Colgate-Dinah Shore Winner's Circle golf tournament.

Unsung Heroes of the Year:

—Larry Bowa, Philadelphia Phillies' shortstop;
—Steve Rhoades, Oklahoma split end;
—Yankee catcher Rick Cerone;
—Colorado Folsom Field beer vendors, for keeping Buff fans' minds off what happens on the field.

Surprising Events:

—The NCAA basketball tournament's first three rounds;
—Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe tries to force a pass between two Oakland defenders late in the fourth quarter of an AFC divisional playoff game. The Browns could have won with a field goal, but Mike Davis made the end zone interception and Oakland went all the way;
—NBC sportscaster Bryant Gumbel tries to coax Al Davis and Pete Rozelle into a nationally televised fistfight after the Super Bowl;
—Colorado rises up and shuts out UCLA in the second half after the Bruins had eased to a 56-0 halftime lead;
—Michigan wins a bowl game.

Predictable events:

—Notre Dame's basketball team pulls off regular-season upsets, then falters in post-season play;
—John McEnroe makes a fool of himself;
—The Huskers take their third consecutive gymnastics title;
—George Steinbrenner pouts, rants and raves after being swept by the Royals.

Random Shots: Who turned those ESPN announcers loose at the hotel in which the NFL draft was taking place? One of the so-called "reporters" revealed that he was a Jets fan and that he was appalled at the Jets' second-round pick, running back Marion Barber of Minnesota. Another called the choice a "disaster." Who cares about being objective, right?

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—Georgia wide receiver Lindsay Scott's 93-yard touchdown catch and run around a fallen Florida defender, bringing the Bulldogs from behind and keeping alive their undefeated season;
—St. Joseph's 49-48 win over DePaul in the NCAA tournament;
—Oklahoma's come-from-behind victories over Nebraska and Florida State (I'm trying to forget);
—Jarvis Redwine's 89-yard touchdown run the first quarter of the Oklahoma game.

sports shorts

The Nebraska-Missouri track dual set for Saturday has been rescheduled, according to the UNL sports information office. The meet will be Sunday at the Ed Weir Track. The change was made because of a scheduling conflict at Missouri.

The UNL Navy ROTC Rifle, Pistol and Drill team traveled to Iowa State University April 25 for its annual drill competition.

The drill team, commanded by Scott Thomas, took first place in Exhibition Platoon Competition. The drill team also took second place in the infantry drill regulations platoon competition under the direction of Paul Patterson.

In marksmanship competition, the rifle team took second place with a

score of 1,130 out of a possible 1,500. Rifle team captain Ken Smith won individual trophies for his scores in kneeling and offhand positions.

The pistol team took second place with a score of 1,218 out of a possible 1,500.

Harold Bright hit a two-run, inside-the-park home run in the top of the 10th inning to give UNL a 5-3 win against Creighton University in the first game of a double-header at Creighton Wednesday night. Nebraska won the nightcap 9-8.

UNL finished fourth in the Big Eight women's golf tournament at Lawrence, Kan., Wednesday. Oklahoma won the team title.