

# sports

## Huskers need repeat of events for championship

By Tad Stryker

They called it "The One-Day Season." Friday, Jan. 1, 1971, was a landmark day for college football in general and the Nebraska Cornhuskers in particular. That day, every Husker fan's wildest dreams came true in a chain reaction of shocking bowl games. Top-ranked Texas, riding a 30-game winning streak, was toppled in the Cotton Bowl by Notre Dame. No. 2 Ohio State was upset by Stanford in the Rose Bowl. Suddenly, the chance for a first-ever national championship was dumped right into the Huskers' lap.

Dick Rupert, a starting offensive lineman for the third-ranked Huskers, recalled what it was like for the team before the now-historic clash with LSU.

"Actually, we had only a very remote chance (at the national championship) beforehand. We didn't know until right before the game that we had a chance to win it all." What had seemed like a distant dream before was within Nebraska's grasp.

The Huskers of 1970 had the luxury of slipping into striking position almost unnoticed. Despite their 10-0-1 record and high ranking, they attracted little national attention during the weeks before the bowl games. Their matchup with LSU was not heralded by *Sports Illustrated's* Dan Jenkins.

"Unlike the big games earlier in the day, the Orange Bowl will not be endowed with major personalities," wrote Jenkins in his bowl preview article. "The coaches, Nebraska's Bob Devaney and LSU's Charlie McClendon, fall short of the colorful images of the Royals, Hayeses and Parseghians, and the players lack the stature of the Plunketts, Theismanns, Worstes and Tatums."

The Husker "no-names" were content to let public opinion ride on the Cotton and Rose bowls, quietly preparing for LSU, which was known for its tough defense, led by all-American defensive back Tommy Casanova. All

the while, Devaney and his team could only hope for the best; that Notre Dame and Stanford would give them a hand.

"To be number one you have to be good, but you've got to be lucky, too," Rupert said. "At the end of the year, we were playing well. We were confident. We thought we could beat anyone. We wanted to play Texas, but it didn't turn out that way." In the end, it was up to Notre Dame to knock off the Longhorns.

"Notre Dame helped us out a lot," Rupert said. "We should have sent them a letter or something."

If the Irish had merited a letter, then at least a card would have been in order for the Indians of Stanford, and perhaps a special word or two to the quarterbacks, Joe Theismann of Notre Dame and Jim Plunkett of Stanford, who engineered the upsets.

Those two made it possible for the Huskers to take center stage for the dramatic third act.

"We'd been rooting for the triple miracle since the bowl matchups were announced," Devaney said in his recently-published autobiography.

But whatever rooting was being done, was being done quietly, according to Jeff Kinney, who shared the I-back spot with Joe Orduna.

"Our preparation for the game was anything but normal, especially because LSU had a great defense. They had only allowed one rushing touchdown all year," Kinney said. But, as for the possible national championship, "it wasn't talked about that much."

"The reality didn't set in until right before the game," Kinney said.

"They (NBC-TV) delayed our game 15 minutes because of the Rose Bowl," Rupert said. "We got to watch the whole thing in the locker room. We knew that if we beat LSU, we'd be the national champions, without any doubt. It really got us psyched up and that helped us."

The Huskers' early momentum carried them to a quick 10-0 lead, on a 25-yard field goal by Paul Rogers and a 3-yard touchdown run by Orduna. Then the Bayou Bengals' defense took over the game's midsection. After kicking a pair of field goals, LSU took a 12-10 lead on the last play of the third quarter, a 31-yard touchdown pass.

As it turned out, though, the stage was merely set for one of the Huskers' most famous drives, a 67-yarder, capped by Jerry Tagge's 1-yard touchdown run with 6:10 left. A late interception by linebacker Bob Terrio saved the game and the No. 1 ranking for Nebraska.

"We really didn't play all that well, but we got the job done," Rupert said.

A similar task faces the 1981 Nebraska Cornhuskers, but they, too, will need a fortunate chain of events to occur if they are to become national champions. Penn State kept alive the Huskers' chances when they demolished No. 1 Pittsburgh on Nov. 28. But Georgia must lose to Pitt in the Sugar Bowl and Alabama must fall to Texas in the Cotton Bowl to give Nebraska a chance to repeat history. Yet, even if that should happen, it's still not a sure thing, Rupert said.

"The situation then is similar to the one now," he said, "but you've got to look at the records. We were 10-0-1, and when we won the Orange Bowl, there was no question. But this year, with (Nebraska's) two losses, they might vote somebody else in even if everything went right for us."

Rupert said that because this year's Sugar Bowl game is scheduled to begin at approximately the same time as the Huskers meet Clemson, the chances for pregame dramatics will be nil.

"We knew the situation before our game," he said. "We had our work cut out for us. This year, they won't know beforehand. It's going to be different for them."

## Huskers ready tight defense to corral Buffaloes

By Ward W. Triplett III

The Huskers will have to rely on consistent performances and tight defense in order to defeat the Colorado Buffaloes Thursday night in Boulder, Colo., Nebraska women's basketball Coach Colleen Matsuhara said.

"I don't believe they've lost on their home floor in 23 games," Matsuhara said.

The 7-1 Buffaloes won the California-Berkely Invitational tournament last weekend, while the Huskers left their own invitational with a 4-1 record.

Colorado will be the second Big Eight foe the Huskers have faced this season after beating Iowa State 76-64 in November. The Buffaloes were one of the Big Eight's pre-

season selections to win the conference and received honorable mention to the women's preseason top twenty.

The Buffaloes are led by 6-4 center Lisa Van Goor, who came to Colorado as a Prep all-American and was a second team all-freshman standout last year. Van Goor is averaging 16 points per game and 11 rebounds. Sandi Bean, a 5-9 guard directs the Buffaloes attack and is averaging 13.9 points per game.

"Van Goor is a smooth, finesse center," Matsuhara said. "In order to stop her, we've got to front her and hope the weak side defense is there to help in case she gets the ball low," she said.

"We've also got to keep pressure on the guards, so they won't be able to see Van Goor underneath very easily,"

she said.

The Buffaloes will be taller, but Matsuhara said the Huskers should have the edge in speed.

"One thing we have in common is that we've both lost to Wayland (Baptist)," Matsuhara said. "But Colorado is very much improved from that game and seem to have got into playing their type of game," she said.

The Buffaloes play highly regarded Tennessee in Boulder tonight, so they will be coming off what should be a tough game before the Husker contest.

Although Matsuhara said she was disappointed with the lack of intensity in this week's practices, she praised senior Janet Smith's and freshman Cathy Owen's play against South Dakota State Saturday.

"Hopefully, Janet Smith can have another game like that against Colorado," Matsuhara said. The 6-2 Smith had 20 points and 17 rebounds in the game.

"We need that out of her in every game we play. I thought Cathy did an excellent job for us too. It was her first starting role for us, and I thought she played very well."

The Huskers will travel to Ft. Collins, Colo. after the Colorado matchup to battle Colorado State Friday night. The teams should be even in height, Matsuhara said, but Nebraska will have to concentrate on stopping the 4-3 Rams' guard Kathy Lightfoot. The 5-8 Lightfoot is averaging 20.7 points per game so far this year.

## All-arounders to compete in Houston

Four UNL gymnasts will travel to Houston Baptist University Friday to compete in the Husky Classic.

Since the meet consists only of all-around competition, UNL will send Jim Hartung, Phil Cahoy, Jim Mikus and Mike Bowers to compete against seven other schools, according to Coach Francis Allen.

All-arounder Scott Johnson just returned Wednesday night from competition in Toyko, so he will not make the trip to Houston. Allen said he would rather let Johnson rest to prepare for the Japanese All-Stars meet in Lincoln Dec. 18.

UNL won the Husky Classic last year and should have little trouble winning it again this year, Allen said.

"If things go well, we should win," he said, "but that's the trouble with sending only four guys and having all

scores count."

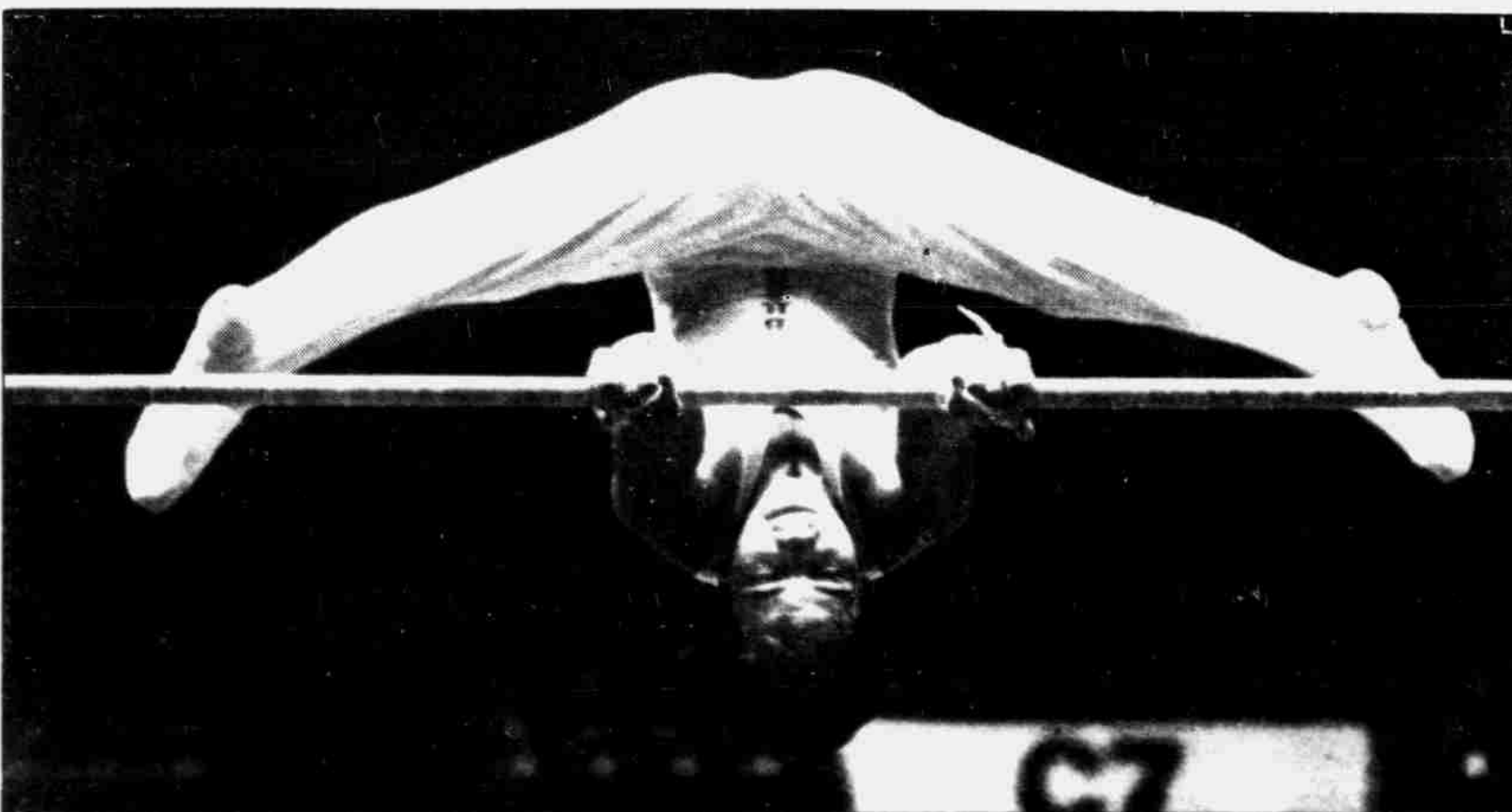
There is a possibility that only three scores will count, he said, but he had not been notified of the final decision yet.

Allen said Arizona State or Oklahoma may pose a possible threat, but that "it probably won't even be close."

Although there are several strictly all-around meets throughout the year, Allen said more may be added in the future.

"If the executive committee says there will be less all-around competition in regular meets throughout the year, then we'll go to more like this one," he said.

"It's a little bit different style of meet," he said, "but it's a pretty good one. It gives you a better look at your all-arounders."



Husker gymnast Jim Mikus performs on the horizontal bar at the Big Eight Invitational earlier this year at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Photo by Kent Morgan Olsen

## sports shorts

The Smith 7 team took the opening tip, scored and never trailed as it won the women's all-University basketball championship 28-15 against the A.A.'s. Defense dominated the first half as the intermission score was 11-7.

The A.A.'s staged a brief rally in the second half, cutting Smith 7's lead to four points, but were forced to foul as time ran out and Smith 7 made numerous free throws to provide the final victory margin.

Ann Schroeder and Denise Day led Smith 7 in scoring with 10 and nine points, respectively.

Members of the Smith 7 team are: Schroeder, Day, Ellen Ramsey, Lisa Knoltenberg, Cheryl Weber, Mary Bartels, Jodi Bartak, Laurie Bolte, Nancy Fiala, Lucinda Lamb, Annette Madigan and Nancy Janerek.

First Mid-America beat Beta Theta Pi No. 2 57-39 to win the championship of the men's intramural basketball marathon. First Mid-America went through the double elimination tournament undefeated.

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Men's basketball entries are due in the Recreation Office at 5 p.m. Friday.

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Two UNL boxing club members participated in a meet Saturday in Pershing Auditorium. UNL's John Bakalas, a 166-pounder, lost a three-round decision to 167-pound Mallory Piggie of the Sweet 9 Boxing Club. Marc Grimminger, a 178-pound UNL student, TKO'd Brad Meslander of Beatrice at 1:10 of the second round. Grimminger has TKO'd his last three opponents and is now 5-0.